

Kelly Hamilton & J.R. Young

April 14, 2007

*Written by Rebeca Gomez**Photography by**Roy Allen Stagg*

Kelly Hamilton and J.R. Young met in 2002 while attending a mixer for entertainment industry assistants in Hollywood, California. Kelly called the mixer “An odd place to meet a spouse,” describing it as “The kind of cheesy event where you put on a nametag and they raffle off DVD’s of movies no one wants to see.”

An odd place to meet maybe, and probably not the sort of setting that Kelly, a screenwriter, would use for the “cute meet” in one of her romantic comedy screenplays, but it turned out well for them, and I’m certain that, if given the opportunity, neither of these two would change a single thing about that day.

After their mixer came four years of dating, which included some time apart. “We both went away to other counties to work on movie sets,” says Kelly, “I went away for four months to Fiji in the South Pacific. J.R. spent several months in Canada shooting (a film). That time away from one another really helped us to solidify what we had.”

J.R. proposed to Kelly during a trip to Santa Barbara’s wine country in October 2005. She said yes right away, but they didn’t get married for another year and half because, as Kelly put it, “You only get to be engaged once, you might as well enjoy it.”

Kelly grew up in Austin and her parents still live there. J.R.’s family is from Connecticut and many of their friends and co-workers live in Los Angeles. So, as Kelly put it, “Austin seemed like a good place to meet between the coasts.”

The couple chose Villa Antonia as the site for the wedding because it had an “outdoor, Tuscany feel” that mimicked the vineyard were J.R. proposed.

Living in Los Angeles while planning a wedding in Texas can be quite challenging, as Kelly and J.R. learned during their planning process. In order to alleviate some of the stress, Kelly and J.R. brought in wedding planner Amy Mader from Amy’s Platinum Weddings. “We realized that we really needed someone. Amy was a godsend. She really knows everything about throwing a wedding in Austin.”

Kelly purchased her Vera Wang dress in Houston so that she wouldn’t have to fly it in from California. She flew into Texas the week





before the wedding so that she could “handle last minute wedding details”. This included the final dress fitting, a hair trial and viewing the flowers for the arrangements. “We actually went by and checked out the flowers the week before the wedding,” Kelly said. “I really recommend doing that, because flowers are seasonal and no one ever knows what will really be available until the week before.”

In addition to being a celebration of Kelly and J.R.’s love, this wedding was a celebration of all things Austin. The couple hired Austin designers to design the dresses and the earrings for the bridesmaids. In addition, they chose an Austin based band, London Calling, to play at their reception. As Kelly put it, “Austin has its own culture and style and I liked the idea of supporting the locals.”

The Austin theme continued with the welcome bags that they created for all of their guests. “Alegra made bags with the Austin skyline and we added some Texas related welcome gifts,” Kelly said. The gifts included Austin Peanut Butter crackers, a CD of Texas songs, and Kelly’s list of the top ten things to do in Austin.

Kelly and J.R.’s outdoor wedding ceremony took place at 6pm, April 14th, “on a deck overlooking the magnificent hill country” at the popular Villa Antonia.

As she walked down the aisle, arm in arm with her father, Kelly said that she didn’t cry, partly because she knew that she was “walking towards the next and best part of her life”.

Kelly and J.R. wrote their own vows. Kelly admits that she was a little nervous that she might forget them, so she practiced them beforehand on her maid of honor. “Poor kid, she didn’t know I’d be professing my love to her all morning.”

Following the ceremony, the wedding party and guests moved into the chapel building for dancing, cake cutting and the traditional toasts.

Once the reception ended, Kelly and JR hosted an after-party at the Omni Hotel. According to Kelly, lining up an after party is a crucial part of the wedding planning process. “One thing we did that I really recommend is to have a set place for the after-party and after-after-parties. They will inevitably happen, and it’s nice for everyone to know where to meet up.”

When asked about what advice or insights she had to offer future brides, Kelly said the following, “I think you have to be realistic about things going wrong. No wedding is perfect. You just have to smile and roll with it.”

Kelly went on to say, “When it comes down to it, all that really matters are the people who come from far and wide to share in the union of your lives. We had that, so nothing else really mattered. There’s nothing like walking into a room containing everyone you love in the world. And they’re all there to support your marriage. That’s a memory that stays with you.” ♦

Ceremony Location: Villa Antonia
512-267-3509 | www.villaantoniam.com
Officiant: Rev. Sara Anderson
Reception Location: Villa Antonia
Photographer: Wedding Photography by Roy Allen Stagg
512-238-8991 | www.royallenstagg.com
Wedding Consultant: Amy’s Platinum Weddings
512-346-6193 | www.amysplatinumweddings.com
Catering: Sterling Affairs
512-261-0142 | www.sterlingaffairs.com
Flowers: Vella Event Decor Studios
512-418-8385 | www.vellaevents.com
Wedding Cake: Simon Lee Bakery
512-990-4888 | www.simonleebakery.com
Invitations & Hospitality Bags: Alegra’s
512-372-8112 | www.alegras.com
Programs: Made Ourselves
Gown Designer: Vera Wang
www.verawang.com/bridal
Gown & Veil Purchased At:
Louise Blum Bridal Salon, Houston
713-622-5571 | www.louiseblum.com
Shoes: Louise Blum Bridal Salon, Houston
Bridesmaid Dress Designer: Linda Asaf Design
512-619-3303 | www.lindaasaf.com
Flowergirl Dress Designer: Us Angels
www.usangels.com
Hair: Joanna Escobar -Hairy Situations
512-442-6412 | www.hairysituations.com
Makeup: Christy DeMonte Edlin
512-261-4127
Men’s Formal Wear: Al’s Formal Wear
512-328-3777 | alsformalwear.com
Videographer: Crescent Video Productions
512-996-9292 | www.crescentvideo.com
Favors: Cookies From A Family Recipe
Ceremony Music: Musical Discovery Chamber Players
512-923-7380 | www.musical-discovery.com
Reception Music: London Calling
512-506-9986 | www.talentconnection.com
Guest Accommodations: Omni Hotel Downtown Austin
512-476-3700 | www.omnihotels.com
Honeymoon: Italy & Rome
Bear and Bear Travel 212-532-3400
Transportation Buses:
Marriton Global Limousine Services
800-940-7007 | www.marritonlimo.com
Lighting: First In Last Out Productions
512-736-4891 | www.filodesigns.com
Rehearsal Dinner: Iron Cactus Downtown Austin
512-472-9240 | www.ironcactus.com
Bridesmaid Jewelry: Husak Design
512-971-7379 | www.husakdesign.com