

CHICAGO WEDDING

Lauren & John

JULY 11, 2015

Hotel **SWEET**



Two free-spirited lovebirds had their dream wedding at the Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago.

WHEN PLANNER Frank Andonoplas of Frank Event Design met with a beautiful redheaded bride and her dashing beau, two words came to mind: eclectic whimsy. Andonoplas could instantly sense that there was nothing stuffy or traditional about Lauren Brashears and John Rogalski, who met through mutual friends and made an instant impression on each other.

"She had on bright red lipstick, and for days after, all I could think about were these floating red lips," says John. Some three years later, he kissed his bride at a deliciously out-of-the-box wedding at Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago in July.

At the end of the ceremony, a recessional inspired by the bride's favorite Christmas film, *Love Actually*, saw the couple dancing down the aisle to a surprise performance of the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love." And the reception—which had decor inspired by watercolors—had more surprises in store.

In lieu of escort cards, guests found their table numbers at an acrylic seating chart decked with floating flowers. After the reception, some attendees—"the party animals," says Lauren—moved to an afterparty in a smaller ballroom. She changed into an Alice + Olivia pantsuit to dance to DJ Michael O'Dea. There were late-night snacks, roulette and blackjack tables, and, not surprisingly, the party went on until the wee hours of the morning.

When guests finally went to sleep that night, they hung cheeky signs on their hotel-room doors: "Do Not Disturb: We Partied too Hard at the Brashears/Rogalski Wedding." The couple will check in to more hotels later this winter, when they take their honeymoon in Thailand and Hong Kong. ■

“What We Learned
John and I made a promise to each other that we wouldn't drink until the reception on our wedding day—and boy, were we happy we did that," Lauren says. *"We were both able to stay in the moment and be completely present during the most important part of our day, the ceremony."*



Clockwise from top: The bride was dressed in Anne Barge; Frank Andonoplas enlisted HMR Designs to help create a wow-worthy setting filled with lavender orchids, calla lilies, hydrangeas and ranunculus; Lauren hired wedding dresser Caroline Shaw for the day to help with her breathtaking Anne Barge gown; inspired by watercolor paintings, the tables shimmered with pale shades of violet amid mirrored tabletops and crystal; the bride's solitaire cushion-cut engagement ring rests atop a lavender macaron—a sweet favor for the wedding guests.

The List

Venue Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago, trumphotelcollection.com
Planner Frank Andonoplas, frankeventdesign.com
Flowers & Decor HMR Designs, hmrdesigns.com
Bride's Gown Anne Barge, Belle Vie Bridal Couture, belleviebridalcouture.com
Bridesmaids' Dresses Annabelle dress from Jenny Yoo, jennyyoo.com
Groom's Tux Nicholas Joseph Custom Tailors, customsuitsyou.com
Invites Pioneer Announcements, Frank Event Design, frankeventdesign.com
Cake Cake Sweet Food Chicago, cake-chicago.com
Music Ceremony & Reception: Al Sofia Music, alsofia.com; Afterparty: DJ Michael O'Dea, O'Dea Entertainment, odeaentertainment.com
Videographer Larry Wayne, Evolution Films, larrywayneevolutionvideo.com