

MOTHER (AND PLANNER) OF THE BRIDE

Ms. Ana Marie Tueres of Solutions Events recounts her experience of taking on the dual roles of mother and wedding planner



THE DAUGHTER/BRIDE

Efficient time management. Swift and practical decision making. The realization of a dream wedding. These are what clients sign up for when they acquire the services of Ms. Ana Marie Tueres and her Solutions Events.

With the expertise that comes with over ten years of experience in the business, it seems that there isn't a situation that Ana hasn't encountered. Downpours on outdoor weddings, sudden hospitalization of entourage members, showdowns with overenthusiastic relatives – name it and she has probably dealt with it. That was what she thought, too, until it was her daughter's turn to walk down the aisle.

Nina and Wahoo exchanged their "I dos" in a Grecian-themed wedding on March 6, 2010. During that day, One Esplanade was transformed into the playground of the gods and goddesses, with white columns and rich cloths adorning the ceremony and reception venues. It was to be a star-studded evening as the groom comes from the Sotto clan of showbiz and political fame.

Pulling together events such as this is usually a breeze for Ana. She is used to having celebrities in her midst, be they hosts or guests of the party. And it wasn't her first time to deal with a Sotto wedding as well. In January 2010, Ana and her team were the on-the-day coordinators for the Jojo Oconer-Clara Sotto nuptials. Yes, she thought, planning and managing her daughter's wedding was going to be a challenge, but it shouldn't be that difficult, right?

It was actually harder than she could have ever imagined it to be.

One of the toughest tasks for her during that time was finding a compromise between Ana the Mother and Ana the Wedding Planner. As a mother, of course, she wanted to be able to give her daughter the most perfect wedding anyone could wish for. As a planner, though, she had to be objective and practical. Crucial decisions fell upon her shoulders, and she had to make them without being one or the other only.

The main reason why event planners and coordinators are hired is to make the event less stressful for the couple and their families. They are given the chance to sit back, relax and enjoy the day because there are people dealing with all the behind the scenes work that have to be done. For Ana, however, separating herself from her job was simply impossible. While the months leading up to the wedding were already quite demanding, nothing would ever compare to Ana's experience during the day itself.

Instead of simply facilitating the activities of the parties involved, Ana had to participate in them. She had to be made up and she had to join the pictorials, walk down the aisle, sit at the VIP table, give a speech, and the usual things that parents do in their child's wedding. The impulse to walk around and check all the aspects of the event became a temptation that she succumbed to every once in a while. In fact, one of the most memorable moments

for her on that day was slipping out of the bridal suite so she could allay her worries about the ceremony and reception set-ups. Stepping into her event planner shoes once again, Ana purposefully strode down to Pearl Hall only to encounter the likes of Vic Sotto and other celebrity guests – and her hair was still up in rollers!

As much as she wanted to focus on the program as a guest, her passion for the job runs thick in her blood. Her seasoned eyes were always on the lookout for foibles and follies. Her trained mind was already coming up with solutions in anticipation of problems that might come up. She was editing the program while it was going on, in order to make it the most successful it could be.

Although there were some misses here and there, the evening went on without a major hitch. When the night came to a close, Ana kicked off her shoes and hiked up her feet – it was definitely more difficult than just another day in the office; therefore, it was also more rewarding.

So what's next for Ana and Solutions Events?

Here's a hint.

Her youngest daughter is turning eighteen.