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# METRO



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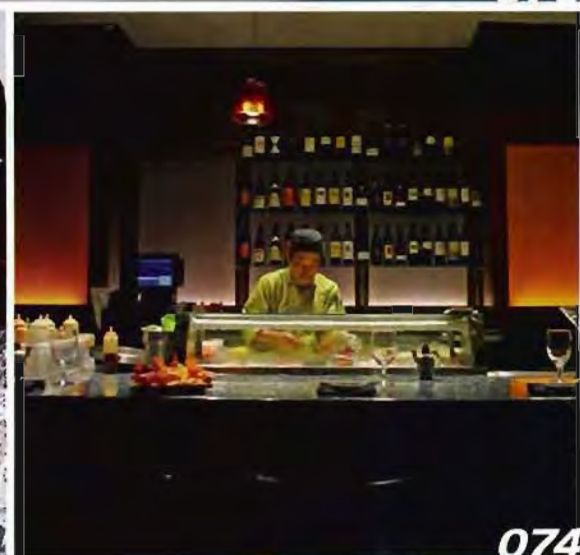
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BY CHUCK TERHARK



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## self-styled

by mary o'leary / photo by photogeninc / hair by abby johnson

# LAURA MULLEN

Recent bride and owner of  
Laura Mullen Event Design.

When was your wedding?  
September 12th through the 14th of 2008.

You had it on multiple days?

The wedding was on Friday up at the Brule River in northern Wisconsin. We had the wedding and reception for about 120 people up there. On Saturday, the mothers did a brunch together, then we had a huge group canoe ride, and then the fathers did a barbecue together. Then on Sunday we drove back here for a larger—about 250 people—cocktail party at Intelligent Nutrients in Minneapolis.

As someone who designs weddings by trade, did it make you see them in a different light?  
Definitely. I now have more sympathy for my clients. The whole reason we had the second party was because the guest list was crazy.

Tell me about your new hubby.  
Colin is the brewer at Barley John's Brewpub in New Brighton. We're both pretty connected to the beer world. I run all the beer festivals—Winterfest, Arborfest and helped with Finnegan's Shamrock and the Autumn Brew Review—so we both know the craft beer world pretty well.

How did you integrate it into your wedding?  
We brewed a beer together at Barley John's and called it the Wedding Ale. It was a hoppy red ale. It was on tap at both receptions, and then we bottled it and gave it out as our favors. The hops were also integrated into the boutonnieres, my bouquet and all of the florals at the Brule wedding.

Tell me about your wedding wardrobe.  
I wore a \$150 cocktail dress from Saks Off 5th with a handmade cream slip under it and vintage rhinestone accessories on Friday for the wedding. Then I switched to a black slip under the same dress with black accessories for the party on Sunday.

Why did you switch it up?  
We wanted people to see what I was wearing for the ceremony without having to totally get dressed again in the same wedding dress, which didn't feel authentic to me somehow. So that's where the idea of the different under-slips came.

What's your everyday style?  
I like to wear jeans a lot to business things. I'm trying to integrate it more into the business community.

Any favorite boutiques?  
Vintage stores. I'm also a huge Nordstrom fan. I like Melrose Antiques, and Father Time in Duluth. And there's a place called Rewind Vintage on Johnson Street that I like for clothes. That's right by my house. •



### Her Style

Laura modified her all-white wedding look into a black-and-white outfit for her reception using a lacy cocktail dress from Saks Off 5th. Local seamstress Jennifer Dawson made her slip; her earrings and bracelet are from Nordstrom; her shoes are from Macy's; her handbag is vintage; and her black brooch is from Father Time Antiques. Tara Ballie from A Day In Provence made the bouquet Laura carried at her reception; and Wistena Design Studio created the bouquet shown here based on Tara's design.



Do you know someone who has a killer sense of style and who would make a great addition to our Self-Styled pages? Write to style editor Mary O'Leary (mary.oleary@metroinc.com) and tell her about the person and what makes his/her look unique.



If it's got sugar in it, Eat+Drink contributor **Tammy Sproule Kaplan** will eat it for breakfast. But with a toddler in tow and the recent arrival of baby No. 2, it's got to be quick. Her current favorites include chocolate éclairs at Butter Bakery Cafe, crème brûlée French toast at Wilde Roast, the weekly brunch menu at Moose and Sadie's, eggs Benedict at Good Day Café and her most recent addiction, puppy dog tails from Isles Buns and Coffee. Read about them in "Rise & Dine," page 42. While she wouldn't trade for anything her colorful memories of peddling eggs any way at a former Woolworth's Restaurant or serving brunch alongside her husband, Joe Kaplan, at his restaurant, Joe's Garage, during their dating days, she's much happier on the receiving end of breakfast service.



Twin Cities-based photographer **Sara Rubinstein's** images appear nationally in magazines and advertising campaigns. Her photographs have earned awards ranging from the Advertising Photographers of America to the State Fair in her home state of Minnesota. Whether photographing former Vice President Walter Mondale for a Norwegian magazine, directing talent for a national advertising campaign or shooting this month's best-breakfasts cover story [page 42] for METRO, Sara's images are as beautiful as they are honest. Her devotion to solid production, client relations and compelling imagery are unwavering. The results are consistently satisfying: spectacular imagery, a well-managed shoot and meticulous attention to detail.



After earning a bachelor's degree in applied sociology and Spanish from the University of St. Thomas, **Abby Johnson** started her education in hair at the Aveda Institute and has continued her career as a hairstylist (and assistant manager) at Ficocello's Salon of St. Paul since 2003. One highlight of her job is getting the opportunity to work with bridal parties and styling hair for special events; see her talent up close in this month's Self-Styled, featuring Twin Cities bride Laura Mullen, on page 34. The Duluth native lives a gluten-free lifestyle, participates in her local celiac group and gets excited about any new gluten-free dining opportunities in the Twin Cities. Johnson lives in St. Louis Park with her brand-new husband, Jeremy, just two blocks down from her identical twin sister.



METRO staff photographer **Tate Carlson** was raised in the 'burbs and still hears the voices of the ladies auxillary from the Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church. Carlson attended Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where he became influenced by raw ingredients and visual details. He now lives by a simple photography philosophy: "Shoot a lot and often. Strive for spontaneity. Use what's been dealt to you, and always keep it simple." See that method up close on pages 66 and 70 in the Eat+Drink section this month. When he's not behind a lens, Carlson can be found wearing fire-proof clothes; he's been a firefighter/EMT for the city of Oakdale since 2000.