

# "We surround them with LOVE"

*Extreme Makeover: Wedding Edition* wows one deserving couple with a spectacular ceremony BY DAVID HOCHMAN

The fairy godmothers over at ABC can't stop making dreams come true. The latest wave of the wand brings us *Extreme Makeover: Wedding Edition*, a special that does for deserving lovebirds what *Home Edition* does for hard-luck homeowners. "Basically, if there's something we can do to make this day incredibly special for the bride and groom," says Craig Armstrong, the executive producer, "we'll go ahead and do it." But most of all, he says, "we surround them with love."

*Wedding Edition* begins with one remarkable couple in need. The groom, 33-year-old Kyle Garlett, has survived four bouts of cancer,



**Extreme Makeover: Wedding Edition**

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and because of complications from a chemotherapy drug, he needs a heart transplant. "When I proposed [last year], we didn't know how surgery would fit into the mix, and didn't have any idea how [our wedding plans] would go," says Kyle, who met his fiancée, Carrie Riordan, 29, at a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society charity event in 2002.

ABC learned about Kyle and Carrie through that very organization and, after much planning, pulled off the impossible in just three days. The show's "I Do Crew" flew in 200 guests, procured flowers from South America and Holland, coordinated

dance lessons (with choreographer Cris Judd, no less), planned menus, trucked in chairs and tailored enough silk taffeta to outfit an Oscar party.

Designer and breast cancer survivor Amy Michelson, who's dressed Halle Berry and Kim Basinger, had four seamstresses working 18 hours straight to make Carrie's strapless white wedding gown scattered with pearls and Swarovski crystals. "I wasn't somebody who always dreamed about my wedding dress," Carrie says. "Until I saw this one."



The "I Do Crew" (opposite); Carrie at a fitting; the happy couple; Kyle with Tony Gonzalez at the bachelor party

With no time for a proper bridal shower, sponsor Sears gave Kyle and Carrie a two-hour shopping spree. "It was like, 'Camcorders! Flat-screens! Let's get three!'" says I Do crew member Stephanie Lydecker, who accompanied them. "And they live in a one-bedroom apartment!"

The bachelor party at Jake's Billiard Club in Pasadena was just as exciting—for Kyle, anyway. He and his buds were playing eight-ball when Kyle's football hero, Tony Gonzalez of the Kansas City Chiefs, dropped by to sign jerseys and hats. Says Kyle, "I kept asking, 'Is this really happening?'"

The highlight was the reception on the lush grounds of City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California, where Kyle has had his "most devastating days," he says. "But now to have the greatest day of my life here, that's really cool." ■

