

Noelle AND Nicholas



PHOTOGRAPHED BY MANGO STUDIOS

A SIMPLE BEGINNING

It was Labour Day weekend, 2008 when Noelle received a text from a friend that simply said "I think I have a boy for you." Her work colleague, in cahoots with her best friend, Nick's cousin, would then spend the next few months telling Nick and Noelle about each other, sharing photos and trying to get a shy Nick to meet Noelle. Nick complicated matters by going on a two-month adventure with his brother across their native homeland of Africa. "I didn't want to meet her before we went to Africa, because I had a feeling that if I did, she would be someone I would miss." Nick returned from Africa and Noelle patiently waited for him to contact her, but her shy set-up was waiting for the right time to meet. Noelle says, "I finally just decided I was going to make the first move." And so the story begins with a simple message from Noelle to Nick that said "Hi..."

SUNRISE PROPOSAL

Nick and Noelle had been planning a trip to spend the Christmas holidays with Nick's family. "We planned an amazing adventure; spending a relaxing week at the Four Seasons Seychelles, followed by another week in Tanzania on a safari in the middle of the Serengeti, and then two weeks at the family cottage in Betty's Bay in the Western Cape. It was the perfect opportunity for an engagement. Nick says he was planning to do it on our sunrise hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti until he realized we would be in the balloon with sixteen other people. A plan B was needed. Nick waited until we reached South Africa and on the morning of December 31st, he woke me up before the sun and said, "it's the last day of the year, get dressed, we're going on an adventure". We headed to Stony Point and watched the sun rise over the sea and the sleeping resident African Penguin colony. I knew it was going to happen and I could hardly contain my excitement waiting for him to ask!"

And so he did. The pair spent the next few hours in quiet bliss as everyone else slept. "It was so special... for those few hours it was like our own little secret," recalls Noelle.

FAMILY FLOWN IN

On July 8, 2011 the couple tied-the-knot in Toronto, Ontario. The date was chosen specifically with long-distance guests in mind.

"We actually picked the wedding date based on when Nick's family could come to Toronto," explains Noelle. "When we started planning the wedding, one of the first things we did was gift each of his family members and flight and accommodations in Toronto for the week before the wedding. It was a big splurge and a long flight for them, but worth every penny."

FASHION NOTES

Noelle wore a Paloma Blanca gown paired with tear-drop earrings and a matching gold cuff by **TARA FAVA**. The couple had jeweller Tony Leung of **MADE YOU LOOK**, Toronto, custom design a white gold eternity band adorned with twenty smaller Asscher cut diamonds. Paying homage to Nick's African roots, Nick's wedding band is a flat titanium band with an inlay of genuine Gibeon meteorite, discovered in Namibia in 1838. Each of Noelle's seven bridesmaids wore a different Priscilla of Boston dress purchased at **GINGER'S CLOSET** in Port Credit. The Women of Honour, Noelle's two sisters, wore floor length gowns. To keep the funky downtown vibe, Noelle gave the girls gold mesh clutches from **BCBG** and to add some sparkle to their ensembles, Noelle had custom gold and crystal cuffs and earrings made in similar design and style to match her own, custom jewellery crafted by Tara Fava.

A PERSONALIZED CEREMONY

The ceremony took place at the Metropolitan United Church. A long-standing dream came true for Noelle when Bagpiper Rory Sinclair led her down the aisle to the melody of 'Highland Cathedral'.

The couple wrote their own marriage ceremony which included a Celtic handfasting ritual. They also included a poem in the ceremony that Nick's father had quoted when he asked Nick's mother to leave her home in Canada to join him in Africa and start their own life together. It was also very important to them that they honour the important people in their lives that had passed on. So Nick and Noelle took a candle and lit the candle of one guest and asked that they "pass along the light" until the whole congregation was holding a lit candle. Nick's cousin, a professional flutist, filled the church with a beautiful rendition of 'The Water is Wide' while the candle lighting took place. "It was such an amazing sight to see the church lit up by all of these little pieces of light that even the Minister wept," recalls Noelle.



The bouquet by **FLOWER PARADE** featured peonies, vanda, mokara and cymbidium orchids, lavender roses and a few beautiful peacock feathers weaving between. The bouquet was wrapped in turquoise silk and a thin, shimmering gold ribbon.





White Louis chairs with clear backs, tufted couches, acrylic stools and the white cabanas allowed people to mingle in stylish comfort.



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FOS DECOR CENTER provided lighting inside and outside. CHAIR-MAN MILLS provided linens for cruiser tables and napkins. LOUNGE RENTALS INC provided lounge furniture, all mirrored furniture, and oversized mirrors.



UNEXPECTED LOCATION

The wedding reception took place at MALAPARTE at the TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX. Event Planner MELISSA ANDRE was put to the ultimate test when on the day of the wedding, she received a phone call from Peter Oliver, president of OLIVER+BONACINI (O+B) explaining there were some unexpected issues with construction happening at the Lightbox, meaning the outdoor tented wedding reception would not be able to take place!

The easiest solution would have been to move the wedding inside, but Melissa knew how important it was for the couple to have an outdoor wedding in the center of the city.

The solution? The entire wedding was re-designed in a few short hours while Noelle got a massage, manicure, had lunch, and hoped for a perfect outcome!

"Melissa took charge and managed to rearrange a whole new event space at the venue in two hours, all the while doing this with a calm beautiful demeanor!" recalls Noelle.

Melissa and her team, as well as the O+B team literally broke down glass barriers to get the wedding party into a part of the rooftop generally restricted to wedding guests.

The reception was re-configured to be a 'strolling' reception. To achieve this, oversized white cabanas were moved into the space and decorated with floral chandeliers and silk pillows. Beautiful 10ft free-standing mirrors were brought in to add glamour. Twelve trees (a mix of white magnolia and manzanita) brought "garden" to the concrete city space.

O+B had a team of staff waiting in the lobby to escort guests to the impromptu luxe location. "It was magical," reflects Noelle.

When Noelle and Nick finally walked onto the rooftop and saw how things had turned out, they were thrilled.

"The space looked as though we had spent months designing every detail this way. I later heard that couples who did site tours of Malaparte on that day were hoping they could hold their wedding receptions on the rooftop as well. They were told that this set-up will never be repeated!" Noelle says.

CITY LIGHTS

They went straight into their first dance with the CN tower glowing in the background and guests looking on around them. A live band, GROOVEYARD, was perched on a glass balcony overlooking the reception and greeted the couple with party music! An outdoor martini bar offered over twenty different martinis for guests to enjoy.

While all of the staff at O+B rallied to give Noelle and Nick the wedding of their dreams, it was their signature catering that captivated guests. Twenty-five different dishes inspired by tastes from all over the world were passed around. The menu included everything from "Bangers and Mash" to assorted sushi maki rolls to late-night gourmet poutine.

Due to noise restrictions in the city of Toronto, live music on the rooftop couldn't

continue past 11pm, so from 11pm to 2am, the party moved to a second surprise location inside MALAPARTE. There a DJ (who is also a friend of the family) played until the wee hours of the morning.

MELISSA ANDRE designed an entire sweet table filled with desserts from BOBBETTE AND BELLE (who also created the wedding cake). Sweets included cheesecake or carrot cake lollipops, sugar donuts glazed in blue and lavender drizzle, meringues, fruit tarts and shortbread cookies decorated with Noelle's family tartan. O+B made delicious caramel pecan popcorn which was displayed in lavender scalloped cups with green bows.

THE HONEYMOONS

With family still in town, the couple couldn't get away after their wedding, so they decided

to escape on a weekend "mini-moon" to the beautiful island of Providenciales, Turks and Caicos staying in an oceanfront villa at the GRACE BAY CLUB.

A few months later they were off for their "full-moon" to the exquisite islands of French Polynesia.

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER



MANGO STUDIOS; Sought-after internationally for being incredibly unique and creative, the team at Mango Studios aim to illustrate the pure love and joy in the moments they capture. Their beautiful downtown gallery showcases their latest hand-bound books and fine art prints. MANGOSTUDIOS.COM | INFO@MANGOSTUDIOS.CA