

Adding fragrance to your wedding plan

DIANA MATHIAS
Epoch Times Staff

For the one day in your life that you want everything to be perfect, think about adding the element of scent to the setting. As you plan, go beyond the perfume and aftershave you and your groom normally wear to the scents that will be wafting throughout the air during the ceremony and the reception.

Many brides will want to wear their regular perfume since that is the one their fiancé and friends connect with them. Others might want to select a special one befitting the special occasion. Maybe this is the time to splurge on that perfume that's too formal for most days of your life.

But think about it. Our sense of smell brings in emotional responses that are almost unconscious, fixing in our minds forever the times we've spent in a fresh garden, a warm kitchen, walking in the woods, or any of our favorite places.

So as you go beyond your personal perfume, consider what fragrance you want to present to create the memory of the emotions on this day. Your choice of flowers will determine much of the fragrance that will drift around the room. Or if you hold your reception in a room with a fire burning in the fireplace, that will set the stage in the fragrance department.

But if you don't have a strong source of fragrance from flowers or a fireplace, you can add it in other ways. And if your floral choices provide subtle scents, you can complement them with these ideas. Use scented candles as the light- and scent-source on the tables. Even incense sticks can be incorporated as part of the decorations and can be lit after the dinner is finished.

Floral designer Sharon McGukin, author of "Flowers of the Heart: A Bride's Guide to Choosing Flowers for Her Wedding," says the flowers she likes to use to add scent to the event are freesias in the bridal bouquet, garde-

nias tucked around in places so their perfume is carried through the air, and sprigs of lavender on the pew markers and the place cards. Some lilies have a scent and some don't; one of the scented ones is the Casa Blanca Oriental lily.

She comments that for a long time fragrance was not an element in wedding planning; now it is. "By using very fragrant flowers you enhance the environment—a very strong scent makes it seem you have more flowers. Scent creates a memory of the event," she explains.

McGukin suggests that you tell your florist if you are looking for a certain scent, or if you would like a certain flower to be fragrant, since some varieties and some sources produce more highly scented flowers. Also there is a trade-off between being long-lasting and having a strong scent. She also advises that you should find out if anyone in the wedding party has allergies that would be stirred up by your choices.

CREATIVE COMBINATIONS
Scent specialist Imani Phoenix of Essentially YOU tells us about the smell and traditional meaning of some of the flowers we might use. The red rose traditionally means love. Brides may choose the rich fall shades right now. Using red and white roses together means unity, and a bud means pure and lovely. Rose has a strong scent and often holds memories for many



FRAGRANT FLOWERS: The Casa Blanca Oriental lily is a fragrant choice to add the element of scent to your wedding. SHARON MCGUKIN/“FLOWERS OF THE HEART: A BRIDE’S GUIDE TO CHOOSING FLOWERS FOR HER WEDDING”

people, and is considered an aphrodisiac by some. It has a long and romantic history with humans, going back many centuries, and invokes the works of many poets, writers, and artists. It is considered by some to have the highest spiritual alignment of all flowers. Citrus may be a good complement, or irises with their purple and lavender colors. Honeysuckle traditionally means generous and devoted affection. It has the sweet scent that may evoke memories of fun and the carefree summer afternoons of childhood. A bride may want to blend it with sprigs of rosemary (remembrance) and bright, joyous sunflowers.

Lavender is considered a universal scent with a long history; it has been thought to promote well-

being, peace, love, and health, all with a spiritual component. In terms of love, lavender has two beliefs attached to it: It enhances piety and also the opposite—it encourages passion. Its color is a soft, light purple with gray-green foliage. Blend it with citrus, or clary sage and chamomile. Calla lilies may be a lovely complement, too.

Eucalyptus was traditionally thought to promote well-being, to be a purifier, and to help healing. The scent is bright and clean and can produce a wonderful ambience on cool autumn days. Because eucalyptus is from a tree, juniper, pine and sandalwood are good matches with their scents. Flowers that may go well would be violets (blue), which stand for faithfulness, or perhaps white and fall-colored chrysanthemums. (Red mums signify “I love”). Lavender and lemon are good choices as well. Dried grasses may enhance eucalyptus, bringing a light texture to the mix.

Depending on the setting, a deep and rich scent may be a good choice for the darker days approaching winter. Sandalwood is another tree scent, often associated with places far away. Lemon, frankincense, patchouli, and ylang ylang are all scents that blend well with sandalwood and all are quite distinctive. These combinations may be most appropriate for evening weddings that embrace exotic and richer settings.

If the scents of the flowers will be combining with the aromas of food, the bride may choose to incorporate culinary scents as part of the floral arrangements. For example, use cardamom or star anise, sprigs of herbs such as garden sage (esteem), spearmint (warmth of sentiment), mint, marjoram, thyme, oregano, black pepper, vanilla, lemongrass, and the fruit or peel of lemons or oranges.

SELECTIVE WEDDINGS
Lily-of-the-Valley traditionally means return of happiness, and it may be wonderful for a second marriage when the parties knew each other when they were younger.

Zinnias traditionally signify thoughts of an absent friend. While it is not often that someone loses a loved one just prior to their wedding, it does happen, and zinnia may be an appropriate choice to grace the wedding ceremony.

GIFTS FOR BRIDESMAIDS, MATRONS, AND BRIDAL PARTY
Pomanders made from oranges or other citrus and cloves make great gifts that carry their own strong scents, as do sachets made from dried flowers. Wreaths made of flowers or evergreen boughs, pine cones, and dried grasses provide beauty for the eye and fragrance that will carry forward the feelings and memories of this special day.

Remember that long after the dress is packed away and the flowers have faded, the memory of your wonderful event will come alive when you smell the special scents that you chose for it.

Sharon McGukin can be reached at sharonmcgukin@yahoo.com
Imani Phoenix can be reached at www.essentiallyyou.com

‘BEAUTY BOX’

Bésame: Bringing back vintage one lipstick at a time

By CHRISTINE LIN
Epoch Times Staff



REVIVING PAST DESIGNS: Bésame creates recreations of vintage makeup products. Their metal cases and chrysanthemum design are classic. JOSHUA PHILIPP/THE EPOCH TIMES

The beauty industry is always looking forward. We wring our hands at fashion shows, hoping to predict what shade of lipstick or eye shadow will be “in” next season. The new face cream that employs the most cutting-edge science immediately becomes a consumer magnet. All across the board, it's about new and different.

But in Pasadena, one husband-and-wife cosmetics team is looking to history for inspiration. In 2004, Argentina-born designer Gabriela Hernandez created the vintage makeup line, Bésame.

Bésame recreates products mainly from the 1920s to the '40s. From the packaging to the ingredients, everything in the classic line aims to mimic the products of that era.

“The line is a throwback, romantic kind of line,” said Hernandez. “We like femininity. We like women to be women; not stick figures, not to be androgynous-looking creatures.” The name itself is a reference to the hit '40s song Bésame Mucho (which translates to “Kiss Me a Lot”).

Bésame's first item was a bullet-shaped lipstick hailing from the days of the second World War. At the time, lipsticks were manufactured using bullet shell molds. The tiny lipstick with dainty gold casing was launched online in 2004, and the line grew from there.

Each lipcolor in Hernandez's line is taken straight from historical samples. Hernandez has in her home office a stash of vintage lipsticks acquired in antique shops and at swap meets in Buenos Aires. “You can still find things [in Argentina] because a lot of the immigrants fled to that country,” Hernandez said.

The shades are mostly variations of red, highly pigmented, and without shimmer, as mica was not used as a light reflecting agent until later. Due to customer demand, Hernandez extended the color line into the '60s with shades such as gold lamé and champagne.

As the brand developed, Hernandez strayed from traditional formulations. Her Voluptuous lipsticks feature a softer formula with a core of anti-aging oils; a modern formula for those who want the added benefit of miniaturization.

Currently, Hernandez is reformulating the foundations and concealers, and expects them to be ready by the end of year or the beginning of next.

For eyes, she may expand eyeshadow shades, but will stick to a traditional palette. Hernandez has been working to develop a cake mascara. The challenge is to find a way to eliminate the splatter factor when a wet brush scrapes across the cake. Finding a supplier is also a quandary, because “not many people make

that kind of thing anymore.”

REVIEW
A couple of Bésame's standout products are its original Enchanting lipstick (\$15) and its boudoir rouge (\$15). I tried both, along with their Masterline eye pencil.

ENCHANTING LIPSTICK IN MERLOT
Bésame's flagship product comes in 10 shades from reds and pinks to golds and violets. Immediately, you will notice that the lipstick is exceptionally small compared to other lipsticks on the market. That's because they are twice as pigmented and contain few moisturizing agents to make them shiny or sheer.

It's not drying and lasts nearly all day. Expect to reapply if you're a messy eater, but otherwise there's no need to give it any thought throughout the day.

BOUDOIR ROUGE IN SUN KISSED
The rouge comes in a half-dollar size gold tin bearing Bésame's signature red chrysanthemum design. The clasp to the tiny compact may need getting used to as you'll have to wedge a fingernail underneath to open.

The formula itself is silky smooth and immensely fine as the top ingredients are talc and bismuth oxychloride. Though both of these get a bad rap, talc is not known to cause irritation in its cosmetic form. Bismuth oxychloride, however, can cause irritation in some people.

The rouge comes with a small puff. If you want the traditional rosy cheeks look, use it. If not, go for a small-headed brush, the softer the better, as a harder brush will knock off too much powder since this formulation is very soft.

This particular shade, Sun Kissed, is a perfect toasted apricot that imparts just enough warmth without looking bronze.

MASTERLINER PENCIL (FOR EYE)
Classic Masterliner pencils come in formulations for lips, eyes and brows. Each of these pencils comes with two color-harmonious shades in a twist-up form.

Don't expect to get a lot of product—there's about an inch of pencil on either end. I tried the eyeliner, which has surprisingly good staying power. It's creamy but nearly budgetproof once it's settled.

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Across

- 1 Japanese dish
- 6 Recess
- 10 Fruit in cookies
- 14 Whipped dairy food
- 15 Lasso
- 16 East
- 17 Expend (2 wds.)
- 18 Idols
- 19 Make
- 20 Exclamation
- 21 Serving of corn
- 22 Inborn
- 24 Sap
- 26 Turn white
- 27 Affame (2 wds.)
- 30 Congest
- 31 Capital of Lithuania
- 32 Playing field
- 33 Body part
- 36 Adjust
- 37 Gyp
- 38 Cut of beef

Down

- 1 Dart
- 2 Major (Big Dipper)
- 3 Prophet
- 4 Spooking
- 5 Elf
- 6 Fish tank growth
- 7 Bankrupt
- 8 Sward
- 9 5th Greek letter
- 10 Passes at the bull
- 11 Jacob's father
- 12 Stable gear
- 13 Reasonable
- 21 Before, poetically
- 23 Deviating
- 25 Iraqi's neighbors
- 26 Mix
- 27 Presidents office
- 28 Egyptian river
- 29 Flutter
- 30 Someone from Croatia
- 32 Hydrochloric and sulfuric, for example
- 33 Wander
- 34 Within
- 35 Was
- 39 Cooking style
- 42 Actual
- 45 Butane
- 46 Drench
- 47 Healing agents
- 48 Regions
- 49 Flat
- 50 Tribe
- 51 Chunk
- 53 Opaque gem
- 54 Adjust
- 55 Rushed
- 58 French "yes"
- 59 Rio de Janeiro

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