

Aisle take Manhattan

LET THESE FOUR PLANNERS SHOW YOU HOW TO GET HITCHED IN STYLE—
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR BUDGET

By Tamar Schreiberman Photographs by Brennan Cavanaugh

You're about to plan the wedding of your dreams. The good news? You're in New York, surrounded by the best of everything. The bad news? You may not be able to afford the best of everything. *TONY* gave each of the following four wedding planners a budget and asked them to design a hypothetical New York wedding. Of course, the planners who were given lower budgets had to cut corners, but they managed to design terrific weddings anyway—bashes that fall somewhere between quick "I do's" at City Hall and the kind of lavishness you'd expect from Martha Stewart. (Note: all of the prices listed below are estimates; costs can vary.)



Budget: **\$5,000**
Mayai Chatman, Wedding Day

CONSULTANT FEE \$2,000

Mayai Chatman of Wedding Day didn't flinch when we asked her to design a NYC wedding for \$5,000—though most of her clients spend between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Chatman, 28, has worked for five years as a wedding consultant, and this spring she'll self-publish *I Do Weddings*, a how-to book on starting your own wedding-consultant business. Wedding Day's package includes four one-hour consultations with the bride and groom, five hours of in-office coordination and six hours of wedding-day service.

Wedding Day (718-949-5787, www.bridalnet.com/abc/wedding/day.htm).

CEREMONY \$350 Chatman set her hypothetical, low-budget wedding on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship docked at Pier 88 on the Hudson River. Any Sunday between May and October, 50 of your guests can board the love boat at noon, watch as you and your intended exchange vows, and then celebrate with cake, dancing and champagne. But your friends and family have to be back on terra firma by 4pm, when you, your spouse and fellow cruisers set sail for Bermuda. (The price of the honeymoon cruise is not included in the budget.) The cruise line requires that couples who get married on board be accompanied by a consultant. Royal Caribbean's \$250 site fee includes silverware, china, table linens and two silk floral-petal arrangements. A wedding-officiator fee of \$100 does not include a rehearsal.

CAKE \$500 Charmaine Jones at Isn't That Special—Outrageous Cakes (722-

0678, www.foodstop.com/cakediva) offers 100 flavors of cake.

CHAMPAGNE \$350 Each guest will enjoy two glasses of Korbel champagne.

MUSIC \$250 You can hire a student from a music school to play for an hour during the ceremony for about \$100, but expect to pay an additional \$150 for three hours of spinning by a DJ from E.N.Y. Records and Entertainment (718-953-2252). Otherwise, Chatman suggests eliminating the DJ by assigning a family member or friend to play CDs on a boom box.

FLOWERS \$200 Blooming Elegance in Hoboken (201-222-7893) provides flowers for bride, groom, two attendants and parents.

DRESS \$300 David's Bridal (888-337-0925; locations in New Jersey, Yonkers and Brooklyn)

TUXEDO \$100 Rental from Zeller Tuxedos (locations throughout the city)

PHOTOGRAPHY \$500 The cruise line provides both a photographer and a videographer.

STATIONERY \$75 Twenty-five simple invitations and thank-you notes by Hallmark

TRANSPORTATION \$100 (two hours at \$50/hour) R&K Limo Services will take the bride and groom to the cruise ship and home after the honeymoon (718-763-5701).

GIFTS \$200 Be prepared to spend \$50 on each of your two attendants. For an additional \$100, spring for 25 silver-plated wedding bells—tied with a ribbon emblazoned with the names of the bride and groom—for guests to ring after the ceremony (throwing rice or flower petals is not permitted on the ship).

EXTRAS \$50 Chatman suggests using a guest book and five disposable cameras to capture the happy event.

TOTAL: \$4,975