

real weddings

feature

masquerade magic

BY STEVE THIO PHOTOGRAPHY EADWINE LAY/PLUSH PHOTOGRAPHY
OUTFITS WHITE TOP/FREDERICK LEE, BOTTOM/CATHERINE YONG, RED
GOWN/SINCERITY BRIDAL, TUXEDO/YVES SAINT LAURENT
WEDDING COORDINATOR HANNAH CHONG/HEAVEN'S GIFT

Recruitment consultant Judy Ang and investment analyst Hiromasa Ikeda wanted their wedding celebrations to be in Singapore and Tokyo. The Tokyo parties — a reception followed by a masquerade ball the next day for over 150 friends and colleagues — were held at the end of 2006, while the Singapore resort-themed dinner was in late June 2007 (at the Raffles Hotel because, Judy says with a happy smile, “My mother-in-law always wanted to stay there!”).

The wedding ceremony and reception was at Hotel Seiyō Ginza which, like many other leading Tokyo hotels, has its own wedding chapel. The “Autumn Harvest” theme was inspired by the gorgeous fall scenery in Japan. Besides the fruit-and-floral arrangements, the venue was also decorated with red autumn leaves. Guests got to bring home Taiwanese tea sets and Japanese wine cups, which reflected “our love for Chinese tea and Japanese sake”, says Judy.

For those who could not attend the main reception, the couple had a masquerade ball at the Roppongi Hills Club. The theme was inspired by a mask Hiro gave Judy after one of his trips overseas. “We chose the club because of the central location and also for our Singaporean guests to enjoy the views of Tokyo at night,” says Judy.

“The Ball was a blast! Our guests were dancing all night and everyone had such a great time!” she says. Besides performances by a jazz band, Hiro’s friends and colleagues performed a special “Alcohol Cleansing Ceremony” with Hiro dressed in a *fundoshi* (Japanese loin cloth). “All our guests were amazed and I was half amused and horrified!” laughs Judy.

Hannah Chong of Heaven’s Gifts (a local wedding planner) sourced the masks for the party, which guests kept as mementos of the event. She also helped the couple with guests’ accommodations, tailoring of the bridal wardrobe, invitations and hiring of photographers.

What pleased the couple most about their celebrations was that their guests had a wonderful time. But the best moment for Judy and Hiro actually happened hours before the festivities. “Hiro stole a kiss from me, something he usually does early in the morning, but it was extra special to me on that special day!”



newly-weds
HIROMASA IKEDA &
JUDY ANG
celebration
AN INTIMATE
SOLEMNISATION AND
A FUN BALL, ALL HELD
IN TOKYO
theme
AUTUMN (RECEPTION),
MASQUERADE BALL
(DINNER)

