

LOS ANGELES WEDDINGS

Your Own
Red Carpet
Style

How to find:

The perfect gown

Gifts to treasure

The right
photographer

A masterpiece cake

Glamorous hair
& makeup



The
Location

Facing the ocean at sunset with their children as attendants, the bride and groom said their vows.



THE DETAILS

Venue

Bacara Resort and Spa

Dress

Romona Keveza

Planner

Mary Litzinger, CSEP, and
Karey Williams with VP Events, Inc.

Catering

Bacara Resort and Spa

Photography

Elizabeth Messina Photography

Videographer

Paradise Film and Video

Designer

Corridan and Co.

Cake

Bacara Resort and Spa

Stationery

A Papier

Ceremony Music

Bob Ledner
Musical Entertainment Service

Reception DJ

Music Masters
Entertainment Service

UNIQUE WEDDINGS

When Chantel Dreesen met Jason Kendall, she didn't really care that he was a player. The Oakland A's three-time all-star catcher won over his future wife with his sweet, gentle nature—not his celebrity status. "I'd been living in L.A. for 12 years when I met Jason," Chantel explains. "Everyone here is someone special. It really boiled down to [the fact that] Jason is just a really good person. What he does for a living wasn't an issue." A pause. "Plus, he's pretty easy on the eyes."

Jason's busy travel schedule (eight hectic months on, four blissful months off) didn't stand in the way of romance. With her two children from a previous marriage, Emma and Joseph, Chantel tagged along whenever possible, and soon the couple's newborn son Kuyper joined the family in the stands. Two months later, Jason popped the question—and got the emphatic "yes" he was hoping for.

A long, leisurely engagement was not in the cards. The couple wanted to tie the knot during Jason's off-season so they'd have some time to enjoy being newlyweds—which left less than four weeks to plan the entire shindig.

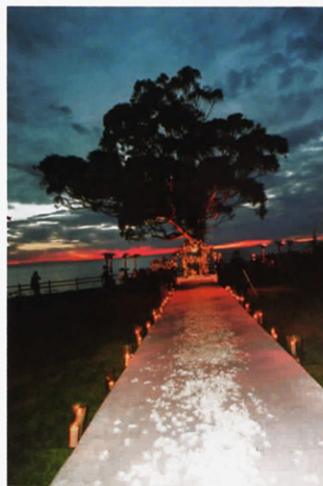
"I'm very decisive," insists Chantel. "I hired a coordinator and said, 'Don't bring me 37 shades of cream and tell me to pick one. Cream is cream.'" Chantel found her dream dress in a magazine, hunted it down in a local store, and then bought the sample right off the rack—for half price. "It didn't even need to be altered," she says. "It was just meant to be." For the venue, Chantel and Jason had in mind a romantic, oceanfront setting. The Bacara Resort in picturesque Santa Barbara fit the bill beautifully.

Jason wanted to buy his intended a special bauble for the occasion, but Chantel declined. "I'm not a girly-girl," explains the self-proclaimed jock. "If I invested in a pair of diamond earrings, Kuyper would pull them right out." Instead, the bride agreed to be draped in diamonds graciously loaned by L.A. jeweler XIV Karats Beverly Hills. "It was pretty stressful to think that I had a quarter of a million dollars of jewels around my neck," Chantel admits. "But they really added to the dress."

Despite the elegant, glamorous setting, the wedding's feel was casual (Jason insisted on wearing flip-flops) and kid-friendly. Six-year-old Emma was maid of honor, nine-year-old Joseph served as best man, and nine-month-old Kuyper was passed back and forth from bride to groom during the ceremony. "Every once in a while he'd wail or pull my hair," Chantel laughs. "And that's the way we wanted it. This is our life."

At the reception, while the adults partied in the main room, a gaggle of nannies kept watch as the littlest guests hopped from 60-foot big-screen TV to bounce house to air hockey table, stopping to pet the live chinchillas whenever the mood struck. "It was like a circus in the back of the reception," Chantel describes. "The kids loved it."

The bride and groom weren't complaining, either. "Even though everything was beyond perfect, it wasn't about the food or the flowers," adds Chantel. "It was about a family coming together and two people who love each other saying it in front of their families and friends. In the end we had a kiss and a family hug to seal it all up. That was important to us." ❖



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FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF los angeles MAGAZINE

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FAMILY AFFAIR

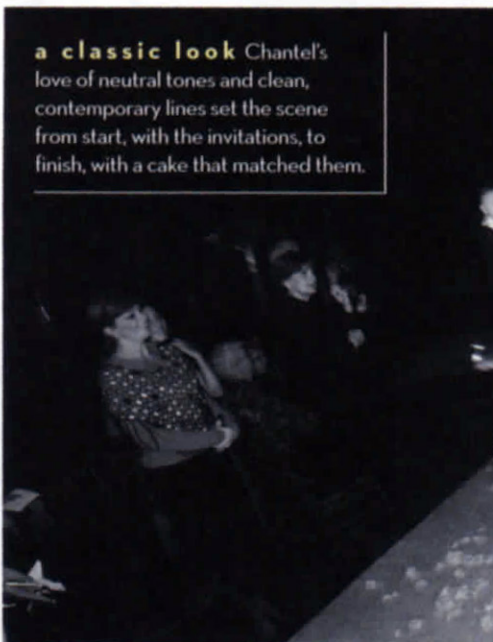
OPTING FOR CASUAL ELEGANCE, A PRO BALL PLAYER AND HIS BRIDE DESIGN AN OCEANFRONT WEDDING CELEBRATION ESPECIALLY FOR THEIR CHILDREN

JASON KENDALL
AND
CHANTEL DREESEN



→BY JENNA McCARTHY

→PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELIZABETH MESSINA



a classic look Chantel's love of neutral tones and clean, contemporary lines set the scene from start, with the invitations, to finish, with a cake that matched them.



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