

NADIA & MICHAEL

When girl-about-town Nadia Fairfax married Michael Wayne, their Sydney garden wedding was an extravaganza of colour, celebration and glamour, with the party rolling on long after dark.

How did your partner propose? "Under a giant blazing maple tree in Bowral. I was admiring the enormity of the tree, turned around, and he was on one knee. I bawled like a baby. It was the day before the wedding of two friends, so we chose to keep it a secret so as to not take attention away from the bride and groom, which turned out to be incredibly romantic – it was our little secret. We must have enjoyed that feeling very much as we ended up keeping the engagement to ourselves for weeks."

How would you describe the theme your wedding? "A theatrical castle garden party with a modern execution. At the heart of the entire event was fun. I wanted every touchpoint to make each person feel joyful – bright, bold florals, maze-like tables, colourful glassware, a cake that looked like something out of *Alice in Wonderland* ... All of that, but still a little informal, so guests felt carefree and ready to let their hair down."

What were some of the styling details? "A harmonious mix of colour on neutral backdrops. It was about scalloped edges, muted tones and pops of contemporary hues. We used mismatched Maison Balzac coloured glasses and carafes. Our entrees were all served on Dinosaur Designs platters, and the artist who did our invitations, menus and place cards also made each of the inconsistent vases across the tables."

Why did you pick your venue? "We thought about what we wanted our wedding to look like and kept circling back to 'garden soirée', so this entailed finding a place with grand garden (relatively tricky, might I add!) and we were hoping to find a location somewhat locally. We approached the beautiful Moran family about potentially using their incredible heritage-listed home Swifts mansion for our special day. Mr Moran was warm, welcoming and helpful, and I was drawn to the estate's colossal tress and luscious lawns."

Tell us about your dress. "This was the easiest part for me. I worked as brand manager at Aje for over five years; [designers] Adrian and Edwina are like family to me. It felt the most natural to ask them and thank goodness I did. I adored my dresses. I wanted something relatively classic, but still staying true to my audacious personal style. They executed it perfectly. →



Joyous: Nadia Fairfax and Michael Wayne celebrate their big day on the grounds of Swifts in Sydney's Darling Point.



Exchanging vows under the trees in front of the couple's 90 guests.



Nadia arrives at the venue ahead of the ceremony wearing Bond Street pyjamas.



Bridesmaid and jeweller Olivia Bond adjusts the bride's necklace.



Mother-of-the-bride Sharon Fairfax in Dries Van Noten, inside the historic building with her daughter.



Nadia's father walks her down the aisle.

The rucking at the front made me feel like I was a big wildflower, and gave me an element to play with while waltzing around the venue. The extended corset kept it refined and elegant. Aje made the mini version of my dress without even asking. They know I think my pins are my best asset, so I like to have them on show."

Describe your hair and make-up. "I take much delight in the style of the 1960s, so my hair and make-up gave a nod to that era while not being over-the-top. I put an emphasis on making sure my skin, hair and eyebrows were in topnotch condition for the day, as I did want my make-up to be relatively natural. Dr Joseph Hkeik at All Saints Skin Clinic is my regular, and we set a little program for both my mum and I in the six weeks prior."

What about your accessories? One of my best friends and bridesmaids is the most elegant jeweller in the country – Olivia Bond. She made my engagement ring and bracelet, and my wedding ring. I also wore a simple tennis necklace, diamond studs and my signet ring, all from Olivia Bond Diamonds. When I changed dresses, I also changed accessories. I went for something more fun and popped on some bold Chanel drop earrings."

The most unexpected part of your wedding day? "It bucketed down rain during cocktail hour and we had to think on our feet. We ushered everyone into the ballroom where Michael and I entered to *Singing in the Rain* by Gene Kelly. I grabbed two microphones and threw chairs on the stage and did a little Q&A with my father to fill some of the time until the storm passed." →



Guests follow the jazz band and couple to the cocktail and canapés area.



Kate Waterhouse, right, one of the 14 bridesmaids who each chose their own outfit.



Tables spread out across the manicured lawns of Swifts mansion.



The flower girls dressed in Labubé.



Michael and Nadia after the ceremony, the bride showing off her Jimmy Choos.



Bright florals complement the colourful Maison Balzac glassware.





Signing the registry witnessed by the couple's dear friend Jenna Larter.



Guests inside the venue look on during the couple's first dance.



The three-tier Lush Empire cake inspired by Alice in Wonderland.



Nadia changed into her second dress for the afterparty on charter superyacht Ghost 2.



WHITE BOOK
VENUE: Swifts, Sydney; Ghost 2
DRESSES: Aje
SHOES: Jimmy Choo, all three pairs
RINGS: Olivia Bond Diamonds
HAIR: Paloma Garcia of Paloma Salon
MAKE-UP: Joanna Luhrs
NAILS: Jocelyn Petroni
FRAGRANCE: Tom Ford
Beau De Jour
GROOM'S ATTIRE: P Johnson
PHOTOGRAPHY: Alice Mahran
FILM PHOTOGRAPHY:
Sophia de Vries
FLOWERS: The Dani Dean,
The Make Haus
CATERING: Kate White, Katering
FIRST DANCE: Rock Your Baby
by George McCrae
INVITATIONS: Chanel Tobler
WEDDING PLANNER:
Ally Considine, MG events
CELEBRANT: Pip Best, In Light



Pouring the Perrier-Jouët champagne tower.