

# Elouise and Johann's *Dream Team*

*An up close and personal look behind the scenes at the dedicated team of professionals that made Elouise and Johann Brink's dream wedding come together.*

WORDS BY: ELOUISE BRINK & ELNA COETZER PICTURES BY: CARI EKSTEEN - JAN HENDRIK GROUP

## THE WEDDING COORDINATORS – WEDDING CONCEPTS

*Says Elouise:* What Hannes and his team meant for me on the day, as well as the period running up to our wedding day, is actually impossible to describe in words. He was a wedding planner, friend, support system and even stepped in to make decisions on our behalf when I had to leave town for work. He went way beyond the call of duty – from writing a poem for our invitations to editing the processional song so that it was just long enough for me and the bridesmaids to walk in on. They are well organized, and have a network of fantastic suppliers who collectively took my ideas and vision and turned it into a fantasy wonderland of beauty.

*The experts say:* Sound wedding coordination boils down to two things: aligning expectations with what gets delivered on the day, and clearly defining roles and responsibilities. It's as much a function of proper planning as it is of expert execution – until the very last minute and even beyond. It all comes down to open and timely communication with all parties involved – including the clients. Elouise and Johann heeded our advice, looked to us for direction and in so doing really allowed us to flex our muscles. Here, the combination of creativity, realism, personal connection and a clear vision

combusted into the perfect end result.

*Wedding Concepts - [www.weddingconcepts.co.za](http://www.weddingconcepts.co.za)  
(021) 426 5783*

## THE DRESS DESIGNER – KOBUS DIPPENAAR

*Says Elouise:* I am very particular about what I wear and painfully fussy of the way dresses fit. I thought that I was going to be an incredibly difficult client, but Kobus' wonderful range of dresses and his warm personality put me at ease straight away. Every single dress I tried on in his studio was just beautiful, and after the first time I left there more confused than ever! But Kobus listened to me and really tried to understand my style and through this he came up with what I consider as the most beautiful wedding dress. It was perfect for me – simple yet glamorous with one striking element.

*The experts say:* What was amazing about Elouise is that she understood the notion of style and that it does not necessarily have to cost an arm and a leg. My advice to brides out there is to choose your service providers very well and to trust them, but never be afraid to voice your own ideas or concerns. And don't leave it to the last minute!

*Kobus Dippenaar - [www.kobusdippenaar.com](http://www.kobusdippenaar.com)  
+27 (0)83 324 5565*



LEFT TO RIGHT: HANNES LOUBSER AND CHRISTINA HOLT – WEDDING CONCEPTS; KOBUS DIPPENAAR; YOLANDE DU TOIT; DANIELA ZONDAGH – JAN HENDRIK GROUP

## MAKE-UP AND HAIR – YOLANDE DU TOIT

*Says Elouise:* I went to Yolande for one trial and I could not stop staring at how different I looked after she worked her magic. I gave her a few references and she got it spot on. She also recommended what she thought would work better and why some of my references wouldn't work at all – advice that is absolutely priceless. This ensures that the end result is exactly what you imagined and more.

*The experts say:* When we discussed Elouise's look for her wedding day, we took the style of the dress as well as her natural beauty and personality into consideration. She showed me a picture of Nicole Richie, who usually goes for a classic, 1950s-inspired make-up look. We kept her foundation and overall application very natural, and kept the radiance by not adding too much powder and using a mineralised foundation. To add that 1950s drama we added a stronger gel liner on the top eyelid as well as corner lashes. We swept her hair up in a very classic French roll, keeping the hair around her face soft and natural. A flower added that touch of romance.

*Yolande du Toit - [www.yolande.co.za](http://www.yolande.co.za)  
082 823 5371*

## THE PHOTOGRAPHER – THE JAN HENDRIK GROUP

*Says Elouise:* Before the wedding we met with

Jan Hendrik and Daniela to ensure that we briefed them properly. I had a very specific idea in mind of what I wanted the photos to look like and once again, my expectations were completely surpassed. On the day Daniela ensured that I was relaxed and completely engaged our personalities through her lens.

*The experts say:* Your wedding photographs should capture all the small details of your magical day in case you miss or forget them in the frenzy and excitement of the moment. Elouise briefed us on a fun, arty, romantic, modern, yet natural approach. It is important to spend enough time with the couple to get to know them better. We talked the wedding day through in much detail and this laid a strong foundation of trust which in turn allowed me to get the best out of them. We met at the venue before the wedding day which enabled all involved to familiarise themselves with the surroundings and set-up.

*The Jan Hendrik Group - Daniela Zondagh  
[www.janhendrik.com](http://www.janhendrik.com) 082 589 1385*

## THE LIVE BAND – 54 HIGH STREET

*Says Elouise:* Pre-drinks was a very important part of the day for us. We wanted to spend a limited amount of time on photographs so that we could mingle with our guests and enjoy this beautiful time of the day and the setting with



LEFT TO RIGHT: LEONORE BREDEKAMP – 54 HIGH STREET; ANNEGRET DELPORT – LEIPZIG; AK MITCHELL – URBAN TONIC; DJ PRESTON ROMAN; SARITA KRUGER – WEDDING WORDS

them. Other than that, we wanted music that would be neither too traditionally classical, nor too lively or overwhelming. Perched under massive Water Oak trees overlooking the Tulbagh mountains, the Duende Gypsy Jazz Trio with saxophone, accordion and acoustic bass added that extra special element - perfect for our wedding style.

*The experts say:* Outdoor venues can be daunting for small ensembles, but the arrangement of the drinks area here created an intimate space around which the guests relaxed while sipping long drinks. Without live music, a wedding is like a banquet without wine – nice but not perfect. Most musicians are open to negotiation with regards to their fee, so be specific about your music needs for the day. You may also want to request a demo CD or sound samples to make sure you are choosing the right artists. Clear communication between clients, the wedding planner, venue manager, music agent and musicians is crucial, because small and big requirements such as amplification or tuning of a piano may mean the difference between success and disaster.

54 High Street - Duende Gypsy Jazz Trio  
Leonore Bredenkamp lbrede@sun.ac.za  
082 576 4774

#### THE DECORATORS – LEIPZIG

*Says Elouise:* I do not have an eye for décor, so having Izette from Leipzig as my décor

specialist was an absolute saving grace. I took a very simple reference to her – in fact, nothing to do with décor even – and told her that I love simplicity with a touch of glamour, surrounded by warmth. She took this brief and created the most stylish interior that suited our needs perfectly. She suggested teal glasses which I never thought I'd even consider, but I just trusted her and the result was exceptional.

*The experts say:* The characteristic Roodezand chapel and reception venue laid a strong foundation for our décor approach and as a result we aimed to create a perfect balance of downtown chic with rural-home charm. The impression had to be modern but with a welcoming appeal; detailed yet uncluttered. Elouise welcomed our enthusiasm for wanting to mix different elements – in all, the result was as delightful as it was dramatic. If possible, try to work with and make use of what the venue can offer you, and minimise the number of vendors involved by getting as much as possible from the same company.

Leipzig Floral Design - [www.leipzig.co.za](http://www.leipzig.co.za)  
021 865 2736

#### THE HIRING AND STAFFING – URBAN TONIC

*Says Elouise:* Hiring is the one thing that any bride probably only thinks about after she's made up her mind about the venue, flowers and photographer. If, like me, you're slightly overwhelmed by where to start when entering

this realm, AK and the Urban Tonic team come to the rescue here. Their range of stock is massive, their waiting and bar staff very professional and on the ball, and their rates really reasonable.

*The experts say:* With the South African wedding market is growing at such a fast rate, couples these days have far more scope to choose between hiring options than previously. Elouise and Johann decided to supplement the venue's glassware by choosing cut crystal champagne and turquoise water glasses, adding to the uniqueness and personalised feel. By adding one of our uber-trendy mobile cocktail bars or leather lounge areas, complete with coffee tables or uplit plinths, one can instantly add a whole new level of sophistication and customisation. We gladly source items from other suppliers, thus allowing the client to deal with one supplier and reducing transport fees.

Urban Tonic - [www.urbantonic.co.za](http://www.urbantonic.co.za)  
021 706 0133

#### THE DJ – PRESTON ROMAN

*Says Elouise:* What a fantastic DJ! DJ Preston is absolutely amazing at reading a crowd and ensuring that everyone has an absolute ball! He even had my grandfather dancing to Kings of Leon's "Sex on fire" which was just hilarious and one of my favourite moments of the evening. He ensured that the music was suited to every point of the night – keeping guests talking and enjoying themselves during dinner and then running to the dance floor time and again afterwards.

*The experts say:* How elated Elouise was when we pinpointed the song she wanted to walk in on - a lesser known song off the soundtrack to the film Mulholland Drive. Like many couples, she and Johann wished for everyone to have an absolutely amazing time. It turned out to be just that. We compiled a list of their favourite bands,

carefully linking different styles to the flow of events on the day. If it weren't for the curfew, the party would no doubt have continued until dawn the next morning. Luckily, they had made plans for an after party elsewhere, hence ensuring that the festivities continued until much later.

Preston Roman - [romanp@telkomsa.net](mailto:romanp@telkomsa.net)

#### THE STATIONERS – WEDDING WORDS

*Says Elouise:* I loved the stationery - simple yet incredibly stylish and different not only in terms of design but also content. I showed the same reference to Sarita that I'd shown to Izette – and she had to use her imagination and my brief to come up with something. We had menus with quirky wording that followed on the same theme started in our invites, individual name tags pinned to the back of the chairs, table numbers and a thank you photo collage postcard – all bearing an elegant black curl motif and a little teal bird. So many people commented on the originality and the fact that they could liken these elements to our personalities.

*The experts say:* Elouise was looking for stationery with a unique and modern design and immediately fell in love with one of the designs in our portfolio which we were able to personalise after a few minor tweaks. It's crucial that couples work with designers who are experienced and can guarantee quality products plus cost-effective solutions to suit their requirements. Doing mock-ups with printed samples is essential in fine-tuning the artwork.

Wedding Words - [www.weddingwords.co.za](http://www.weddingwords.co.za)  
083 270 1620 or 084 221 2546

CATERING AND CAKE - MARILOU MARAIS  
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