



10.10.14
**SHAO &
KONG**

This intimate woodland wedding was complete with DIY details and subtle nods to the couple's Chinese heritage.

POMME, RADNOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LOVE ME DO PHOTOGRAPHY

When a mutual friend first introduced Shao Zhi Zhong and Kong Taing back in 2002, a relationship was the last thing on their minds. She was a student at Temple and he went to Drexel, and while they always remained in touch, they both dated other people for several years before finally reconnecting when each was newly single. "The timing was perfect," Shao says. "We never actually went on a date; it just clicked." ¶ In September 2013, while in San Francisco visiting Kong's sister, the couple skipped their usual trip to Hog Island Oyster Co. and instead opted for a picnic at the restaurant's nearby oyster farm alongside Tomales Bay. While unpacking their lunch, Shao was shocked to find a ring box hidden inside a brown paper bag; Kong then asked her to be his wife. ¶ As Shao began to plan their Big Day, she had so many ideas that she could hardly settle on just one. Since the couple wanted to stick to a budget, they decided on an intimate affair laced with DIY details. After visiting Pomme in Radnor, they were certain its homey atmosphere would help bring their vision to life. ¶ Aside from the many elements that Shao chose to DIY for the wedding, her focus was primarily on her wardrobe for the day: Following multiple trips to local bridal shops, she picked a gown just to "get it over with," she says, only to realize a month later that it wasn't what she wanted at all. "I knew I had to find something I could wear again, so I began to look for separates instead," Shao says of the lace Blumarine top and Ann Taylor skirt (topped off with a Deepa Gurnani crystal sash) she wore for her walk down the aisle. The bride had two additional outfit changes throughout the night, including a gorgeous traditional red dress her mother brought back from China. ¶ Despite the possibility of rain, the Big Day began with a first look underneath Pomme's rustic wooden bridge and a romantic photo shoot among the trees, followed by Shao and Kong's quick and casual I Do's in front of family and friends. ¶ Guests were treated to a Philly cheesesteak station during the couple's cocktail hour before heading indoors for a "fun and relaxed" reception filled with dancing and lots of love for the bride and groom.





Opposite page, clockwise from top: Pomme's intimate reception room—with its stone fireplace and unique light fixtures—offered the quaint, cozy atmosphere the couple was looking for; they kept the decor simple so as not to detract from the natural beauty of the space. Guests jotted down words of wisdom for the couple on a custom “mad lib” that Shao created. Instead of stressing over a fancy wedding cake, Shao went to Whole Foods and had them bake a classic lemon cake and decorate it with fall flowers to match their color palette. The bride originally had a more elaborate escort card idea in mind, but instead opted for an easy origami design she saw online.



The Details

THE VENUE: Pomme, Radnor

CATERING: Peachtree & Ward, Wayne

CAKE: Whole Foods, Fairmount

DECOR: Flowers from Trader Joe's, Center City, arranged by the bride

PHOTOGRAPHY: Kate McCann and Tricia Farley of Love Me Do Photography, Philadelphia

BRIDE'S LOOK: Blumarine lace top, Luisaviaroma.com; skirt, Ann Taylor, multiple locations; sequined dress, ASOS; shoes by Miu Miu, Barneys.com; hair and makeup by Stephanie Lum of 931 Skin Care.

GROOM'S FORMALWEAR: Indochino, Rittenhouse

STATIONERY: Designed and printed by the bride

MUSIC: Synergetic Sound + Lighting, Bensalem

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Shao had no prior experience with flower arranging, but on the morning prior to her wedding, she picked up a cart full of blooms from Trader Joe's and put together the bouquets and centerpieces on her own. Also the day before, she baked up dozens of green tea cookies as favors and packaged them in delicate red boxes from China. The bride's third outfit was a sequined gown she'd purchased prior to getting engaged but never had a chance to wear. During the couple's first visit to Pomme, the lush greenery, pond and bridge gave them “a really good feeling” about the space.



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