

Color, Pleats & Sleeves

Over the Top

Delicious Art

Urban & Edgy



discussed her wishes for this important day. Amanda was focused and knew what she wanted. For brides who are having a hard time deciding on what they would like for their weddings, "I always recommend they look through wonderful bridal magazines such as *Enchanted Brides* and then bring those magazines to our initial meeting and let me review their likes and dislikes."

Based upon the wedding Amanda wanted, Steve suggested and matched up the best vendors for the job. "I very much believe in having numerous vendor contacts, then contracting the best ones for a particular wedding. Not every vendor is right for every job. As a planner I like to have numerous vendors in my arsenal and then select those that are best based upon what the bride and groom tell me they are looking for. I could not have been more pleased with the combination of in-town and out-of-town vendors selected and contracted for this glorious wedding."

The entire wedding weekend featured a custom design logo that emphasized the theme, *Oh Happy Day*. The logo was virtually all over everything in the most tasteful ways, even on a billboard that wedding guests passed as they went to the ceremony. Additionally, the logo was found on: stamps, Thank You notes, mirrors and doors at the hotel's entrance, elevator doors, and reception towels in bathrooms; gobo lights in the hotel's entrance foyer, hotel room keys, favor bags put in each room (the logo was on the bag and inside was a personalized schedule with the logo); the dance floor of the wedding reception; the old-styled church fans given out as guests entered the ceremony; the back of each favor given to each guest at the end of the evening; and signs on the motor coaches that transported guests to each of the functions.

On the evening of the rehearsal, guests paraded on the

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STEVE KEMBLE

ENCHANTED BRIDES • WINTER/SPRING 2008

DETAILS ON PLANNING AN

Over the Top Wedding

STEVE KEMBLE is an internationally known event and wedding planner who has been the magic behind countless international events for over twenty years. From celebrating the accomplishments of NFL players to organizing parties for two Presidents, Steve has orchestrated a wide array of high profile events to create an unforgettable affair every time he has been called upon.

Creating and executing an Over the Top Wedding or Event is plain and simple to

Steve Kemble. "I feel you can as easily have an over the top wedding for ten persons as well as 1,000 persons. It takes attention to detail and a lot of careful planning."

For example, you can create an over the top wedding with 50 guests on a secluded island where everyone is flown in on private jets. Then they are housed in suites with their own butlers. "Throw in a performance by the Rolling Stones and a catered reception dinner by Wolfgang Puck and that would be considered over-the-top by most! Personally, I consider it simply fabulous!"

One of Steve's most recent over the top wedding was that of Amanda Dermid and Ray Robinson in Nashville, Tennessee. The planning for the Dermid-Robinson July 7th wedding began over a year and a half earlier. Steve highly recommends that a bride meet with him at a minimum of one year in advance of the wedding date.

The process began with Amanda and Steve discussing the vendors at length. Amanda knew many of the vendors and had worked with them in the past. As Steve does with all of his brides, he and Amanda

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rooftop of Events at 1418 in downtown Nashville. Across from the rooftop stood a billboard displaying the themed monogram for the wedding.

The décor for the wedding and reception was breathtaking. Flowers for the ceremony were all a variation of white and ivory in color. The guests were welcomed with beautiful floral wreaths hanging on the doors at the entrance. The florals on stage were large 10-12 foot ficus trees in urns that had floral wreaths wrapped around the base of each tree. The wreaths around each tree had Galax leaves, white hydrangea, and white roses. In addition to the large trees on each end of the choir risers there was a 12 foot cross suspended from above the stage. The cross was made completely of Magnolia and really helped define the stage as an altar. The bridal bouquet was made of gardenias as were all of the boutonnières.

At the ceremony, Amanda wore a stunning Rocat gown on the stage of the historical Ryman Auditorium. This unique setting made an incredible backdrop where Miss Lillie Knolls, recording artist and the original singer of "Oh Happy Day" with the Edwin Hawkins gospel singers, performed a new arrangement of "Oh Happy Day" created especially for the service. At the end of the wedding the curtains closed displaying the wedding monogram. The couple then exited the stage to greet guests outside for the red carpet departure to one of Nashville's finest fire engines in honor of Ray's career and friends.

At the reception, as the guests walked into the ballroom, the first thing they noticed was the florals in the center chandelier and the gigantic 14-ft hydrangea trees. The center chandelier was filled with green and blue hydrangea as well as white roses, and some white amaryllis as well as other varieties in all whites, greens and blues...various types of greenery were also used. The large trees were placed into built-in urns and reached 14 feet tall. They were designed in the shape of topiaries so as to create an artificial ceiling effect for the tables in the areas surrounding the trees. The areas around the trees are where we showcased the square tables. The 36 centerpieces were each different yet with a common theme. They were all in shades of blue, green and white flowers. They showcased hydrangeas, tea roses, and polo roses. The flowers were all southern and traditional with an enchanted fresh garden feel yet we used contemporary glass vases and hurri-

cans with candles to bring in the high style glamour we were looking to create.

Sylvia Weinstock, a friend of Amanda and a guest at her wedding, designed the cake with the bride and groom in mind. She wanted the cake to be a showpiece as it was to be the only "floral" display at the cocktail reception prior to guest going into the ballroom for dinner. The cake was created completely by hand and had numerous varieties of sugar flowers. Some of the flowers were roses, lilies, and tulips. There were sugar flowers floating between each layer. The cake had six layers and Sylvia used a variety of fillings as the bride and groom wanted the cake to be as diverse as the guest list. The flowers were chosen to complement the design of the cake table linen, and there were exact replicas of the flowers on the linen made to adorn the cake. The flowers were in the colors of pink, mauve, beige and green. There was even edible sparkle on the cake as Sylvia wanted the cake to blend in with the table linen. The cake was displayed during the cocktail hour for the guests to see. Then the bride and groom were able to have a more intimate cake cutting with only the family once the other guests had gone in to the ballroom for dinner to be served. The cake was then plated and served as the dessert course of the meal.

Amanda and Ray's wedding was a very Over the Top Wedding. It was all about planning giving attention to details and incorporating and adding personalized touches.

In planning your wedding Steve suggests the following: "Put aside any pre wedding conflicts, treat all parties involved with respect, just because parents may not be paying for a lot of the wedding does not mean their feelings should be discounted, learn to compromise, and divide responsibilities by developing a Task List. This way everyone knows what everyone is responsible for and no one feels like they are stepping on the others toes, and every month plan a night out with both sets of parents together. The rule for the evening is nothing can be discussed that relates to the wedding! It is a wedding-free evening and will be one of the healthiest things you do!"

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