

Susannah Fields Photography

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CASE STUDY:

Behind The Scenes at Buckingham Palace for EP Magazine

EP Hospitality Magazine offered to do a behind-the-scenes feature for Buckingham Palace who felt they had quite a ‘stuffy’ image as a place to work and wanted to make sure they continued to attract great staff. The feature would focus on the staff that make all the events at The Palace run smoothly - from food preparation, to cooking, cleaning and serving. Both the editor of EP and Buckingham Palace were keen that the photography should portray The Palace as a relaxed and fun place to work - not the formal institution it is often judged to be. The photography would be a key element to this.

I worked with Edward Griffiths, the Deputy Master of the Household, on the day of the shoot, as well as the journalist from EP. I was told to shadow the Chief Butler as he supervised the staff as they prepared for a drinks and canapé event that evening for The Queen, who was entertaining members of the public, in The Grand Hall. I also got the chance to visit the kitchen as the cooks made their preparations.

So that everything was as natural and relaxed as possible I was allowed to photograph anything I liked and wander around freely, as long as I was in site of the Chief Butler - and didn't go behind any closed doors! This way I was able to seek out staff who looked like they were genuinely enjoying their work and approach them informally before shooting them in action.

EP, and The Palace, wanted the images to be fun, vibrant and ultimately not too formal. Whilst the professionalism of the work at The Palace, which is always key, came across in the photos, the fact that the staff were enjoying their work really helped get the message across in the feature.

The article came out to much applause and apparently The Queen herself really did read it and loved the photos!

“Thank you for all the work you did on these photos. The magazine looks really good and the photography has played a big part in the great presentation and the ambience of the article. Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you here on another occasion.”

Edward Griffiths, Deputy Master of the Household.







