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# DANCING FOREVER TOGETHER

Photography by Lisa Berry Photography



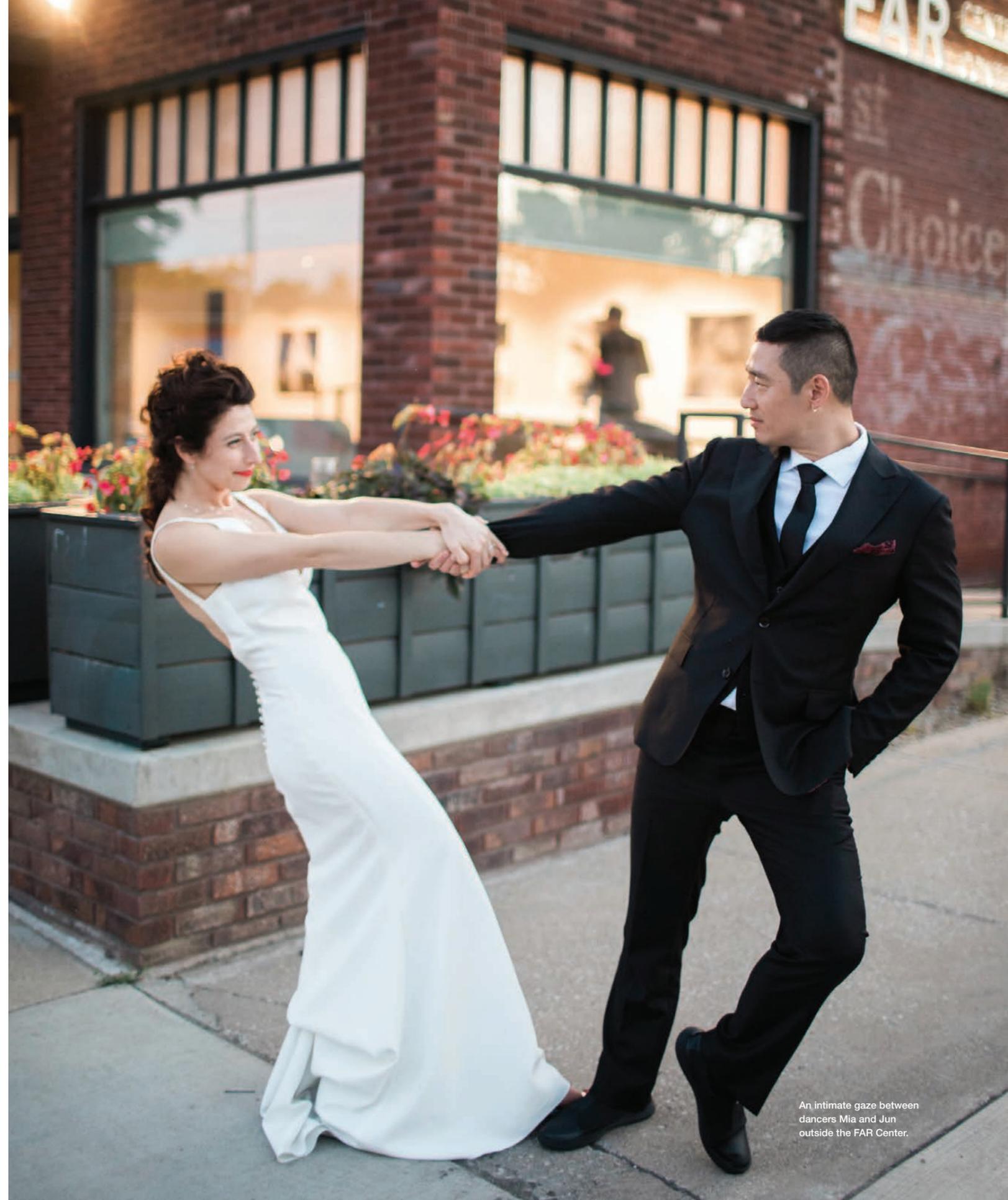
Jun Kuribayashi and Mia Dalglish share a laugh before their wedding.

After attending a Pilobolus dance theater workshop in Connecticut in 2015 and spending time with the group's artistic associate Jun Kuribayashi, Mia Dalglish's life changed significantly.

Jun offered to rent her a room so she could stay an extra week, and a year later, they were moving in together. "We knew from the start it was something big," Mia says. "The first time we snuggled, we knew we were in trouble. We joke that we're both black belts in snuggling, and we had found our match."

When Jun's 40th birthday rolled around three years after they met, Mia surprised him with a trip to Roatan, a Caribbean island off the coast of Honduras. Jun, however, decided to one-up her gift. He hatched a plan to lead Mia up a rocky path to a tiny thatched gazebo on a peninsula to a spot called Edge of the Universe. There, he planned to fake a knee injury, and when she turned around, be on bended knee saying, "Okay, it's official, I've gone to the edge of the universe and back, and I've never met anybody as special as you."

That isn't how it happened, though. A nervous Jun panicked before reaching the gazebo, and



An intimate gaze between dancers Mia and Jun outside the FAR Center.



before he could get the ring out of his pocket, Mia turned around, so he squeaked “like Kermit the Frog,” saying, “You’re the only one that can heal me.” Mia responded by almost knocking him off the cliff when she jumped into his arms.

While they intended to elope, Mia’s 97-year-old grandfather, Alfred Klein, put an end to that idea. “We had decided we were life partners a long time ago, so the wedding was a formality,” Mia says. “But my grandfather said, ‘I want to dance at your wedding,’ so that day we set the date—August 3, 2019. We’re so glad we did. It was nice to have family together, and my grandfather came and danced.”

As co-curator at the FAR Center for Contemporary Arts, Mia couldn’t imagine anyplace else for their wedding venue, and Jun readily agreed. Other plans unfolded easily. “When we were planning the wedding, I told my mom, ‘I picked out a groom, so I think I’ve made the most important choice, and whatever other details we’ll fill in should be fine.’”

Clockwise from opposite page, top left: The bride and groom steal a special moment. Table decorations at the FAR Center for Contemporary Arts include hand-made paper cranes. A kiss seals their vows. Mia and Jun use plastic knives samurai style to cut their cupcakes from Two Sticks Bakery. The happy couple with Mia’s 94-year-old grandfather, Alfred Klein.



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(above) A fun moment during the hora; (right) Jun crushes a light bulb with a handstand during the ceremony; (below) the bride and groom with their families.



Mia's parents, Judy Klein and Malcolm Dalglish, walked her down the aisle, and Jun's parents, Etsuko and Fumo Kuribayashi, escorted him. Because Mia is Jewish and Jun is Japanese, Mary Ann Macklin, senior minister of Unitarian Universalist Church, officiated a ceremony mixing traditions. Paper crane wreaths, one red and one white, were presented to Mia and Jun by their future in-laws. When time came for Jun to stomp a lightbulb in Jewish tradition (actually a glass), they realized it was missing. Mia and Jun entertained guests while the caterer, Anwar Rahil of Samira restaurant, walked down the street, knocking on doors, until he found someone with one to spare. Then, Jun put his shoe on his hand and smashed the bulb doing a handstand.

Pretending to use samurai swords, Mia and Jun ceremonially cut a cupcake—prepared by Two Sticks Bakery—with little butter knives, and then had a sword fight. They danced to music by DJ Lewis Rogers

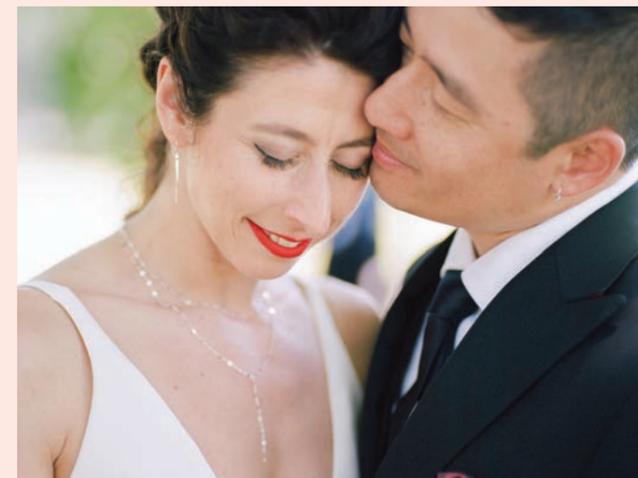


Jun and Mia with their dogs (and ringbearers), Roo and Mouse.

until heading to The Back Door to see a *Wicked*-themed drag show. The following day, everyone gathered for a pitch-in picnic at Bryan Park, with croissants from Muddy Fork Bakery and coffee from Hopscotch Coffee.

Mia and Jun reside in Boston with their two dogs, Roo and Mouse, who were ringbearers. They are starting a dance company, Hybridmotion, and plan to honeymoon later this year in Roatan. —Linda Margison

A quiet moment between wife and husband.



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# A SCHOOL CRUSH BLOSSOMS TO LOVE

*Photography by Seth Teeters Photography*

As a sixth grader, Akilah Cannon saw Logan Leverenz on the Winslow Sports Complex baseball fields and knew he was special.

"I thought he was so cute," she remembers. "I had his name written all over my notebook." The youngsters saw each other frequently at ballgames that summer, but lost touch when they went to different middle schools that fall. She attended Jackson Creek, while he went to Batchelor.

Their paths crossed again at Bloomington High School South and while working part-time jobs at Dairy Queen. For most of that time, they only hung out as friends, but their relationship took off after Logan graduated in 2011. That summer, they went on their first date, to get frozen yogurt at Red Mango on East 10th Street. Two months later, Logan asked Akilah to be his first girlfriend.

Fast forward seven years. Akilah had been hoping to get engaged for about a year, and Logan was ready to pop the question. In order to execute his plan, he recruited his two best collaborators—his mother, Lori Leverenz, who reserved space at Fountain Square Mall, and Akilah's mother, April Cannon, who decorated the space with candles and roses. She also

Akilah Cannon and Logan Leverenz chose One World at Woolery Mill as their wedding venue.



orchestrated a ruse to get Akilah there, telling her that their large family was having portraits made. Then, Akilah walked in and saw Logan with a ring.

“I was so shocked and couldn’t quit smiling,” she says. Logan added to the surprise by reserving the back room at Nick’s English Hut, where their friends were waiting to celebrate the proposal.

The couple moved to Chicago in June 2017. Logan, 26, chose to work remotely for Bloomington-based Author Solutions, so Akilah, 25, could start her career in the Windy City after earning her bachelor’s degree in apparel merchandising and business from Indiana University. She now works as an associate buyer for Follett Corporation. But Bloomington was the place they wanted to tie the knot.

They returned for Thanksgiving a few weeks after they got engaged and toured six venues



(opposite page, left) Akilah and Logan kiss after exchanging their vows; (opposite page, top right) the bride was escorted down the aisle by her parents, April and Patrick Cannon; (opposite page, bottom right) Dondre Brown (second from left) and members of the Bethel AME Church choir performed during the ceremony; (left) Akilah and Logan with the flower girls; (below) One World at Woolery Mill handled everything for the wedding, including the buffet dinner.

on Black Friday, choosing One World at Woolery Mill. “Woolery Mill took our breaths away,” says Logan. Akilah adds, “They took care of absolutely everything, including tables, the buffet dinner, signature drinks—everything.”

On the day of the wedding, while Akilah and her attendants were taking a break from photographs by Seth Teeters Photography, her mother, who was also the wedding coordinator and maid of honor, surprised her with a hidden blue heart—made from Akilah’s late grandfather’s tie—stitched in the inner lining of the bridal gown.

When the long-awaited moment arrived, Akilah was escorted down the aisle by her mother and her father, Patrick Cannon, to Dondray Brown and the Bethel AME Church choir singing “Make You Feel My Love.” Akilah and Logan stood with six of their closest friends and family as Isaiah Butcher and Brother Fred Stanger officiated the ceremony.

Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings & Design Studio created bouquets of baby’s breath carried by Akilah’s



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(far left) Akilah and Logan celebrate at the reception; (middle) the three-tier wedding cake; (left) place settings featured floral arrangements by Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings & Design Studio; (below, left) Akilah and Logan with their parents; (below) Their first dance as wife and husband.

attendants, as well as white rose and hydrangea arrangements throughout the gold-accented venue. Festive signs and caricature drawings, on display during the cocktail hour, were created by Christine Wilson at Creative in Bloom.

Akilah and Logan got a sparkler send off at the end of the formal festivities. The next day, they rented a boat at Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina, where they had a block of rooms for the wedding party and spent the day on the lake celebrating. Logan and Akilah took a honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico, in early December.

—Linda Margison



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# FRIENDSHIP TURNS TO LOVE

Photography by Laura Von Photography



Indiana University has been a big part of Ali Linnemeier and JR Ricker's lives—she was on the RedStepper Dance Team and he was on the track team.

"For four years, I ran around the track while she practiced in the center," JR says. "I probably ran around her a thousand times." But the two didn't meet until graduation week in 2015. "We became just friends for a few years after that," Ali says. "We started as friends and went from there."

(opposite page) JR Ricker and Ali Linnemeier share a private moment on their wedding day; (above) Ali (center) and two of her bridesmaids had formerly been on the IU RedStepper Dance Team.

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Because of her expertise working in communications and development at the IU Varsity Club, Ali, 26, helped JR, 28, create a website for his business, inBloom Juicery. Then, one day, JR texted to see if Ali wanted to go on a hike at Griffy Lake. "That was probably when we started hanging out as more than friends, doing stuff together that was less casual and more intentional," Ali says.

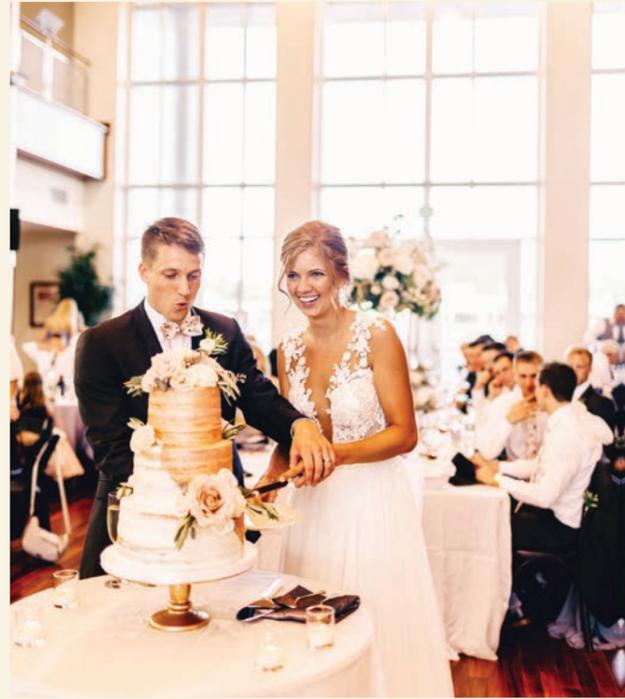
It took a while for things to move out of the friend zone—more so for JR than for Ali. "I was quicker in getting serious," Ali says. "I fell fast and hard." About four months after that initial hike, the two had a romantic date at Oliver Winery and dinner at Malibu Grill, where JR asked Ali to be his girlfriend.

It wasn't long before JR went to Ali's father, Will Linnemeier, and asked for his daughter's hand in marriage. "He said, 'Well, what would you say if you were in my shoes?'" To which JR responded, "Hell, yeah!"

Despite her father's feigned resistance, he and Ali's brother, Zak Linnemeier, were an integral part of JR's December 29, 2017, proposal. They helped decorate and light up an 80-step descent to a heart-shaped archway in the middle of a frozen lake at the family cabin in Milford, Indiana.

A ring that JR's grandmother, Mary Virginia Krebs, received when she was 16 was customized for Ali by GoldCasters. With the stage set, JR presented the ring to Ali on the frozen lake and asked her to be his wife. When she said yes, family members and

(above) Ali with her bouquet created by Pomp&Bloom; (opposite page, top left) a kiss marks the end of the wedding ceremony at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church; (opposite page, bottom left) Ali and JR leave the church to much fanfare; (opposite page, right) cutting the cake at the reception.




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(above) The wedding party celebrates during a photo shoot at Sample Gates; (right) an extended-family portrait after the ceremony; (opposite page, top) table décor at the reception, in IU's Henke Hall of Champions; (opposite page, bottom) JR and Ali stroll through Dunn Woods.

friends—about 35 people—cheered from the deck above the archway, and then joined them to celebrate.

As Ali and JR started making plans for their July 13, 2019, wedding, they decided that because IU had been so important to them, Henke Hall of Champions at Memorial Stadium would be the perfect reception venue. The ceremony was officiated by Father Bob Robeson at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church. Championship Catering provided food and Upland Brewing Co. made signature drinks with juices from JR's business.



Pomp&Bloom created flower arrangements, the cake was provided by Icing on the Cake, and photos were taken by Laura Von Photography. A special touch for IU fans included Chuck Crabb—the “Voice of Assembly Hall”—announcing the wedding party as they entered the reception.

Not long after they started dating, JR bought a house that they recently renovated. Before the rehearsal dinner, Ali's father recruited people in town for the wedding to help unload a truckload of gravel for the driveway, to ensure the house was perfect for brunch the day after the wedding. “By the time we got married, we had gutted a house, JR had opened a business, and we had planned a wedding,” Ali says. “I feel like we can do anything now.”

The couple, who live in Bloomington, took a short honeymoon to northern Michigan following the wedding but hope to take a trip to Italy next year. —Linda Margison



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# AN IU LOVE STORY

*Photography by Kae Marie Photography*

Tori Sauer had decided she didn't want a boyfriend during her freshman year at Indiana University in 2012, but that changed quickly when a friend introduced her to Greg Price.

"He changed my mind," she says. "As soon as we met, we went from being complete strangers to hanging out every day."

Within two months, Tori and Greg became a couple. Greg says they already felt like they were dating by the time they had their first real date at Malibu Grill. "I knew we were serious after being apart for spring break," he says. "We missed each other so much."

Newlyweds Tori Sauer  
and Greg Price.



(top) Tori is walked down the aisle by her father, Jim Sauer; (center) Tori's bouquet designed by Bloomin' Tons Floral Co.; (bottom) The wedding cake baked by Becky Sauer, Tori's mother.



(top) A blue sky and an unseasonably warm November day provide the perfect backdrop for Tori and Greg's first kiss as husband and wife; (above) The happy couple celebrates while taking a party bus for drinks at Kilroy's on Kirkwood.

The two were inseparable throughout their years at IU, but all of that changed after graduation when Tori left Bloomington to attend graduate school in Minnesota and Greg took a job in Wisconsin. Every few weeks, they would drive four hours to be together. But change was on the horizon.

In January 2018, Greg planned a grand proposal at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory in Minneapolis. After telling Tori he wasn't visiting that weekend, Greg conspired with her friend, Kelsey Pierce, to deliver Tori to the zoo's Sunken Garden. Kelsey convinced Tori to paint her nails,



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and Tori sent Greg a picture of her them along with a message prodding him: “My fingernails are painted. Too bad you aren’t here to propose.”

Tori soon found out that was exactly what Greg had planned when he surprised her with a proposal at the zoo. Immediately after their special moment, their parents, family members, and close friends poured out from hiding spots to celebrate.

The proposal wasn’t Tori’s only surprise that weekend. Her sister, Hannah Sauer, had scheduled an appointment at Flutter Bridal Co., and Tori found her dream dress just one day after getting engaged.

Since Tori and Greg met at IU, they chose Sycamore Farm in Bloomington as their venue to accommodate the 225 guests on their list. “We thought getting married in Bloomington



(top) Tori and her bridesmaids on the IU campus; (above) the bride and groom with the wedding party at Sample Gates; (opposite page, top) a sparkler send-off; (opposite page, bottom) Tori and Greg in a special moment.



would be an awesome celebration of going back where it started,” Tori says. “Like a huge college reunion.”

Despite their November 3, 2018, wedding date, the weather was 73 degrees and sunny, with leaves gently floating down as Tori’s father, Jim Sauer, walked her down the aisle. Dan Evans, a pastor at Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis, served communion and united the bride and groom in marriage. They stood with 20 of their closest friends and siblings underneath a copper arch created by Greg Langhorst.

After the ceremony, the wedding party rode a bus to Kilroy’s on Kirkwood for a celebratory drink. Tori and Greg suddenly realized they had not practiced their first dance, so they held each other close and danced to a raucous beat. Once back at the reception, among flowers created by Bloomin’ Tons Floral Co., guests feasted on Italian pastas and salad served family-style by Chef Suzanne of Indianapolis. Tori’s mother, Becky Sauer, baked the wedding cake.

Bridal Beatz provided plenty of music, and guests binged on Pizza X breadsticks and Baked! of Bloomington cookies late into the night.

Because she forgot to pack something to change into, the next day, Tori donned her wedding dress and walked outside to the cheers of passersby. The couple enjoyed brunch with her parents and his, Mike and Marilyn Price, before driving to their new home in Pittsburgh where Tori is an occupational therapist and Greg works for Marathon Petroleum. A week later, the two honeymooned in St. Lucia. —Linda Margison



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