

southern new england

WEDDINGS

LIGHTHOUSE PUBLICATIONS





AMANDA CALIFANO *to*
MATTHEW WHITTAKER

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BY LAURIE HIGGINS

When Amanda Califano planned her wedding to Matthew Whittaker, the one thing she knew she wanted to be part of her day was an early morning yoga class. Amanda teaches yoga so she had a friend and fellow instructor teach a class to her and her bridesmaids. "I can honestly say that I was present for every moment of our wedding day," says Amanda. "Not that it didn't go by fast, because it did. But I remember it all, and that's so much because of yoga."

One of Amanda's yoga students, an event planner at the New England Aquarium, suggested the aquarium as a venue for their reception and it soon became the perfect setting for their dream wedding.

"We live on the water in Charlestown and our lives are so centered in the Boston waterfront area, that the idea of having our wedding right on the water in Boston was so enticing," says Amanda. "Walking into the cocktail hour and seeing the tent and set up for the first time took my breath away."

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Photography by Kate McElwee
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It was really picture perfect. There was a moment around sunset when our photographer took us outside for pictures by the water. Ships were sailing by behind us and the whole scene and feel was simply magical."

Once their venue was chosen, the theme quickly became that of an iconic Boston wedding. Trolleys transferred wedding guests from their hotel to the ceremony and then to the aquarium for the reception. At the reception, each table was named after a Boston landmark that is significant to the couple. For favors, Amanda created little black books titled "A Night at the Aquarium" with the guests' names on the bindings and pictures of all the landmarks inside.

Flowers were a combination of shorter bouquets with five-foot tall arrangements on every other table to create height in the tall tent; lanterns accompanied the ambiance.

"There aren't enough words to explain how perfect the day was for us," says Amanda. "Seriously, Boston weddings are So. Much. Fun!"