



**JOEL STRAVENS
& PRISCILLE
CHETTY**

when

29 May 2010

where

L'Eglise de St
Roch,
Belombre Mahe,
The Seychelles

reception

Le Meriden
Fisherman's Cove
The Seychelles

photography

Lor Eng
Hong, 39east
Photography
(Singapore);
Caroline Horner
(Seychelles)

videography

Ralph Labalche
(Seychelles)

hair & make-up

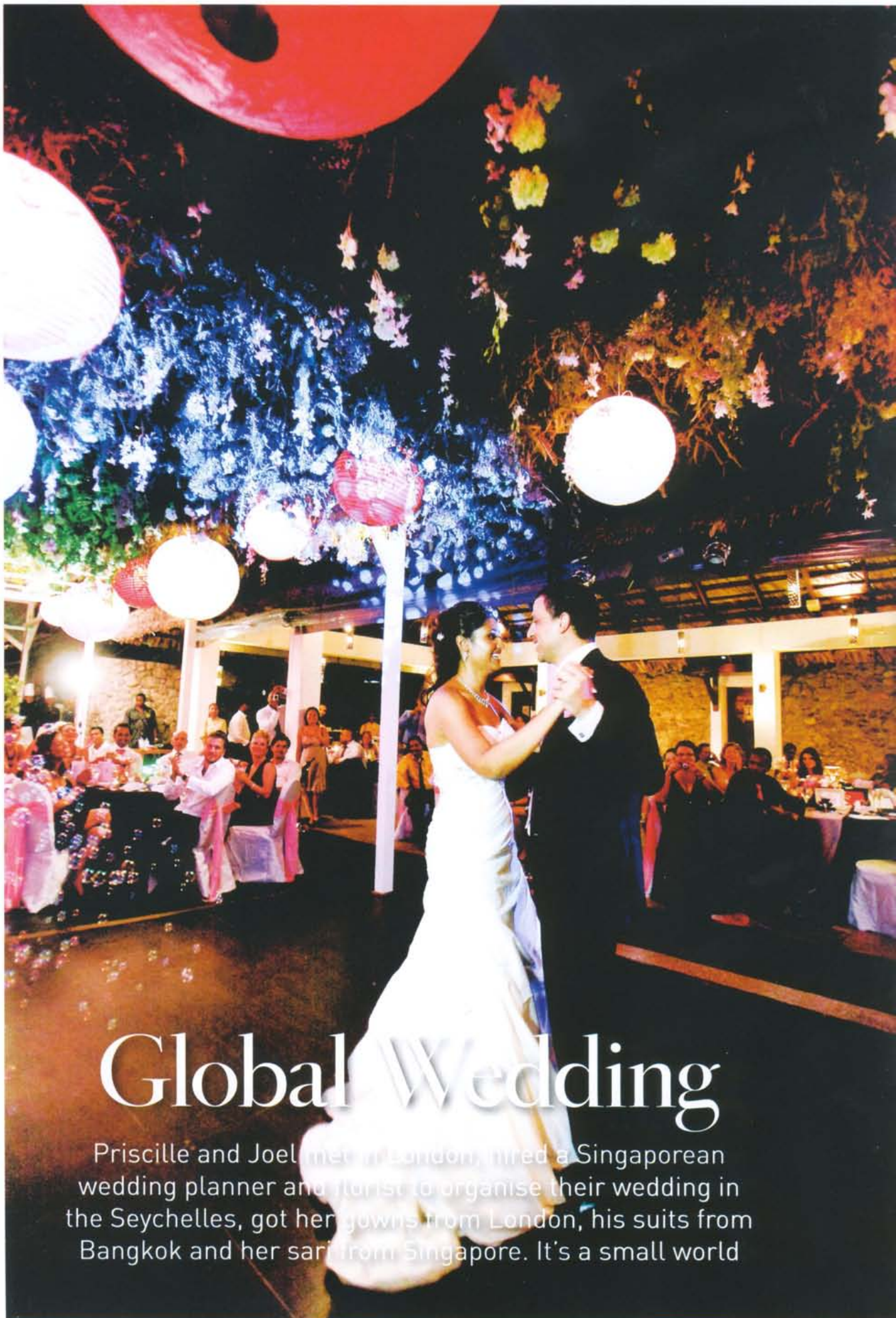
TG Goh

flowers

Harijanto Setiawan,
Boenga

wedding planner

Hannah Chong,
Heaven's Gift



Global Wedding

Priscille and Joel met in London, hired a Singaporean wedding planner and florist to organise their wedding in the Seychelles, got her gowns from London, his suits from Bangkok and her sari from Singapore. It's a small world



The first sight Priscille Chetty had of her future husband was at a friend's house in London: "I knew that Melanie had three brothers but had never met any of them. I remember Joel peering at me from the living room to see who had walked in. We soon became fast friends and started to date four months later."

His proposal was just as unconventional, says Priscille. "I was in bed in my pyjamas and Joel had just been inducted as a Freemason. He walked into our bedroom in his black suit and black tie, got down on one knee and asked me to spend the rest of my life with him. He popped out the most gorgeous fancy yellow diamond and placed it on my finger....How could I say no?"

Priscille, a barrister and attorney-at-law, describes herself as a very picky person who wants things done properly. "With my work load I knew that I would never have the time to organise the perfect wedding. So my search for the perfect wedding planner commenced over the Internet. Singapore is renowned for its service in all fields and the fact that Singapore is relatively close to the Seychelles made it the obvious choice for me. It was then that I came across Heaven's Gift and after viewing their website, I fell in love with their work, in particular a wedding they had done in Bali. I got on the phone and spoke to Hannah (Chong) and from there everything fell into place."

Organising a big wedding in the Seychelles is a challenge even for a seasoned veteran such as Hannah. The islands, some 5,400 kilometres from Singapore, have very few venues, let alone one that could host 250 persons. On her first recce, Hannah and Priscille viewed the two locations available and, somewhat disappointed, headed to Le Meridien's Fisherman's Cove for lunch.



“Hannah became ecstatic and immediately said, ‘Priscille, this is the place! Hannah immediately got to work with Irene her assistant and got out the tape measure and started pacing and measuring. All I did was sit and watch in awe as the little lady did her thing. Hannah came back saying that we needed to meet with the F & B manager and within 15 minutes we were chatting with Hansel Labonte, the F & B manager, and within 30 minutes, the hotel’s general manager, Olivier Française.”

Finding the venue was just the start. What Hannah had in mind was a trellis extending out from the restaurant, with hanging lanterns, ferns and orchids. The trellis was designed by Hannah’s in-house architect and constructed by a local carpenter supervised rather closely by Priscille’s father who wasn’t sure it would be completed on time. “It was so well done in the end that our guests thought the structure was actually part of the hotel and not something that had been set up by us. Had it not been for my Dad’s constant supervision and co-ordination of the contractors, I doubt very much we would have had the trellis,” says Priscille.

Priscille was determined to have to have the wedding she wanted, including the black and pink colour scheme, to which parents on both sides objected. Seychelles law requires a civil union first, which can then be followed 24 hours later by a religious ceremony; Priscille wanted the religious ceremony first, to be followed immediately by the civil one. The priest, the preacher and the civil servant bowed to her wishes.





Priscille was equally precise about what she wore: an ivory silk gown with a sweetheart neckline from London; a pink and baby blue sari completely covered in Swarovski crystals (and weighing in at 8kg) from Stylemart on Selegie Road in Singapore, and finally a party dress from the House of Frasier bridal salon in London, knee-length, simple and comfortable enough to party in.

The seven bridesmaids wore identical black chiffon strapless dresses with pink sashes; the maid of honour wore a distinguishing cherry-coloured sash. The groom's two suits, including one with a Nehru jacket to complement Priscille's sari, were tailored in Bangkok, as were those of the best man and the groomsmen. Ties in pink and cherry matched those of the bridesmaids.

Priscille wanted a fusion menu, a blend of Creole, Indian, Eastern and Western cuisines, with marzipan and light fruit sponge cakes done up in signature pink and black. She wanted fireworks at the end of the evening. And she wanted swirls – on everything. And while Priscille was a little afraid that maybe Hannah wouldn't deliver the wedding she was promised,



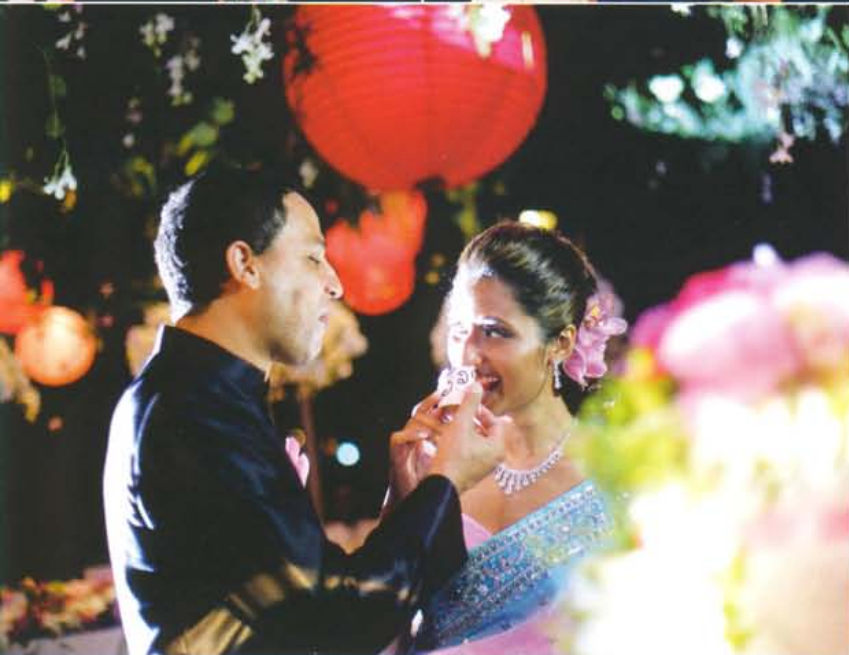
"Hannah somehow understood exactly what we wanted and when the day finally arrived, Hannah and her team delivered. We wanted swirls, she gave us swirls; we wanted black, she gave us black; we wanted pink, she gave us pink; and most of all we wanted detail and we got detail! The whole look and feel was bold and beautiful."

Despite being a tropical island, flowers for the wedding had to come from Singapore and Kenya, no easy feat. Harijanto from Boenga and his team managed it, however: "When we first walked through the reception area at the Fisherman's Cove and looked around, it took our breath away. We had managed to achieve what had seemed to be the unachievable, and a first in the Seychelles. With the flowers, Harijanto turned our fairy tale into reality; it was sheer beauty, the way all the colours and flowers were arranged."

Even local florists who decorated the church were inspired, leading the pastor of St Roch to say that he had never seen his church decorated so beautifully before. And it was the church ceremony that Priscille and Joel will remember most.

Priscille did not want Joel to see her





before she arrived at the church (hence the re-arrangement of the civil ceremony); she arrived 10 minutes late on the arm of her father. She recalls, "The whole day was memorable to me. I took in as much as I could knowing, that it would come to an end far too quickly. However if I had to choose a moment, it would be as I entered the church. I was so anxious as it hit me then that I was actually getting married, but when I saw Joel standing at the front of the church I couldn't stop smiling; all the people around were blurs; all I could feel was my father's arm holding me, and all I could see was Joel looking straight at me. All felt right with the world; it was a perfect moment."

It was equally momentous for the groom: "I was waiting at the front of the church; I was nervous, feeling very conscious and not to mention a little worried as my bride to be was already 10 minutes late. But as the car pulled up outside the church, I caught a glimpse of Priscille getting out and she looked gorgeous, but it wasn't until I saw her walking down the aisle that I became overwhelmed by my emotions. I realised how stunningly beautiful she looked and at that moment I felt so proud that I was going to be her husband and that I would be spending the rest of my life with her."