

The Bridal Showcase

A Collection of Wedding Professionals

January 2014

presented by

belk
MODERN. SOUTHERN. STYLE.

PHOTO: DIANNE PERSONETT

Nikki and I met in 2011 through our part time jobs, I saw her walk in the door and knew that I had to at least ask her out not sure if she would say yes but I thought I should at least try, so I did and she said yes.

We both have family in Lancaster SC and she happened to be down there visiting her grandparents so I asked her if after she was done visiting with them would she like to have dinner she said that would be great, so we went to Applebee's and had a great time getting to know each other a little better.

We then proceeded to see each other more and more which leads us to Mother's day of 2012, we planned to go down to meet with the rest of our families so while we were all sit-

ting around I pulled Nikki's mom and my mom aside to show them the ring that I picked out and informed them that I was going to ask Nikki to marry me. I have been to Afghanistan twice and was less nervous when I was there then when I asked her to marry me. Well we know how the rest of the story goes. As far as the wedding goes Nikki and I could not have asked for a more perfect wedding, we are so blessed to have all the people that dedicated their time and services to help provide us with such a spectacular event.

Our families were also impressed with everything that was done from the amazing food to the photo booth to the music to include the DJ (Z Brothers), the photography (Dianne Personett Photography), the

Bridal Showcase Cover Couple

Nikki & Aaron Ambrosino

Photography: Dianne Personett

videography (Brian Bunn Films), the vintage Rolls Royce (Royal Rides) to the beautiful hotel and of course our beautiful wedding cake.

So to wrap things up we enjoyed everything and want to thank you again for all that you did. I also want to make sure to thank our friends and family for everything that they provided as well. ♥





Operation Marry Me Military

by Heidi Crowder
Carolina Weddings & Events

I have been a wedding & event planner with Carolina Weddings & Events going on 4 years now! It has been a great honor and privilege to work with every one of my brides and their families. At this point in my life, I can't think of anything I would rather be doing!

In the summer of 2011, I was attending my best friend's wedding. The

Bride's sister, an event planner herself, Alecia, and I were talking about an organization she developed called Operation Marry Me Military. She asked if I would be interested in taking the lead on this project that originated in Brunswick County of North Carolina and help her branch it out Mecklenburg county, NC. Thrilled at the opportunity to help give back to my community I immediately accepted the challenge. I thoroughly enjoyed planning the event in 2012, I accepted the event again for 2013 without hesitation.

Labeled a "challenge" *only* because the Operation Marry Me Military (OMMM) couple is not selected for the Veteran's Day wedding until August. I do truly adore taking an idea and building on a bride-to-be's vision, but something about a blank slate is

quite exhilarating. Military Brides or Grooms-to-be submit their stories and they are selected by a committee and assigned to a participating NC county.

We (the project leaders) are continuously calling and soliciting services for a bride and groom that none of us will meet until a month prior to their wedding. It has become such a well-known event, now; I have companies contacting me to participate in this gracious event.

This year, our couple was a Navy couple, Nikki & Aaron. Aaron has served our country in the military for 14 years! We had 30 proud and extremely willing contributors for their "dream" wedding!

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Nikki loved to be involved in the planning process and was able to enjoy picking out invitations, tasting cake and choosing bright pink and orange flowers. She helped pick the golden accents that would drape her tables and fill the donated venue, Savour Charlotte. The family and guests would enjoy capturing memories in the photobooth, playing a light-hearted game of corn-hole and then dancing into the night. An espresso station was available to go along with dessert after Roots Catering provided an amazing vegetarian menu (selected by the bride).

I can't express the appreciation that I have for all the vendors who help make this event as successful as it is! I am once again, truly honored and privileged to help give back to those who give so much for us! God Bless The USA!



Contributing vendors include:

Brian Bunn Films Videography
Call Me Cratzev Customizable Monogram Crate

Carolina Weddings & Events
 Full Wedding Planning, Prop Rentals, Event Producer, The Bridal Showcase

CinemJava Espresso Catering
 Espresso, Cappuccino and Latte Service at Reception

Dianne Personett Photography
 Full Wedding Photography

Dunhill Hotel Day use of the penthouse room for bridal portraits

Elisabeth Rose Printed table numbers, out of town itinerary

Embassy Suites of Charlotte
 Hotel night stay for bride and groom, discounted rates for the guests

Erin Ashley Makeup Make up for Bride and Bridal Party and bridal portraits

Gotcha Studios Bridal Portrait Session

Jeff Burger Guest Book Artist

Jim Trice Photography
 Engagement Session

Lily Greenthumbs Wedding & Event Design Bridal Party Flowers and ceremony flowers

Marc Defang New York
 wedding shoes for bride

Merry Invites wedding programs

Musically Yours Ceremony Music

Party Reflections Special Event Rentals & Specialty Linen

Pink Petunia Designs, LLC
 Reception Flowers

Polka Dot Bakeshop Goodies distributed to guests

Queen City Catering Appetizers for the cocktail hour

Red Stone Press wedding invitations, thank you notes and Escort Cards

Reverend Rebecca Nagy
 Ceremony Officiant

Royal Rides Transportation for send-off of bride and groom

Savour Charlotte Ceremony & Reception Venue

Shutterbooth PhotoBooth

Sky's the Limit Custom Cakes and More Grooms Cake and Favors

Taken by Sara Photography
 Rehearsal Photography

The Monogram Shop
 Monogram gifts for the couple

Wow Factor Cakes Wedding Cake

Z Brothers DJs DJ Services at the reception



Old South Studios



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Wedding Planning (Full Wedding Planning, Day-of Coordination and Prop Rentals)
 Producers of The Bridal Showcase, Corporate Events, Fashion Shows, Photo Styling

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