

LASTCALL WEDDING

I DO!

Rafanelli Events' wedding planner Kim Stone ties the knot.

BY RACHEL BOWIE

FINDING A CREATIVE WAY TO PROPOSE to a wedding planner is a challenge, but when Kim Stone's fiancé, David Berkowitz, a clinical pharmacist, decided to pop the question to the director of weddings for Rafanelli Events, he knew the surefire way to her heart. Berkowitz worked undercover with Stone's assistant to hire a florist and a caterer to create the perfect setting for his proposal. "I came home to find event lighting in the hallway, a table for two in the living room, flowers everywhere, and a fully catered meal," Stone says. She said yes to Berkowitz, and friends came over and toasted them with Champagne.

Stone immediately began making arrangements for the wedding, which took place on November 10, 2007. She wore a silk chiffon gown designed by Carolina Herrera, while her bridesmaids donned black cocktail dresses by Jenny Yoo. For Stone, it was important to get married at a place in which she hadn't planned a wedding, and the Ritz-Carlton's brand-new ballroom presented the perfect venue. The candlelight ceremony was a mix of classic and contemporary, and the wedding party walked down the aisle to pop music by Jem, John Lennon, and Ryan Adams. "We created our own soundtrack for the wedding," Stone explains.

The music went on into the evening, beginning with a cocktail hour set to soul, funk, and disco, and Stone and Berkowitz had their first dance to Andy Gibb's "I Just Want to Be Your Everything."

"The best weddings are reflective of the couple," Stone says. "It's all about the flow of the event. At our wedding, guests were dancing during the cocktail hour!" The couple also provided the ultimate wedding favor for their guests—a photo shoot with a professional photographer. "Each guest was given [their photo] as an instant memento from the night," Stone says. Stone and



Berkowitz worked with the chef at the Ritz-Carlton to create a menu of their favorite foods for the reception—crispy pea and mascarpone ravioli and Chimay-braised beef rib with polenta fries. Dessert was everything black and white, featuring Boston cream pie, s'mores, black and white cookies, and chocolate milkshakes. Ellen Bartlett at Cakes to Remember designed the wedding cake. The afterparty at the Ritz went on until 2 A.M., and the newlyweds left later that morning for their honeymoon in Buenos Aires. "You just have to enjoy it," Stone says of the fête. "Your wedding goes by so fast. You have to relish every second." ♦

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Kim Stone dances into the night at her reception; instant photographs were given to guests as mementos of the evening; Mr. and Mrs. Berkowitz share their wedding cake; the bride and groom lead the way to the dance floor.

photographs by Corinne Schippert