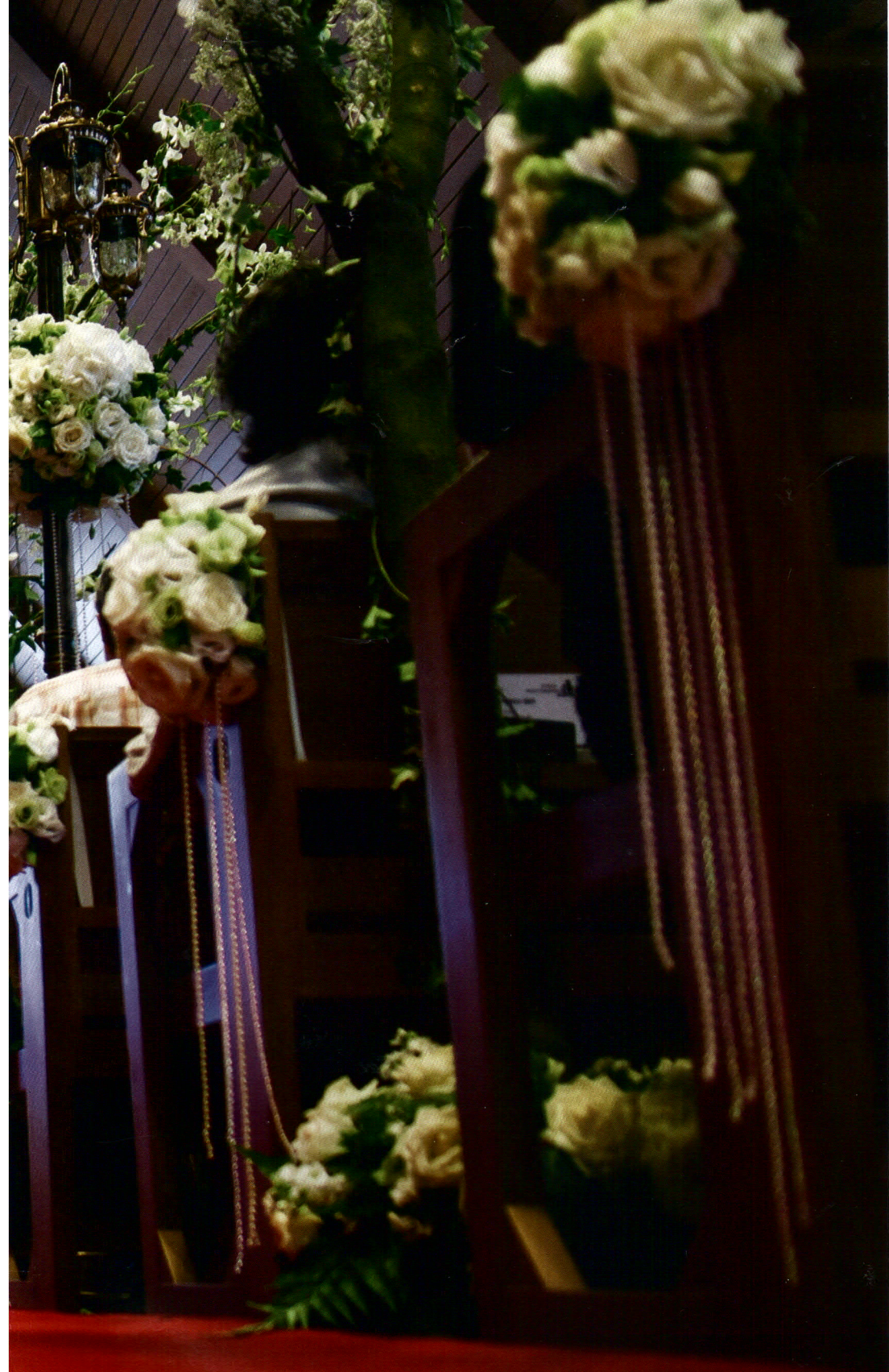




# Intimacy on a Grand Scale

Text: Melissa Gail Sing





When you have a guest list of more than 600, it can be a challenge to create an intimate celebration, but judging from the many compliments they received, Kevin Tan and Laura Chong managed to achieve just that while giving family and friends an evening of song, dance and heartwarming moments.

**W**hat seemed like an ordinary trip to their favourite scenic spot in Sydney turned out to be a most memorable

holiday when auditor Kevin Tan asked marketing communications professional Laura Chong to be his wife – and caught it all on video. The scene was set at Mrs Macquarie’s Chair, the couple’s favourite viewing spot that affords panoramic views of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. After tucking into their favourite pies, the son of former Nominated Member of Parliament Mildred Tan-Sim turned his camera to video mode, secretly fixated it on Laura and hit the record button. Then, with the stars in the night sky as witnesses he got down on one knee and proposed to his long-time partner with a diamond ring. Consumed by surprise and ecstasy, Laura could be forgiven for responding with a “thank you”, but the big “yes” her beau longed to hear quickly followed.

It was a wonderful prelude to a new chapter in the lives of this salsa- and travel-loving pair who had kept their hearts close to each other even when they were studying in different cities in Australia.



**KEVIN & LAURA  
WEDDING EVENTS**

**Church Ceremony and Lunch**

WHEN 7 July 2012

WHERE Trinity Methodist Church

**Wedding Dinner**

WHEN 7 July 2012

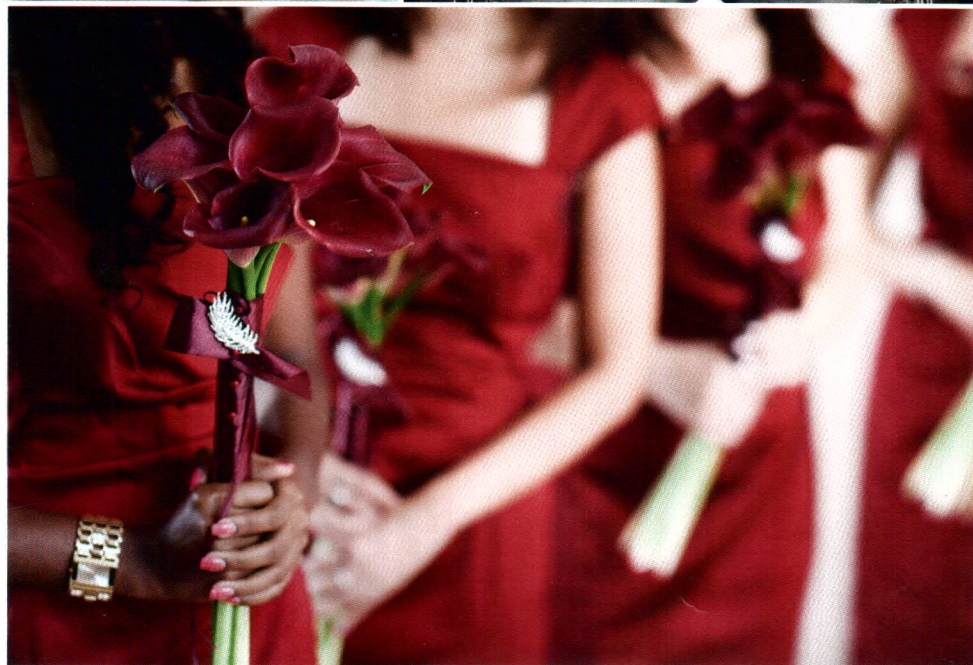
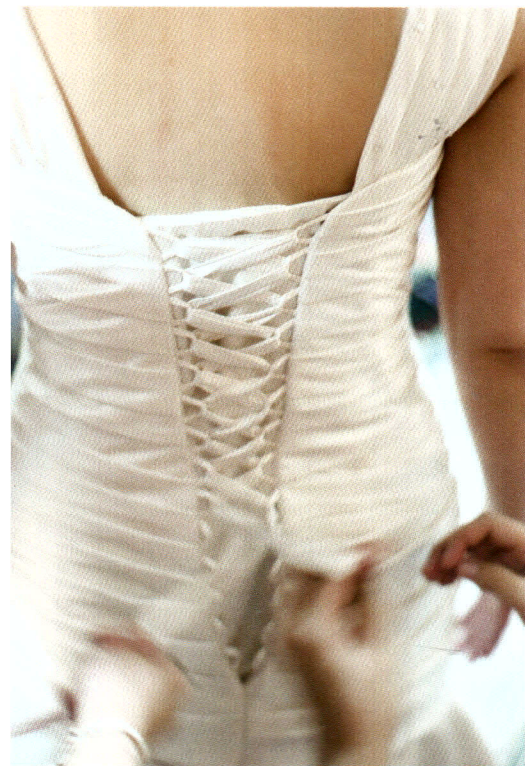
WHERE Shangri-La Hotel, Island Ballroom











## THE THEME & CONCEPT

The couple's love for travel was conveyed in a myriad of ways during their wedding day celebrations. At Trinity Methodist Church where they exchanged their vows, the aisle were lined with trees and lamp posts to recall the streets of London. The dinner at Shangri-la Hotel's Island Ballroom continued the vision of journeys with images of some of the most beautiful places in the world. Through large canvas photos taken during the couple's pre-wedding shoot in New York and Sydney welcomed guests at the hotel. In the foyer, a sweets bar was erected, inviting the young and the old to take a bite of treats from different parts of the world, from New York's Garrett popcorn and Australia's Tim Tams to Dutch stroop waffles and Whittaker's chocolate bars from New Zealand. Over at the strawberry bar, an ice carving of the Italian Coliseum stood tall.

Inside the ballroom, a large 3D backdrop depicting the romantic Grecian island of Santorini ("It's one of the most picturesque places we've been to," says Laura) created a dreamy ambience. Each table had a photo of the couple taken on one of their travels and throughout the dinner, the entire collection of photos was flashed on the big screen. Keeping guests entertained were singing performances by family friends Robert Fernando and Cat Ong, and a live band specially flown in from the Philippines.

Seven months before the big day, the couple travelled to New York to get their wedding outfits with the help of a personal shopper at Bloomingdale's. "Kleinfeld Bridal came highly recommended and the staff kindly opened the store two hours earlier just so we could pick out outfits. And they were so talented in customising my gown and having it ready in time for me to bring back to Singapore," says Laura. Outfits for the wedding party were also obtained from New York (the bridesmaids wore Ralph Lauren and Laundry while the groomsmen wore Calvin Klein).











## WEDDING VENDORS

BRIDE'S OUTFITS Kleinfeld/Valentino

GROOM'S OUTFITS Kleinfeld

PHOTOGRAPHER Alwin Lim/Lightedpixels  
Photography

VIDEOGRAPHER Christopher Tay/Ichiro Films

MAKE-UP ARTIST Pamela Hoeden

HAIRSTYLIST Carol/Studiog16

FLORIST Boenga

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Telli Wu from The Wedding Concierge

WEDDING CAKE Smiling Orchid/  
Shangri-La Hotel

WEDDING BAND J Dadap

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

The first dance is always a special wedding moment, and Kevin and Laura worked extra hard at theirs. After all, they were brought together by their love for dance, specifically the salsa. During the dinner, they surprised guests with a brilliant salsa performance.

"We had practised eight weeks for this dance and were relieved to have pulled it off smoothly, but it was a truly thrilling and fun experience," says Laura.

A touching childhood photo montage put together by one of the bride's close friends and her fiancé was another personal touch guests enjoyed. Offering a glimpse of the unforgettable moments in the couple's individual lives as well as a tribute to all the people closest to them, it moved more than a few guests to tears.

"We truly achieved what we wanted out of this wedding, to celebrate our love for each other, have fun and thank everyone who's been a part of our lives, and to make this wedding truly memorable," says Laura. 