

> **LIGHTING:** A moonlight embrace. The sunlit gleam of her hair. The flicker of firelight in his eyes.

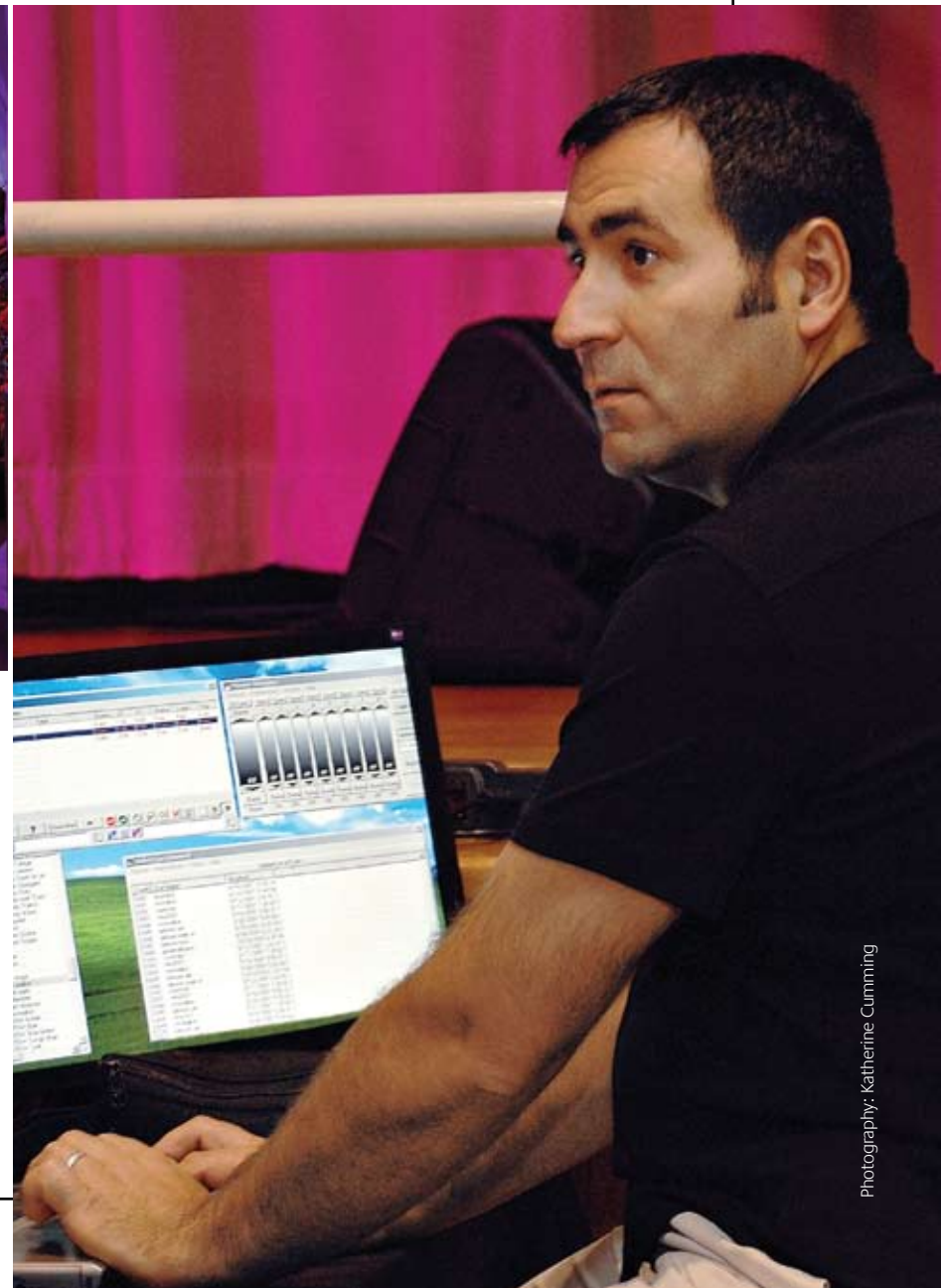


Photography: Jacqueline Marquet

**The interplay of darkness and light has the subtle power to turn romantic moments into memories. Illumination also has a profound effect on a wedding's ambiance and artistry.**

While flowers, fabrics and embellishments play a supporting role, "the lighting has the largest overall impact," says Tony Ormonde, whose company, Ormonde Productions, focuses on East Coast event lighting and design.

"I've been around parties all of my life," says the former nightclub DJ. Each event is a blend of tastes, scents, sound and sights, but "the lighting," he says, "is the visual that creates a beautiful, romantic atmosphere."



Photography: Katherine Cumming



Photography: Mike Henriques, Artistic Wedding Video



Until recently, professional lighting was “super expensive and labor intensive,” Ormonde says. Technology has not only made lighting production widely accessible, it’s opened up a world of effects that can transform a venue and complement a wedding’s dynamic moods and emotions.

Couples are often surprised to discover the limitless ways in which light can be employed to create a dramatic effect. Whether the wedding setting is a plain tent or an architecturally splendid mansion, a rustic barn or a grand hotel ballroom, a vineyard or a private home, “there are so many different properties that lend themselves to lighting,” Ormonde says.

As daylight wanes and the vibe shifts from ceremonial to celebratory, lighting can emphasize each transition. Ormonde might choose white tungsten light to highlight the details of the bride’s dress during “I dos,” bathe the cocktail space in soft ocean blues, switch to an amber or blush tone that’s

flattering for photography during dinner, then introduce textured light and bolder colors—pinks, purples, oranges—to enliven the mood for dancing. On-the-spot adjustments to the hue, intensity and focus of lighting effects can be orchestrated remotely via computer. “You can dim or increase the level of light based on what’s happening,” says Ormonde. During a toast or special dance, “you take the energy away from the overall feel and concentrate it on that particular emotional moment,” he explains.

When access to a venue is limited, high-impact instruments, such as architectural flood lights and pin spot lights that make floral centerpieces “jump off the table,” can be installed quickly. Elaborate installations can require twenty-four hours or more. For a Cape Cod wedding, Ormonde’s team hung crystal chandeliers in the dinner tent, illuminated an acrylic pool deck from beneath, and decked out the after-party tent with textured draping, glowing feather balls,

mirrored chandeliers and lounge furniture swathed in daisy-patterned projections. “It was quite a feat,” Ormonde recalls.

“We constantly get requests for all kinds of special effects; we’re always up for the challenge,” he says. With the variety of light-emitting and reflective elements at his disposal, he’s able to execute clients’ increasingly sophisticated visions. Any initial apprehension vanishes when couples behold their wedding scene. Their reaction? “Usually, it’s a sense of awe,” says Ormonde.

Interesting requests inspire Ormonde’s creativity. Upcoming challenges include projecting a monogram onto a rain curtain and converting a cavernous airplane hangar into an event space. “By the time we’re done, it’s going to be fabulous,” he assures.

> **Written by Kim Knox Beckius**  
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