



Crimson And Clover

When your brother is a fashion designer and you're an artist, you can walk down the aisle in pretty much anything you want. By Jenny Bailly

A lace veil and string of pearls never factored into Alexandra Posen's fairy tale-wedding fantasy. In fact, neither did the white dress. "I wasn't really a bride-y, play-with-Barbies kind of girl," she says. "I dreamt of lifelong love, but not a traditional wedding."

So when Posen accepted artist Nils Folke Anderson's marriage proposal, convention took a backseat to invention. "I knew from the beginning that I wanted a look more expressive of my personality," says Posen, an artist and creative director of Zac Posen. "And having Zac as my brother and collaborator, the world was my oyster."

Her dress was strapless and corseted—but any similarity to typical bridal attire ended there. Made up of thin strips of geranium and fuchsia chiffon, the gown had a six-foot train adorned with hundreds of three-dimensional, hand-painted organza poppies. "Our entire studio worked all night before the wedding sewing poppies," Posen says. (Well, except her brother: He was on a tractor, helping his father mow "aisles" for

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the outdoor ceremony in the meadow at the family's Pennsylvania farmhouse.) "It came together magically. I felt like a phoenix—truly supernatural."

With the help of hairstylist John Ruidant and makeup artist Susan Houser, the bride wisely kept her wedding hair and makeup far from otherworldly. Houser experimented with emerald eye makeup during a pre-wedding test run, "but the dress was so outstanding, it would have been too much," she says.

The ceremony began with the groom and wedding party (each bridesmaid clad in a different Zac Posen dress) emerging from various parts of the woods. When Posen appeared, her thick black curls were swept into a soft (but secure) updo and her green eyes defined by no more than glimmering champagne shadow and a few coats of mascara. The bride herself—and her brother's elaborate wedding gift—provided all the drama necessary.

Though stunning against the lush green backdrop, the gown was much more inhibiting than Posen's loose curls and rose-stained lips. "People kept chiding me after the ceremony, 'You're going to have a fun time dancing in that,'" recalls Posen. Little did they know what was yet to come. At the early strains of their first dance (not exactly "Wonderful Tonight" types, the couple chose Judy Garland's "Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart"), "I told Nils to hang back a bit." Posen had already unlatched most of the hooks on her train, "so when I stood up, with one elegant little gesture, the whole skirt flew off"—revealing a minidress ideal for shimmying the night away.



The organza-leaf chuppah made by Posen's mother



The bridesmaids chose their favorite Zac Posen dresses for the ceremony.



Guests who arrived early helped to assemble centerpieces of flowers, grapes, and mushrooms



Posen kept her hair and makeup simple.



Three friends fastened the bride's corset.



Guests were offered pink parasols for shade.



The six-foot train was covered in hundreds of organza poppies.



A line of friends deliver the bride's train to the barn.



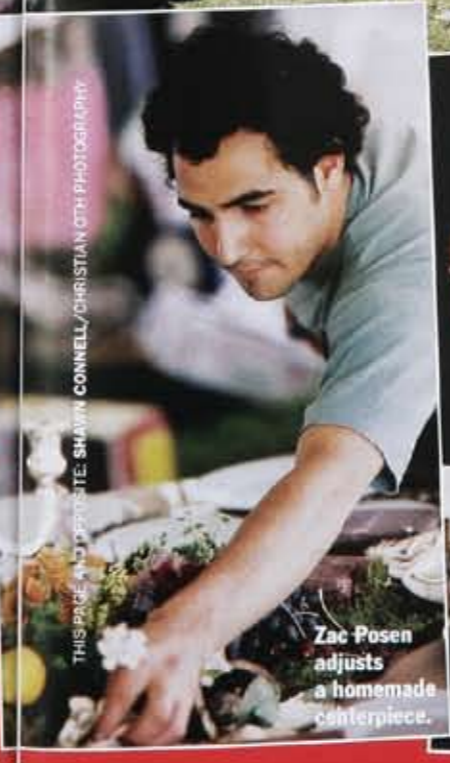
Posen, with husband, Nils Folke Anderson, unhooked her train to reveal a minidress.



Posen's father, Stephen, with P. Diddy's mother, Janice Combs



In her parents' barn before the ceremony



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Zac Posen adjusts a homemade centerpiece.



The couple's first dance, to Judy Garland

After dinner, guests await a fireworks display.