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# Once upon a time..

## SUE ELLAN AND MARINO

MACLAURIN HALL, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, 10TH OF JANUARY, 2009

STORY by Megan Byrne PHOTOGRAPHY by Inlighten Photography

SUE ELLAN'S DREAMS CAME TRUE THE DAY her partner of four years, Marino proposed at her parent's kitchen table. Having received the blessing of Sue Ellan's much loved godparents, Marino took off the ring he had been wearing for many years and, bending down on one knee, told Sue Ellan it would make him the proudest and happiest of men if he could spend the rest of his life with her. Envisaging a classic fairytale wedding since childhood, and finally, with her loving Marino at her side, she joyously began to bring her dreams to life.

The old-world elegance began with calligraphy invitations, which were hand delivered by the couple and contained a feathered quill to set the theme. Choosing the gown was easy as Sue Ellan had spotted her dream gown – a strapless bodice with a full tiered skirt in latte-coloured silk – long before she and Marino were engaged. The groomsmen's cravats, waist coats and handkerchiefs were made from the same latte coloured silk, as were the flower girls' aprons.

Before leaving for the ceremony, Sue Ellan's single female friends wrote their names on the bottom of her shoe; Marino's single male friends did the same to his shoe. In a Greek variation of the bouquet toss, the last names left on the shoes at the end of the night would be the next married.

The bridal party drove to the church in style, courtesy of champagne-coloured Rolls Royces and Bentleys. Following a beautiful Greek Orthodox ceremony, guests scattered petals and rice on the newly married couple as they exited the church. Looking on as Sue Ellan and Marino's photographs were taken, guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks and canapés in a sandstone quadrangle at the university.

"We really wanted to make everyone feel special and a part of our whole day," Sue Ellan said.

In addition to the photographic show, four court jesters, two of them on stilts, entertained guests with tricks and jokes during this time, and guided guests inside when the reception began.

The vaulted ceilings and rich carpets in the grand hall provided a dramatic setting for the reception. After being announced to the room, the newly weds danced to the traditional wedding song of Samos, in Greece, which had been sent by Sue Ellan's family for the occasion. Friends and family then feasted on crab stacks, rack of lamb and tender chicken breasts, followed by hazelnut tarts and rosewater jellies. As the celebrations drew to a close and the couple farewelled their guests, Sue Ellan remembered having mixed emotions, "it was so hard to leave an amazing day, however we knew it was the beginning of our wonderful life together!" ♡





THESE PAGES The couple's elegant stationery suite, including an invitation complete with feathered quill, order of service and menu, featured Sue Ellen and Marino's initials as well as a decorative motif. ♣ Seating 385 guests, tables featured table runners and chair covers in oyster satin and candelabras decorated with roses, hydrangeas and ivy. ♣ Iced with vintage cameo motifs, favour cookies were personalized with each guest's name. ♣ Made by her sister, petal and rice confetti cones were handed to guests at the ceremony by Sue Ellen's god sister and cousin. ♣ Surrounded by rose petals, the tiered raspberry and white chocolate cake featured intricate icing patterns and a romantic detail of Sue Ellen and Marino. ♣ As part of his speech, Marino read from E.E. Cummings' 'I Carry Your Heart With Me', the words of which were written in calligraphy on a scroll for Sue Ellen to keep.



GOWN: Personalised Weddings, 02 9558 5648 PHOTOGRAPHER: Inlighten Photography, 02 9550 0332 VIDEOGRAPHY: Soda Films, 02,9436 2268 CEREMONY LOCATION: Cathedral of 'Annunciation of Our Lady Theotokos', Greek Orthodox Church, Redfern RECEPTION VENUE: MacLaurin Hall, Sydney University, 02 9351 2222 RECEPTION CATERER: Gourmet Fare Catering, 0412 233 039 RECEPTION DECORATIONS: Decorative Events, 02 8399 2299 GROOM'S AND GROOMSMEN'S ATTIRE: Peppers Formal Wear, 02 9327 2544 BRIDESMAIDS' OUTFITS: Chic Collections, 02 9908 7490 FLOWER GIRLS' OUTFITS: Petite Parfait, [www.petiteparfait.ca](http://www.petiteparfait.ca) FLOWERS AND FLORAL DECORATIONS: Flowers By Teresa, 02 9559 3369 STATIONERY: Wills Quills, 02 9411 2500 TRANSPORT: 7th Heaven Wedding Cars, 0419 988 880 CAKE: Polka Dots Cookies & Cakes, 02 9557 9093 GIFT REGISTRY: David Jones, 1300 300 111 FIRST NIGHT: Westin Sydney Hotel, 02 8223 1111



SUE ELLAN'S STYLE GUIDE



WEDDING

THIS PAGE Sue Ellan's flowergirls carried beautiful 'rosebud handbags' whilst her bridesmaids bouquets were made up of David Austin roses in white, pink and cream, tuberose, ivy and stephanotis trails. ♡ Sue Ellan's elegant bouquet of white David Austin, Julia and Sahara roses, gardenias and stephanotis complemented her beautifully detailed gown – which took 12 months to design and make. ♡ Arriving at the church in champagne coloured Rolls Royces and Bentleys, a violinist, guitarist and singer performed as Sue Ellan walked down the aisle with her father.

