

Black Tie Meets Backyard Bliss



Sam Lau provided hair styling services, and Kaily Grist provided makeup application.

Ashton wore formalwear from Ralph Lauren with an Alexander McQueen shirt, Hermès bow tie, and Prada shoes.

Event logistic services were provided by Christine Jagoe.

# MELISSA *and* ASHTON

photography by

SWEET PEA PHOTOGRAPHY



Peter Rindje of V & J PLANT SHOP provided floral designs for the event

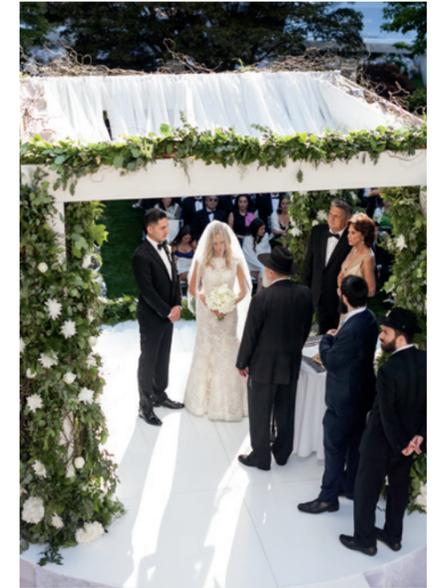
MELISSA BROWN MET ASHTON KERZNER ON A BLIND DATE IN 2014. MELISSA HAD BEEN LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY, AND ASHTON WAS RESIDING IN VANCOUVER, SO IT TOOK A LOT OF OUTSIDE FORCES TO BRING THEM TOGETHER. AT THE TIME, A FRIEND OF MELISSA'S BROTHER WAS DATING ASHTON'S brother, and the two decided to try their hands at matchmaking. They concocted a plan to get Melissa and Ashton together, and although the geographic separation proved to be a bit of a roadblock initially, Ashton finally took a leap of faith and flew to New York City to take Melissa out on their first date. Instantly after their first date, they realized they shared a unique connection and decided to go on a limb and give a long-distance relationship a try. However, the novelty of long-distance dating got old relatively quickly, and Melissa moved to Vancouver in 2015, sharing with us that, "it was the best decision of my life."

On December 6, 2015, Ashton proposed to Melissa in their kitchen. Melissa had always dreamed of an elaborate proposal, but instead Ashton caught her completely off guard by proposing with three flavoured ring pops, which Ashton said were to act as a placeholder until she selected the perfect ring. Melissa played along with this scenario and put on one of the ring pops before heading into the kitchen to get a glass of water and to start calling family and friends with the good news. When she opened the fridge, her perfect ring was sitting right in front of her. To commemorate this moment, the ring pops have since been framed and now hang in the couple's living room.

The couple's "Enchanted Garden"-themed wedding on July 3, 2016 was held in the backyard of Ashton's grandfather's home. The couple exchanged vows underneath a 10-ft tall chuppah constructed by SCENE IDEAS with a rabbi officiating the ceremony. Philip Coppieters and Rene Marcoux of LIVING DESIGN DÉCOR created a space that was just as Melissa envisioned—elegant and delicate. Before the ceremony, white pashminas were thoughtfully placed on the backs of the lucite chairs to ensure guests were cozy and warm. The existing garden and blooms offered the perfect lush setting for the chuppah, which was accented with greenery and delicate white flowers by V & J PLANT SHOP.



WEDGE AND LEVER designed the couple's custom monogram.



Pat Rekert of IN ANY EVENT DESIGN INC. was on-hand to manage the setup of the event and installations, and Philip Coppieters and Rene Marcoux of Living Design Décor provided decor design services, fine-tuning the overall look and feel of the event, playing a crucial role in creating Melissa's dream wedding.

The couple's laser-cut, garden-inspired ketubah designed by Danny Azoulay was sourced from KETUBAH.COM



The bride wore a lace Ines Di Santo gown from BISOU BRIDAL paired with a bracelet designed by Ashton's parents, and her grandmother's blue ribbon tied around her ankle. Her bridesmaids were all dressed in long, black gowns from JENNY YOO and carried bunches of long-stemmed calla lilies. The groomsmen wore Jean Yves tuxedos from BLACK & LEE and the best men wore Ralph Lauren tuxedos.



“We chose an open-air tent so that the greenery of the outside could be incorporated into the green floral arrangements inside.” —MELISSA

Lucite chairs from LIVING DESIGN DÉCOR added a touch of modernity to the setting and PEDERSEN'S RENTALS provided linens for the occasion.



The newlyweds' reception was also held outdoors in a 22-ft tall tent constructed by AMAZING TENTS AND EVENTS that was decorated with twelve glittering suspended crystal chandeliers. A combination of long and round dining tables featured both high, winding, tree-like centerpieces and low vessels filled with white and dusty roses, peonies, and lush greenery designed by V & J PLANT SHOP.

CAKES BY NICOLE designed a 6-tier wedding cake with raspberry filling, decorated with delicate sugar ruffles. Three feathery, blush sugar peonies decorated the design. “They were dainty and exquisite and looked too real to eat,” shares Melissa.

An ice sculpture was provided by COOL CREATIONS and featured the newlyweds' custom monogram designed by WEDGE AND LEVER.





Pat Rekert of **IN ANY EVENT DESIGN INC.** oversaw the tenting, rigging, lighting, construction of the chuppah, and the installation of the chandeliers.



### END NOTES

**CULINARY CAPERS** catered the wedding meal, serving beef short rib accompanied by seasonal vegetables and grilled potatoes. A live band from **SIDE ONE ENTERTAINMENT** performed for the couple and their guests during their first dance and after dinner. "I was initially nervous about the band as they can make or break the wedding, but they blew us away!" says Melissa. **GIRL ON WAX** DJ'd while guests danced the evening away. **VINCENT + THEO** provided cinematography services for the occasion and **AV STRATEGIES** provided lighting/AV services.

Both Melissa and Ashton work for **ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY**, so it was only fitting that they gifted their guests with boxes featuring a layer of candy pearls and filled with delectable truffle bombs.

Ashton, a travel fanatic, planned the couple's honeymoon himself and didn't let Melissa in on the plan until they had checked in at the airport. She thought they were flying to Mexico City as he had purchased tickets for the destination to throw her off, but they were actually en route to Asia. The couple visited Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand staying at the St. Regis and the Conrad hotels during their travels.

The evening culminated with a surprise performance from **VOC SWEET SOUL GOSPEL CHOIR**. The singers led a large procession to the street, leading guests to their next destination—the after party at **PIERRE'S LOUNGE** in Yaletown. "It was the true cherry on top and was the best end to the night!" exclaims Melissa.



Lori Miles has been documenting fabulous weddings for over a decade. Her passion for capturing authentic moments has become her signature style, resulting in classic, elegant and timeless images. "I love that my job allows me to connect with people and feel honoured that my clients choose me to document one of the most important days of their lives."

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