

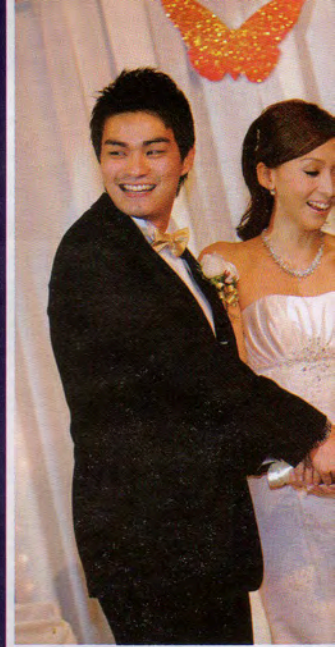


BELINDA CHEE

MARRIES BOYFRIEND OF NINE YEARS JOE IN A DREAMY WEDDING



The wedding day of Belinda Chee and her boyfriend of nine years Joe Yeow began with a bridal pick-up in the morning followed by ceremonies at both the bride and groom's homes before a dinner reception at Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur. Clockwise from above: Joe's family at the tea ceremony: (seated) Joe, parents Eng Kin Hong and Irene Chee and Belinda; (standing) Joe's siblings and partners with their children: Eric, Tristan, Stanley, Jordin, Kiaratan, Rui Long, Braden, Joe Au.



'It's a lifetime commitment and not just something you commit to when it's convenient to you'



It was something of a fairy tale when Belinda Chee married her boyfriend of nine years, Ng Joe Yeow, in an elegantly decorated ballroom at Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur. The theme was formal with a touch of gold, and the 900 or so guests turned up to celebrate the special occasion with just a right touch of glint.

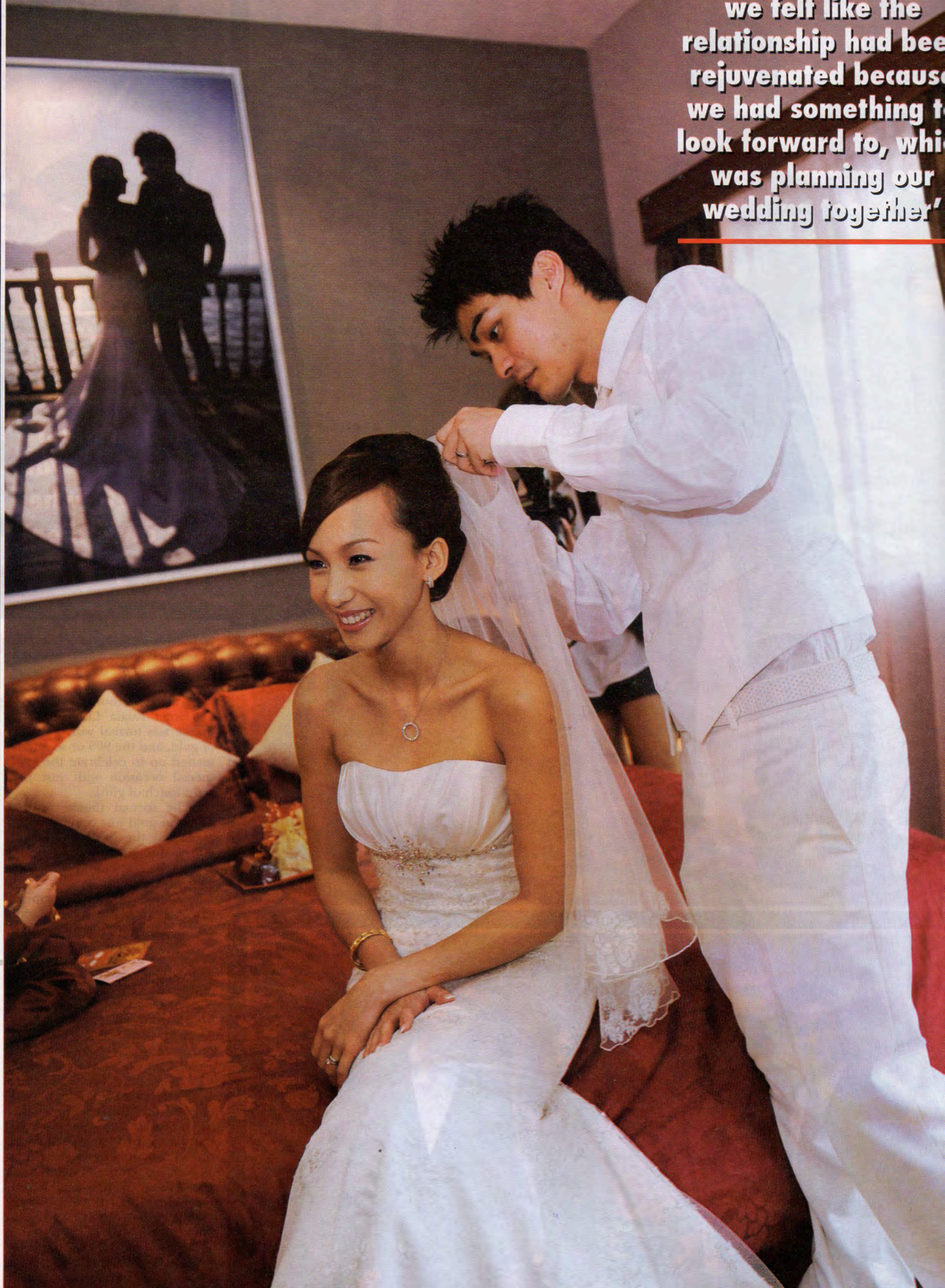
"The formal theme with a touch of gold just came to mind," explained the bride. "It was a long thought out process and I thought the colour was very elegant and classy."

Bronze and gold drapes cascaded from the ceiling with each crystal chandelier with champagne and cream roses decorated every table. Belinda made her entrance in a strapless gown with a mermaid hem by Carven Ong, and later changed into a gold silk cheongsam with Alvin Tay to go with the theme of the evening.

MIX.fm deejay Serena C and 8TV newscaster Owen Yap, both close friends of Belinda, played emcees for the evening. The 8TV *Quickie* host and actress was also joined by friends from the entertainment world, such as Xandria Ooi and her fiancé Yuri Wong, Hunny Madu and her fiancé Khairul Azhar Abdul Wahid, Aishah Sinclair and R. Omar.

A jazz band was on hand to provide music for the joyful

**'After the proposal,
we felt like the
relationship had been
rejuvenated because
we had something to
look forward to, which
was planning our
wedding together'**





'When we were dating, we said we weren't going to get married until we were ready to start a family, and we are ready to start a family now'

then. You can say I've grown up and I'm able to make decisions for myself and am no longer a follower. And I guess I nag a lot now!

Do you think you'll be having children soon?

I'm letting nature take its course on this one. I'm not going to plan anything. Joe and I are both ready. When we were dating, we said we weren't going to get married until we were ready to start a family, and we are ready to start a family now. If it doesn't happen in the next couple of years, we're fine with it, and if it happens in the next year, we're ready.

Do you think your marriage will affect your career?

I don't think it will affect it in any way. If people don't like me just because I'm getting married, I can't do anything to change that. If I get pregnant, my career will have to be put on hold for a while, but I don't think it'll stop me from pursuing what I want to do.

I'd rather work more on my marriage than on my work. If my marriage were in jeopardy because of work, I'd put my career aside and work on my marriage. I want to make this last. There are so many young celebrity couples who get

and not just something you come to when it's convenient to you.

Who helped you with your wedding?

My wedding planner Letitia helped me with my Kuala Lumpur reception. We started the planning process in February. For the Kuching reception, my mum and her sister Auntie Juliet helped a lot in the planning.

Did you come up with the theme for the wedding?

The formal theme with a touch of gold just came to me. I really liked this shade of gold when I was choosing invitation cards, so from then on we followed the gold theme. I thought of the color theme before I had my wedding gown and evening dress made. The dresses followed the theme. From there, it was easy to decide the decorations, which were cream and gold.

Tell us about your wedding gown.

Carven Ong designed my wedding gown while Alvin Tay did my evening gown, which was a gold cheongsam. I wanted something with a mermaid cut but I knew I wasn't tall enough to pull off a mermaid cut so I asked Carven whether it would suit me and he said he would be able to make



being plated individually.

A week before the Kuala Lumpur reception, Belinda and Joe, both 27, enjoyed an intimate celebration of their nuptials when family and close friends gathered at St. Joseph's cathedral in Belinda's hometown of Kuching, Sarawak, to witness their exchange of vows.

"Having my friends come over from Kuala Lumpur to Kuching was my favourite part," said Belinda, adding that "the whole experience itself was memorable".

Just before the newlyweds left for their honeymoon, Belinda sat down with HELLO! to talk about her special day and the new beginning with the man she loves.

Congratulations! How does it feel being married?

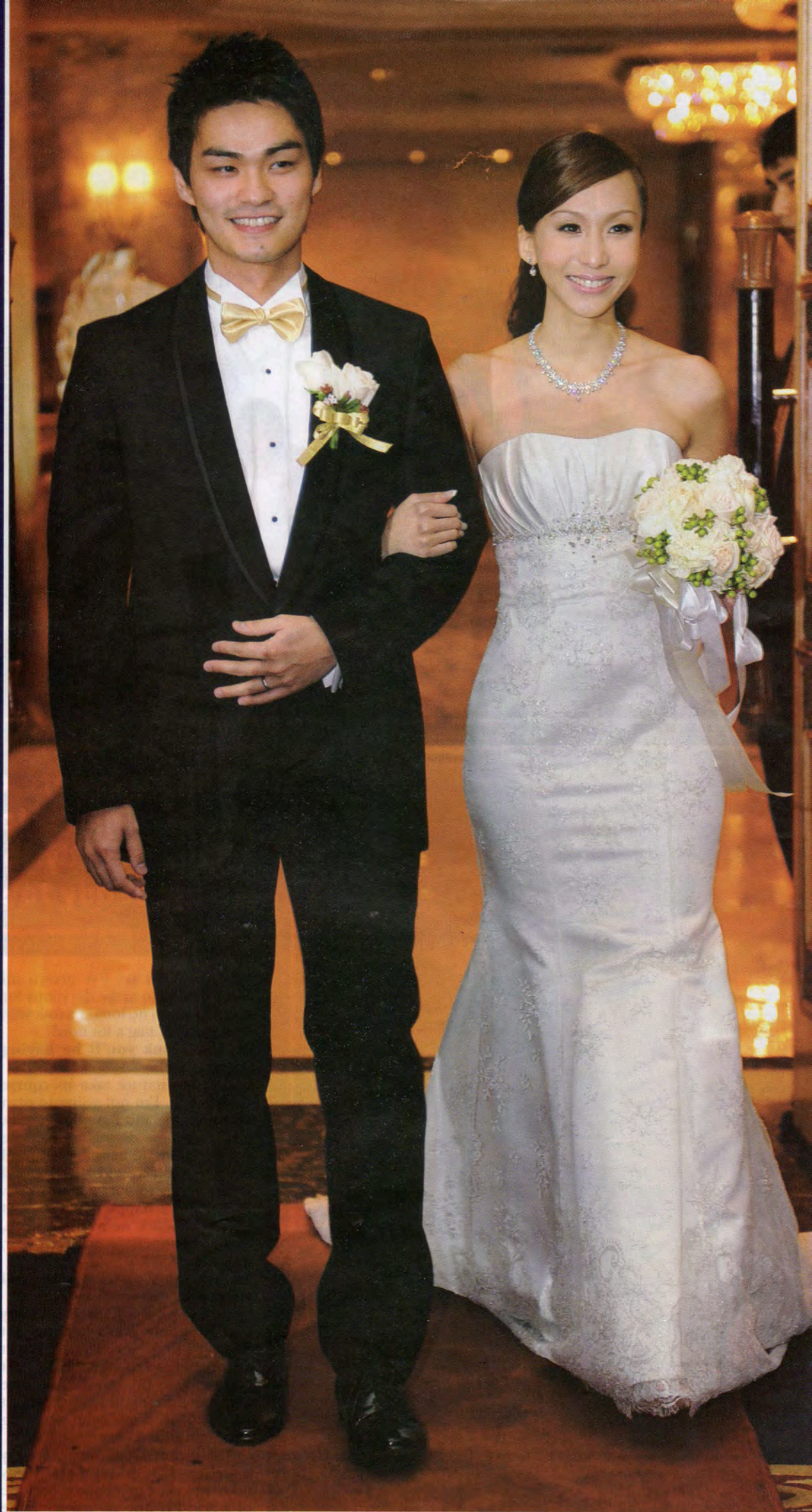
To be honest, I don't feel any different. The whole wedding thing was a formality because we had been going out for so long – nine years. I still feel like we love each other a lot. We actually had our marriage registration ceremony on our eighth anniversary so I told Joe that he only needs to remember one date [laughs]. We consider our registration date to be our anniversary instead of the date of the dinner reception.

What has changed in your relationship with Joe since being married?

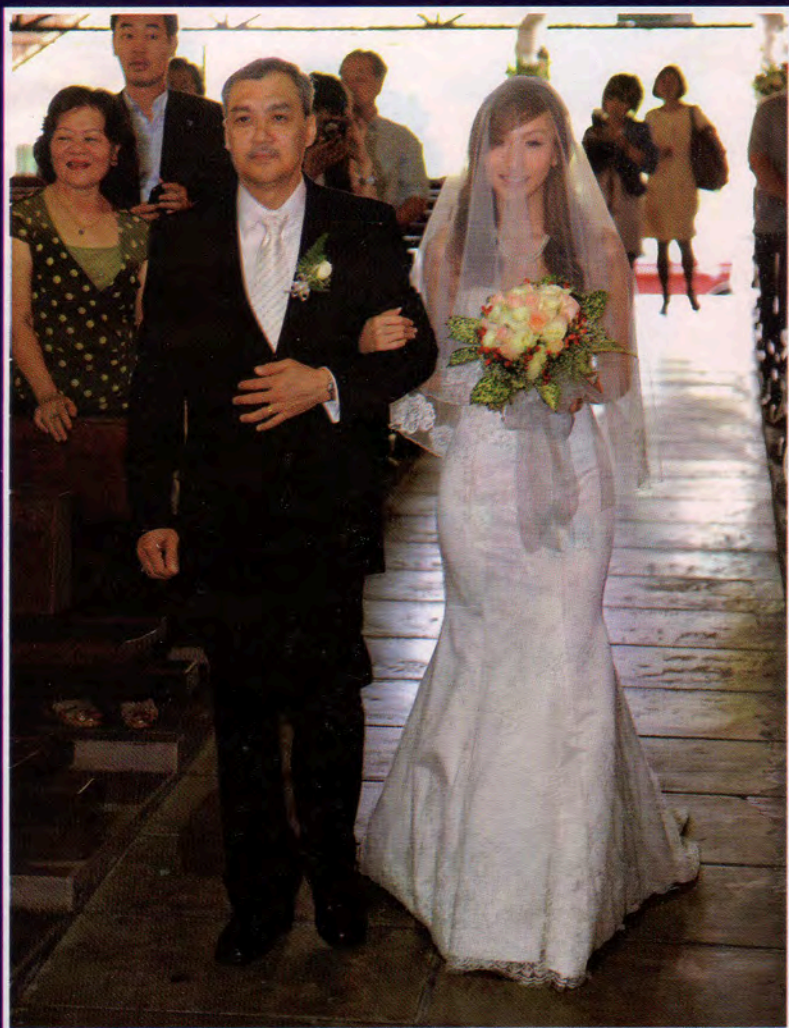
Since the engagement I've felt a renewed sense of being together, because being together for so long means you can get a little complacent with each other. After the proposal, we felt like the relationship had been rejuvenated because we had something to look forward to, which was planning our wedding together. Of course it brought a sense of togetherness to our families too and not just the two of us.

Do you think you have personally changed now that you are married?

Joe asked my Australian friends who have known me since my university days if I was any different to them and they said



The dinner reception at Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur was attended by about 900 guests. The theme of the evening was formal with a touch of gold. Above: Belinda made her entrance in a stunning gown.



'The whole experience itself was memorable. Having my friends come over from Kuala Lumpur to Kuching was my favourite part'

Kuala Lumpur to Kuching was my favourite part. It was really sweet of them and they helped me out so much.

Do you think everything went according to plan?

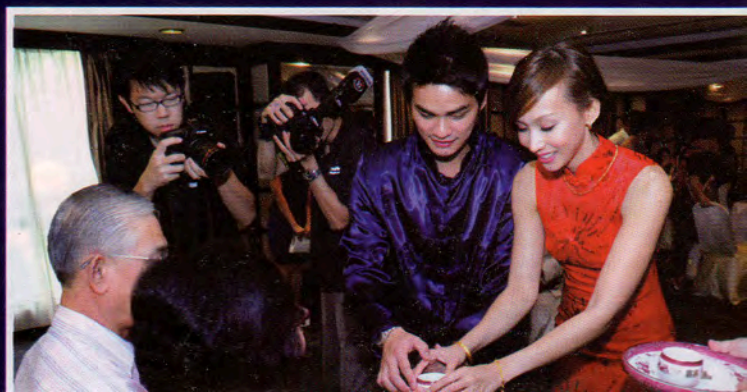
I think everything went smoothly. We were on time for everything, except for the Kuala Lumpur dinner. I just let go and allowed Leticia and her team to handle it. I didn't have to plan anything for the day, unlike in Kuching. She knew the schedule better than I did. I'm glad it's over!

Where are you going for your

honeymoon?

We are going to the Maldives. I wanted to go to Bora Bora but it is so far away, about eight or nine hours away, so our travel agent recommended the Maldives. It's beautiful and it is only four hours away. In the past couple of weeks we've been with so many people; haven't had the chance to be with each other; this trip will allow us to relax and enjoy each other's company.

INTERVIEW: SHERELYN GOH
PHOTOS: WWW.ANDYKHO.COM



A week before the festivities in Kuala Lumpur, Belinda and Joe had a church service and an intimate dinner with family and close friends in Belinda's hometown of Kuching, Sarawak. Top: The couple exchanged vows in Kuching's St. Joseph's cathedral in front of immediate family



cheongsam for the evening and I wanted a different designer to do the dress. I bumped into Alvin when he dressed me for an event and I asked him to make the cheongsam for me as I had seen some of his work in his showroom and really loved it. It was made of Thai silk. I was worried about the gold being too gaudy but it actually turned out nicely on my skin because it was a pale shade.

As for my shoes, Carven suggested I ask Lewre to make them for me. I have a pair in gold and another pair in silver made with Swarovski crystals on them. My jewellery was from DeGem.

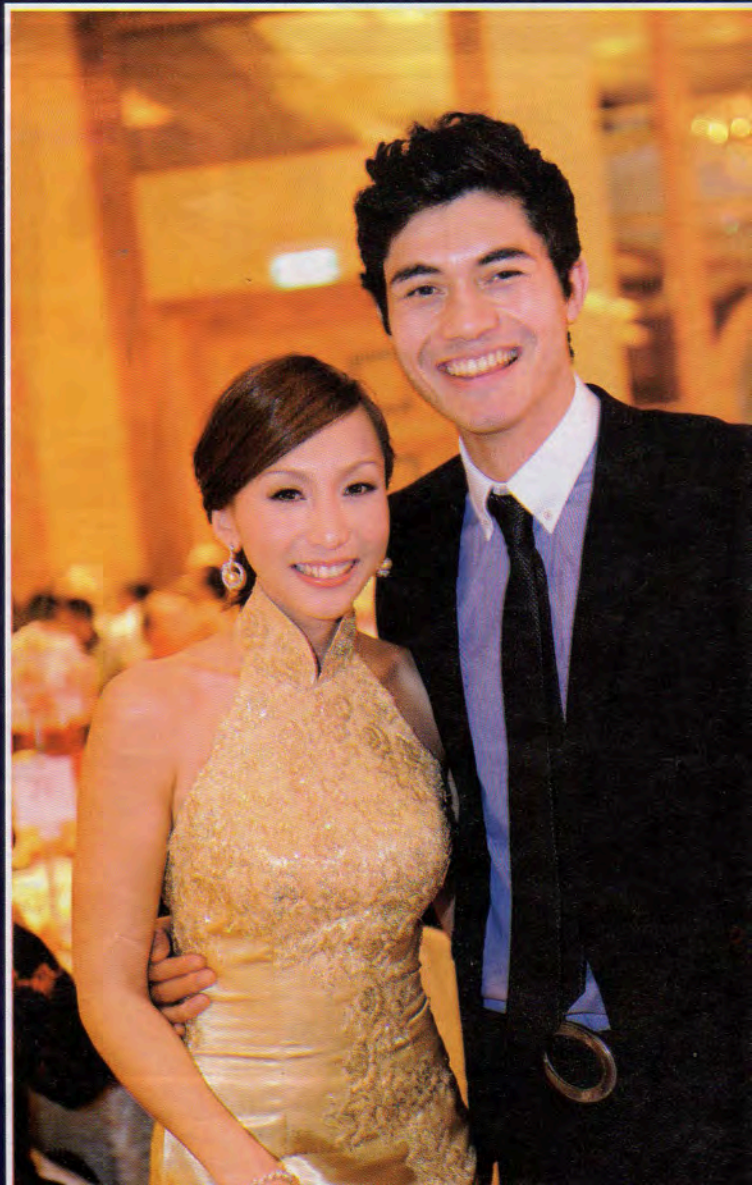
In Kuching, I wore a red cheongsam which I had made when I was holidaying in Beijing

two years ago. I borrowed the *kua* from Joe's family friend who runs a bridal boutique. It had been worn by the friend's sister and Joe's sister so it's like a piece that has been handed down.

What was your favourite part of the wedding?

There were so many! The most memorable part was when we were at the church reception in Kuching and my godfather, Uncle Ken from the UK, fainted because of the heat. He was supposed to be my witness and he didn't sign the book until later on in the evening when we got it to him. That will live on in my memory!

I think the whole experience itself was memorable. Having my friends come over from ►



Clockwise from opposite page, bottom: Belinda and MIX.fm deejay Serena C who played emcee for the evening; Belinda and Joe take one for the album with Belinda's family; Joe and Belinda pose with close friends and colleagues, (from left) Geetha Anandarajah, Yuri Wong, Xandria Ooi, Serena C, Elaine Ho, Jason Lo, Stephanie Chai and Henry Golding; Belinda with former 8TV colleague Henry Golding; Belinda's close friends and colleagues Aishah Sinclair, Tania Saufan and Rina Omar

