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Getting

BY BROOKE SHOWELL
Special to Newsday

HOP ABOARD THESE WEDDING TRENDS



Up, up and away

Balloons aren't just for children's parties. Whether it's with sophisticated Mylar options in funky shapes, glitter-filled dazzlers or whimsical oversized globes in a chic ombre palette, weddings are getting carried away with cool balloon decor. "Balloons can be elegant if used correctly," says Long Island event planner Ashley Douglass of Ashley Douglass Events in Huntington Village. "Imagine a whole cocktail space filled with white or ivory balloons, or black or navy balloons when you look up!" And don't forget the photo ops.

KHAKI BEDFORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Holy doughnut

Move over, cupcakes. Hip weddings are all about colorful tiers of gorgeous glazed doughnuts these days. "Everyone loves cupcakes still, but these are now more unexpected," Douglass says. Play around with the frosting colors, fillings and toppings for a fun mix of flavorful dough. And since any good party lasts until the wee hours, it's the perfect ooey-goey pick-me-up.



KHAKI BEDFORD PHOTOGRAPHY



KHAKI BEDFORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Candid camera

It's the next phase in photo booths: In addition to amazing, impromptu still shots, photographer Khaki Bedford (khakibedfordphoto.com) has the genius to create animated GIFs, or short soundless videos of guests' photo-booth antics to upload to your wedding website in real time.

hip to it

Chalk it up

Chalkboards are making a comeback outside the classroom as a simple, inexpensive way to add graphic elements to wedding decor. Any signage is fair game: menus, seating charts, directions. Bonus: An outdoor chalkboard isn't subject to being gone with the wind when it comes to escort cards on a breezy day. Enlist a few friends with funky handwriting, and let each chalkboard speak for itself. "It is a super-simple and fun DIY project for any bride," says Gina Milano, event planner and owner of Long Island Wedding & Event Planners Boutique in East Norwich. "People create fun facts and really personalize the wedding."



KHAKI BEDFORD PHOTOGRAPHY

#makeityourown

For couples totally into live-tweeting their vows and Instagram-ing every moment, creating a custom wedding hashtag is the simplest way to amass the online musings of friends and family. Make it easy to remember (#johnandjessgethitched) so guests can share their bon mots and snapshots via social media. "It also gives the bride and groom a chance to see the wedding like a guest," notes Milano, who suggests displaying the hashtag in pretty frames through the venue, so guests can start posting from the event's start.



DREAMSTIME

You ought to be in pictures

The wedding might be totally modern, but a vintage-style pinup shoot before the big day gets a bride accustomed to being the center of attention. Get all dolled up with hair and makeup, slip into some favorite lingerie, and pose for a few light-filled shots right at home. Even better, slip the prints into a note for the groom as a surprise wedding gift.

X marks the spot

It's a handy visual for out-of-towners or LIers who are extra proud of their hometown. An illustrated map indicates where all the action will take place and gets guests excited for your chosen locale. Get as detailed as you want and pinpoint the places where you met, had your first date, or got engaged. "On a practical note, sometimes these beautiful maps can actually be informative and necessary," Douglass says. "There are many great event sites and farms that are in areas with spotty reception."



KHAKI BEDFORD PHOTOGRAPHY



Bridal Showcase

Wednesday, October 8 • 6:00pm to 8:30pm
(Hotel Tours begin at 5:30pm)

Meet with top event professionals demonstrating the latest in fashion, flowers, photography, entertainment, and so much more while you tour the spectacular Sea Star Ballroom, the unique Long Island Aquarium & Exhibition Center, the Hyatt Place East End & Resort Marina, and the WATERFRONT suite, all right on the water.

Price: \$15.00 pp with reservation; \$20.00 pp at door
Reservations required - call 631.574.8008, ext. 125.



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