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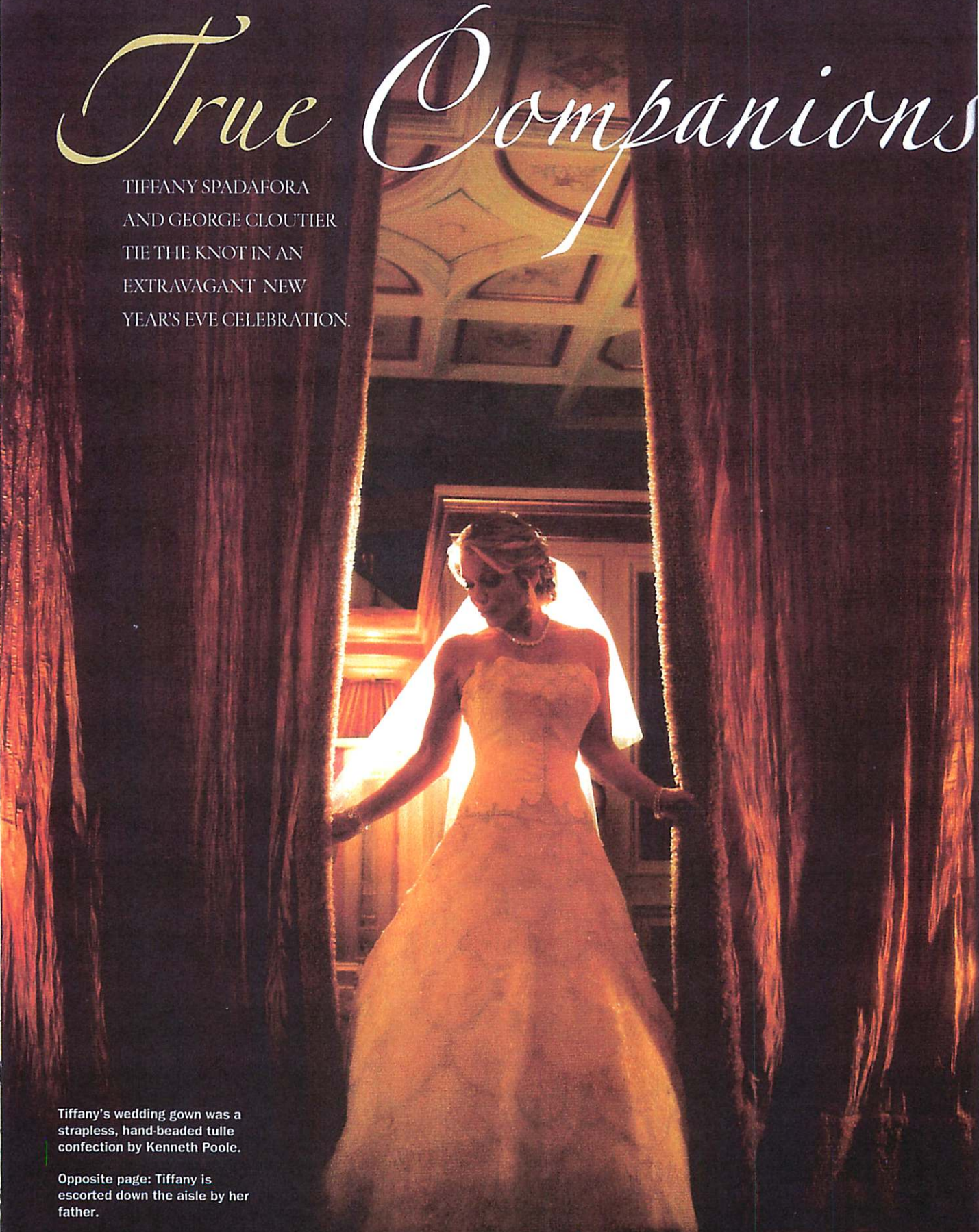
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**INSIDE:**  
PALM BEACH WEDDINGS  
PREMIERE EDITION

# True Companions



TIFFANY SPADAFORA  
AND GEORGE CLOUTIER  
TIE THE KNOT IN AN  
EXTRAVAGANT NEW  
YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION.

Tiffany's wedding gown was a strapless, hand-beaded tulle confection by Kenneth Poole.

Opposite page: Tiffany is escorted down the aisle by her father.

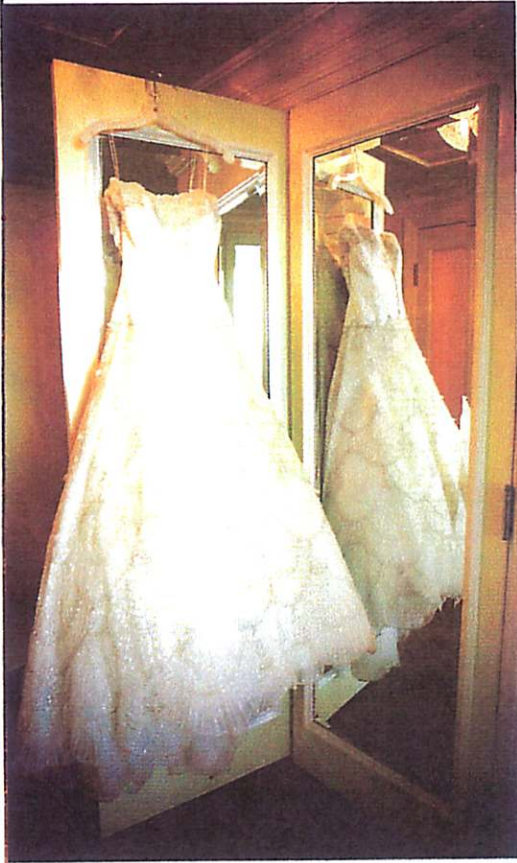


By MICHELLE M. HAVICH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLOS BAEZ

Beneath a spray of rose petals and votives that seemed to float from the ceiling of the Venetian Ballroom at The Breakers, the happy couple took to the dance floor for their first dance as husband and wife. The band played "True Companion," and no song could be more fitting for the new Mr. and Mrs. George Cloutier, for their companionship is some-

thing that is evident whenever you see them together, and has held true since they first met almost five years earlier.

Tiffany Spadafora was a registered nurse when she met George at Bice, when she was out with some of her girlfriends. Tiffany says she was instantly attracted to him, but on more of a friendship level. "Since the first time I met



him, I felt very comfortable with him, as if I'd known him forever," she says. "Before I even knew anything about him."

Tiffany enjoyed being around George, the founder, chairman and CEO of American Management Services, often calling him to go out with her and her friends, and even thinking of whom she could set him up with. Marriage was the farthest thing from her mind. "It never really hit me that he was the one I was going to marry," she says. "I didn't even think about marriage. I'm not the type of girl that dreamt about my wedding all my life."

Tiffany is helped into her dress by matron of honor Janet Steinger as George gets his tie straight.



The Circle Dining Room at The Breakers was transformed into a stunning wedding chapel, complete with beautiful flowers and ropes of crystal beading.

Two months after they met, George recruited Tiffany and a friend to help organize a brunch he was hosting for Easter. "We spent the whole day before running around getting decorations and ordering food, even going to Costco," she says. Call it an Easter miracle or just something in the air, but something was happening.

"I think it was that point where I thought, nope, I want to keep him for myself. It just kind of fell together on that Easter," she says, smiling. "Maybe I knew from the beginning, but I didn't know that I knew."

Tiffany took a leave of absence from her job and joined George at his Nantucket home for the summer, and that is what convinced George that she was the one. "Having that amount of time with her made the conviction strengthen," he says. "I do lead a very hectic life, so you have to have a certain level of tolerance. She was good at that, and great at taking care of me."

The next season Tiffany and George hit the Palm Beach social scene as a couple, being photographed at all the best parties and galas, and chairing some themselves, including the 2008 Fireman's Ball.

They had been together for two years



### Wedding Tradition

**Something Old:** Tiffany wore George's mother's anniversary band.

**Something New:** Her gowns and shoes.

**Something Borrowed:** The jewelry suit Tiffany wore with her reception gown was borrowed from Provident Jewelry. She also borrowed a Carolina Herrera mink jacket, which a friend wore for her wedding in Nantucket.

**Something Blue:** Her garter and the signature cocktails.

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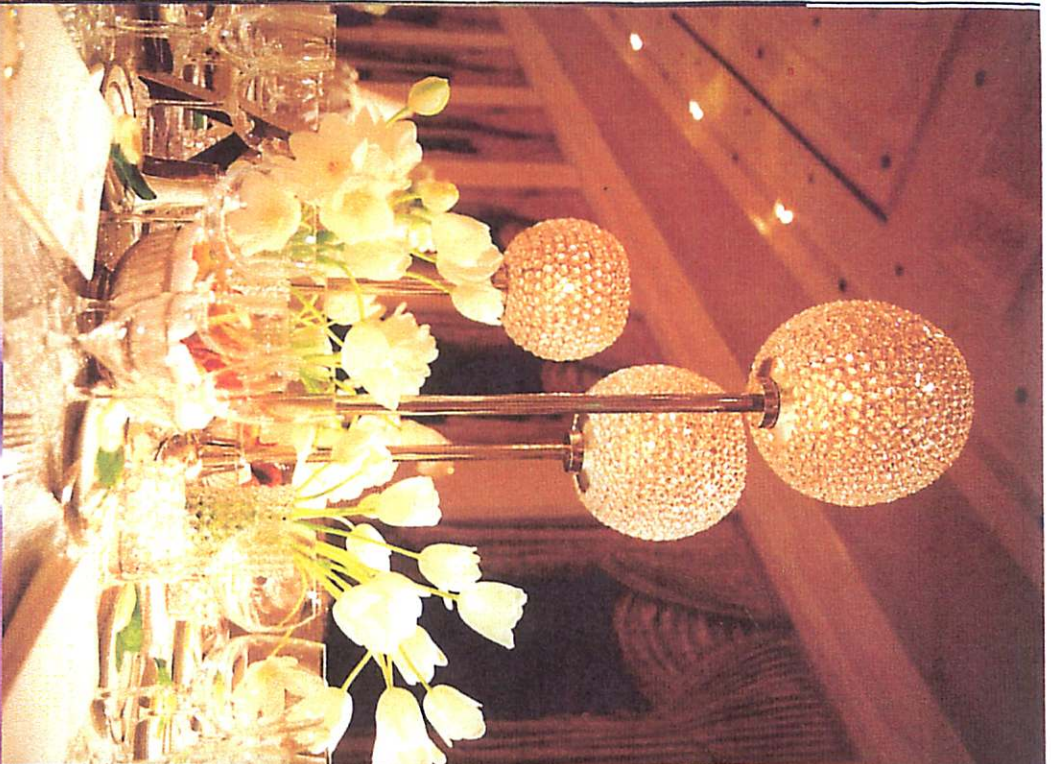
when ABC's *20/20* came down in March 2007 to film them for a segment on Robert Frank's book, *Richistan*. To research the book, Frank, who writes "The Wealth Report" for the *Wall Street Journal*, had followed the couple around for the season. Now TV cameras descended to add visuals to the words.

George had not officially proposed to Tiffany until they were in the limo going

to a polo match with the reporter, who asked when they were getting married. They looked at each other, and George said, "Let's do this." He chuckles, saying, "I think [the proposal] was on TV. So that's romantic."

After they decided to get married in Palm Beach, rather than Nantucket, they settled on a date: New Year's Eve.

"To us, there was no perfect date in



Clockwise from top left: Tables were decorated with candles and white tulips. The wedding cake was a red velvet confection with cream cheese mousse frosting. The party went on past the stroke of midnight.





More than 300 black-tie-attired guests witnessed Tiffany and George exchange their vows, and later share their first dance beneath a stream of flower petals. Below: The couple had a ringside seat for the party to come.

terms of getting all of our friends here, but it was a perfect date because we can celebrate our anniversary each year when the fireworks go off,” George says.

The easiest decision about the wedding, Tiffany says, was choosing The Breakers, because she knew from experience it would be perfect. “I knew they’d take care of everything, because they did our Fireman’s Ball, and they did a fantastic job,” she says. “I knew we were in good hands.”

From that moment, Tiffany worked nonstop to get everything organized, from the overall theme to the smallest nuances. She chose a color scheme of white and Tiffany blue—the colors used by luxury retailer Tiffany & Co. The reason, she says, is less obvious than one might think. Her mother had actually planned on naming her Monica, but was watching *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* when she went into labor and was inspired, forever linking Tiffany with the little blue box and white bow that she has always loved. “Doesn’t everyone else?” she says.

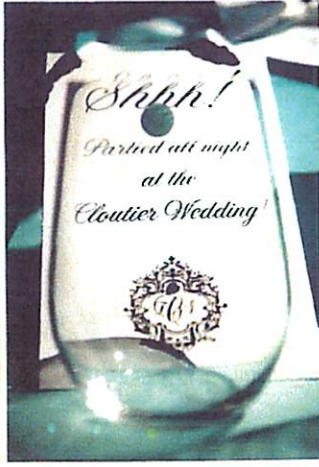
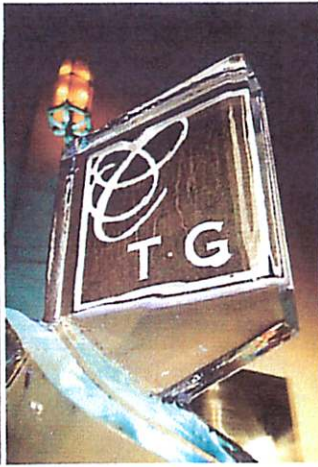
Tiffany set out to find the perfect gowns in New York City, hitting Amsale, Kleinfeld and other top boutiques. What she chose was ultimately the first dress she had tried on—a custom strapless, antique white hand-beaded tulle ball gown by Kenneth Poole. For her reception gown, Tiffany wanted something a little sexier, a showstopper. She had originally picked out a one-of-a-kind gown from Oscar de la Renta’s Spring 2009 bridal collection, which she saw on the Internet. Mark Ingram of New York City’s eponymous bridal atelier was able to get it for her, but when she tried it on, it wasn’t as “sparkly” as it had appeared. As fate would have it, Anne Barge was hosting a trunk show at Ingram’s. Tiffany had already tried on some of Barge’s gowns and liked one. “[Barge] said she could take the



gown that I liked and make it into the exact same shape [as the Oscar gown]. So she did a custom gown for me,” she says. The result was an ivory bead-encrusted mermaid gown with hand-beaded Swarovski crystals that gave her the wow factor she was going for.

The real “wow” came for the guests, when the big day arrived and they were escorted into the Circle Dining Room at The Breakers. The already stunning room was transformed into a beautiful wedding chapel, with bouquets of white flowers and ropes of crystal beads leading up to the canopied pergola where the couple would be married. The quiet din of conversation was broken by the entrance of a gospel choir, clapping and singing as George and his groomsmen took their places. Tiffany’s attendants filed in slowly to the sounds of a string quartet; all wearing beautiful Tiffany blue dresses with full tulle skirts. And then the bride came in, escorted by her father. Af-





Personal touches and surprises awaited wedding guests, from the gospel choir, blue-boxed favors and monogrammed ice sculptures, to the Brazilian dancers and fireworks that helped ring in the new year.



ter a brief but poignant ceremony, the couple sealed their union with a kiss and recessed up the aisle as the choir sang "Oh Happy Day."

The party moved to the Mediterranean Room for cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres, which included a signature blue T&G Tini cocktail served through an ice sculpture, sushi served on a carved ice pagoda, carving stations and passed nibbles. Doors opened to reveal the Venetian Ballroom, bathed in pink light. Tabletops were covered in white cloths with a crystal overlay and topped with either huge centerpieces of white tulips or large candles.

"It's New Year's Eve," George said, welcoming everyone. "If you don't have fun tonight, it's your own fault!" Best man Howard Kessler toasted the couple, and praised them for bringing "life and energy into everything you touch."

The party atmosphere continued throughout dinner, first with a medley of patriotic songs sung by groomsman Jon Fiore, and later with GDO Soul featuring Greg Denard. Guests dined on caviar canapés, a lobster tail and crab claw appetizer and a main course of grilled tenderloin medallions or smoked sea bass, all created by The Breakers Executive Chef of Banquets Jeff Simms.

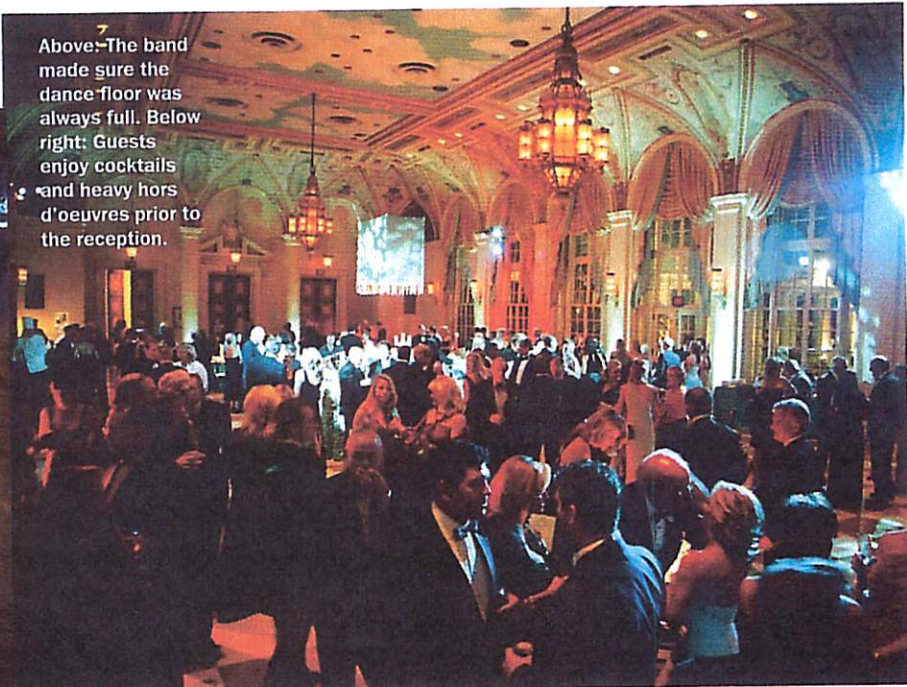
The excitement in the room grew as the clock crept closer to midnight. Waiters passed around tulle bags containing special party favors—black top hats and masks for the gentlemen, and feathered boas and handheld masks for the ladies.

At the stroke of midnight, firework sparklers shot out from the tulip centerpieces as the guests packed

the dance floor. The sound of drums had everyone turning toward a corner door that opened to reveal a troupe of Brazilian dancers dressed in white feathers and sequins. They performed in the center of the room, encouraging guests to join in their dance circle.

Looking back, the Cloutiers agree that there is not much they would have changed about that day, except maybe the day itself. "In the days leading up to it, I would have picked a different date," Tiffany says. "With the holidays so close, it made everything a lot more complicated and chaotic. But now that it's over, I'm glad we did it on New Year's because it really made it special. Nothing can take away those memories. It was the happiest day of my life. I never understood it when people said that, until I experienced it." ♦





Above: The band made sure the dance floor was always full. Below right: Guests enjoy cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres prior to the reception.

