

Jayna Marie Bussiere *and* Reyfemel Damasco

October 15, 2012

Ceremony at Canadian Memorial United Church, Vancouver  
Reception at The Metro Hall, New Westminster

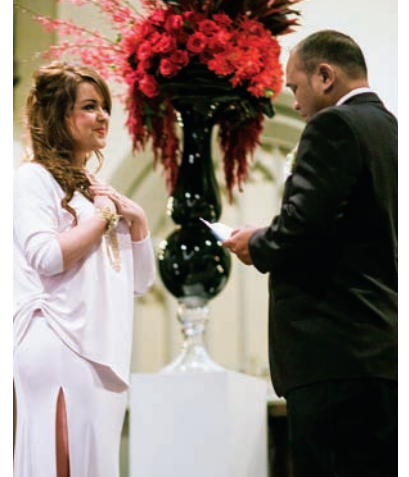


# viva Las Vegas

A fun-loving couple turns a local ballroom into Sin City for a lively celebration loaded with nightclub glitz and glamour

Written by **Catherine Roscoe Barr**  
Photographed by **John Bello**





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: For her friends to Reyfemel Damasco's annual nightclub birthday blowout three years running, Jayna Marie Bussiere finally agreed to go. "We met and we danced at the end of the night," says Jayna of their first meeting, "and Rey told me he was going to marry me."

Things got serious quickly and four months later, the fun-loving couple flipped a coin over lunch at Whole Foods — "Heads, we'll get married; tails, we'll both go home in separate vehicles and never see each other again," says Jayna.

Guess what? The coin toss turned up heads. "We called my mom and told her we were going to get married and she said, 'Are you flying to Las Vegas?'" recalls Jayna. "And that was how the Las Vegas idea started for our wedding."

Regard for Rey's traditional Catholic Filipino family swung the pendulum toward a wedding close to home, "so we did the Las Vegas theme in Vancouver," explains Jayna, a well-known professional hair and makeup artist in the local wedding industry.

Rey still wanted to surprise Jayna with a proper proposal and he found the right moment when Jayna received an award for best hair and makeup at an industry awards night, commissioning custom jeweller Hard As Diamond to make the engagement ring — with only a week's notice.

"When I went up to get the award," says Jayna, "they said, 'There's someone who would like to help us give this award out.' I looked to my right and Rey was down on one knee and everyone was just screaming. It was





Jayna partied the night away in a sparkling BCBG dress made for dancing.



And THE SURPRISES KEPT COMING AT THEIR NIGHTCLUB-STYLE RECEPTION AT *The Metro*.

exactly one year from the day we met — one year from the day he said he wanted to marry me at the nightclub.”

Eighteen months later, the two walked down the aisle at Vancouver’s Canadian Memorial United Church, surrounded by 170 close friends and family.

“When I requested that we get married in a church,” says Rey, “Jayna said we could do it as long as she could have a flash-mob choir. It had always been her dream to recreate her favourite scene from the movie *Love, Actually*. As soon as they announced us as husband and wife, a choir of students stood up in the pews and started to sing ‘All You Need Is Love’ by The Beatles. Everyone was so surprised!”

And the surprises kept coming at their nightclub-style reception at The Metro banquet hall in New Westminster. For Jayna, choosing the venue had been an easy decision: “As soon as I walked into The Metro, I just knew it was where we needed to be. I wanted a real party that wasn’t uptight at all because Rey and I are both casual people; he loves to party and I love to entertain.”

And party and entertain was exactly what they did. The night featured an accordion player as a tribute to Jayna’s grandfather, a performance by two little hip-hop dancers from Fresh Groove Productions, and, “I surprised Rey with a full-blown, fully produced music video,” says Jayna, who was surprised in turn with a dance number by Rey, his groomsmen and his cousins.

For Jayna in particular, it was a day of being surrounded by friends. Although the hands-on bride did her own wedding planning (including working on her own hair and makeup, of course) and contributed plenty of DIY touches like the Vegas-themed stationery, centrepieces, feather boutonnieres and bridesmaids’ bouquets, “the tricky part was that we wanted all our vendor friends to be at the wedding, but we also needed some of them to help us make our vision come to life,” she



## The Dream Team

### Photographer

John Bello Photography  
bohnjello.com

### Videographer

Love Story Media  
lovestorymedia.com

### Venue — Ceremony

Canadian Memorial United Church  
canadianmemorial.org

### Venue — Reception

The Metro Hall  
themetrohall.com

### Wedding Planner (day-of)

Alicia Keats Weddings & Events  
aliciakeats.com

### Bride's Dress

Kathryn Bass Bridal (custom design by bride)  
kathrynbass.ca

### Bridesmaid Dresses

Bedo Clothing  
bedo.ca

### Hair & Makeup

Jayna Marie Makeup & Hair  
jaynamarie.com

### Groom's & Groomsmen Outfits

Debonair Formal Wear  
debonairformalwear.com

### Bride's Shoes

Ivanka Trump, from The Bay

### Groom's Shoes

Nike Air Jordans

### Flower Girl Outfits

Designed by the bride

### Décor & Flowers

Flowerz

flower-z.com

Bridesmaid bouquets, boutonnieres  
& centrepieces designed by bride

### Stationery

Designed by the bride

### Catering

Sugar Mountain Catering  
sugarmountaincatering.com

### Cake

Anna Elizabeth Cakes  
annaelizabethcakes.com

### Entertainment

Fresh Groove Productions (hip-hop dancers)  
freshgroove.biz

### Jewellery

Elsa Corsi  
elsacorsi.com

### Wedding Rings

Hard as Diamond  
hardasdiamond.com

The couple's Vegas theme extended to the cake designed by Anna Elizabeth Cakes.



explains. "It really was overwhelming to see how many people helped out and went far above and beyond their call of duty."

Among those helpers were local wedding planner Alicia Keats who supplied much-needed day-of coordination, the accordion player gifted by wedding planners DreamGroup Productions, the videography gifted by Love Story Media, and the décor created by Vancouver's Flowerz that perfectly brought her vision of "Las Vegas on Valentine's Day" to life.

"Evan is a dear friend of ours and as soon as he knew we wanted a Vegas-style wedding, there was no stopping him," says Jayna, of Flowerz owner Evan Orion.

The bride designed her own red-carpet-inspired two-piece wedding gown (made by Vancouver designer Kathryn Bass), providing a fresh canvas for her sparkling gold accessories created by friend and local jewellery designer Elsa Corsi.

Jayna later swapped out the bottom of her sleek and versatile gown for gold lamé pants in time for the couple's lively salsa/hip-hop first dance ("I wanted to be able to shake my booty without fear of tripping"), followed by a complete change into a festive BCBG party dress for the remainder of the evening.

Every moment of their entire fun-filled day, including a stop for wedding-party photos at Vancouver Urban Winery, was captured by Vancouver photographer John Bello. "I love his passion for what he does and that he had lots of experience shooting in nightclubs," says Jayna. "Our reception was going to be quite darkly lit, which is a little different from most, so it was a perfect combination. He really captured how much fun we all had that night." 



Touches of gold added instant glamour to Jayna's exotic bridal bouquet.