

Southern Bride®

SUMMER/FALL 2019

ALL ABOUT

SHOES

*Sarah Jessica
Parker*

NFL'S
**DEREK
WATT**

tackles love

*Katelyn &
KANE BROWN
found their
“Heaven”*



Celebration of Love

MICHELLE DUCKWORTH AND DEV VARMA
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE DECEMBER 22, 2018



PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael Allen Photography



THE PROPOSAL Dev had big plans to propose on a weekend hiking trip in Arkansas to celebrate our two-year anniversary as a couple. But, he got too excited the night before and proposed to me on our kitchen floor while we were playing with our two cats. We still went to Petit Jean in Arkansas and hiked. Instead of celebrating two years together, we celebrated the beginning of our lives together.

THE PREPARATION It started off with a trip to India, where Dev, his mother, his sister and I shopped for our clothes and jewelry from famous Indian haute couture designers. Some family members who live there helped navigate everything which was extremely helpful. Throughout the entire planning process, I was so impressed and thankful at how helpful everyone in the family was, particularly my mother-in-law who handled all the nitty gritty details of planning. I was delighted to have the opportunity to use my artistic skills in several aspects of the wedding. I designed the custom printed dance floor at the sangeet, sculpted a peacock for our cake topper, and made 250 mounted prints of my artwork which were given as favors at the reception.

THE BIG DAY The celebrations started with the sangeet the night before the wedding, which is a big colorful dance party with food, drink, and henna. Relatives and friends kicked off the night with dance performances, one of which I participated in. The Beale Street Flippers also performed. Our wedding, the next morning, was a traditional Hindu ceremony, which was a unique experience for our friends and family who had never attended one before. We were blown away by how gorgeous our reception hall was, and the whole room smelled amazing from all the fresh flowers. We wanted a sophisticated romantic style with a garden vibe, and our designer was able to pull it off beautifully. All the hard work of planning was totally worth it, as we had a great time and many guests told us afterward that ours was the most fun and beautiful wedding they'd ever attended.

THE HONEYMOON Since the wedding was right before the holidays, we decided to delay the honeymoon until spring. We're planning to spend a week or so relaxing in Big Sur, California, enjoying nature and the beach.





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