

# march of the penguins

Matthew Perry loves penguins. Natalie Godwin loves Matthew Perry. It made perfect sense to bring them all together in one grand Texas wedding.

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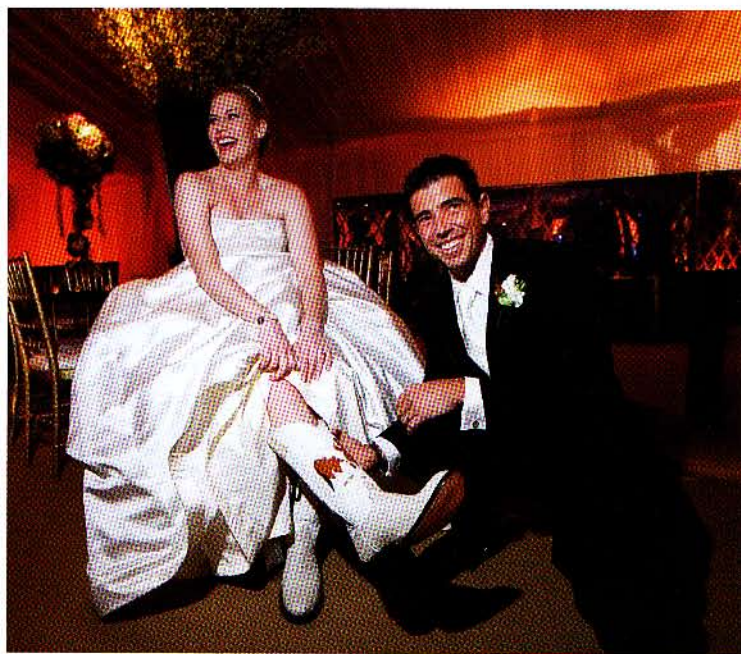
NATALIE GODWIN DISCOVERED HER FUTURE husband's affinity for penguins the first time she visited his Uptown apartment. She remembers her surprise at the trove of penguin-themed items—salt and pepper shakers, posters, stuffed animals, pillows. Clearly the man had a charming, if somewhat odd, passion for the black and white birds.

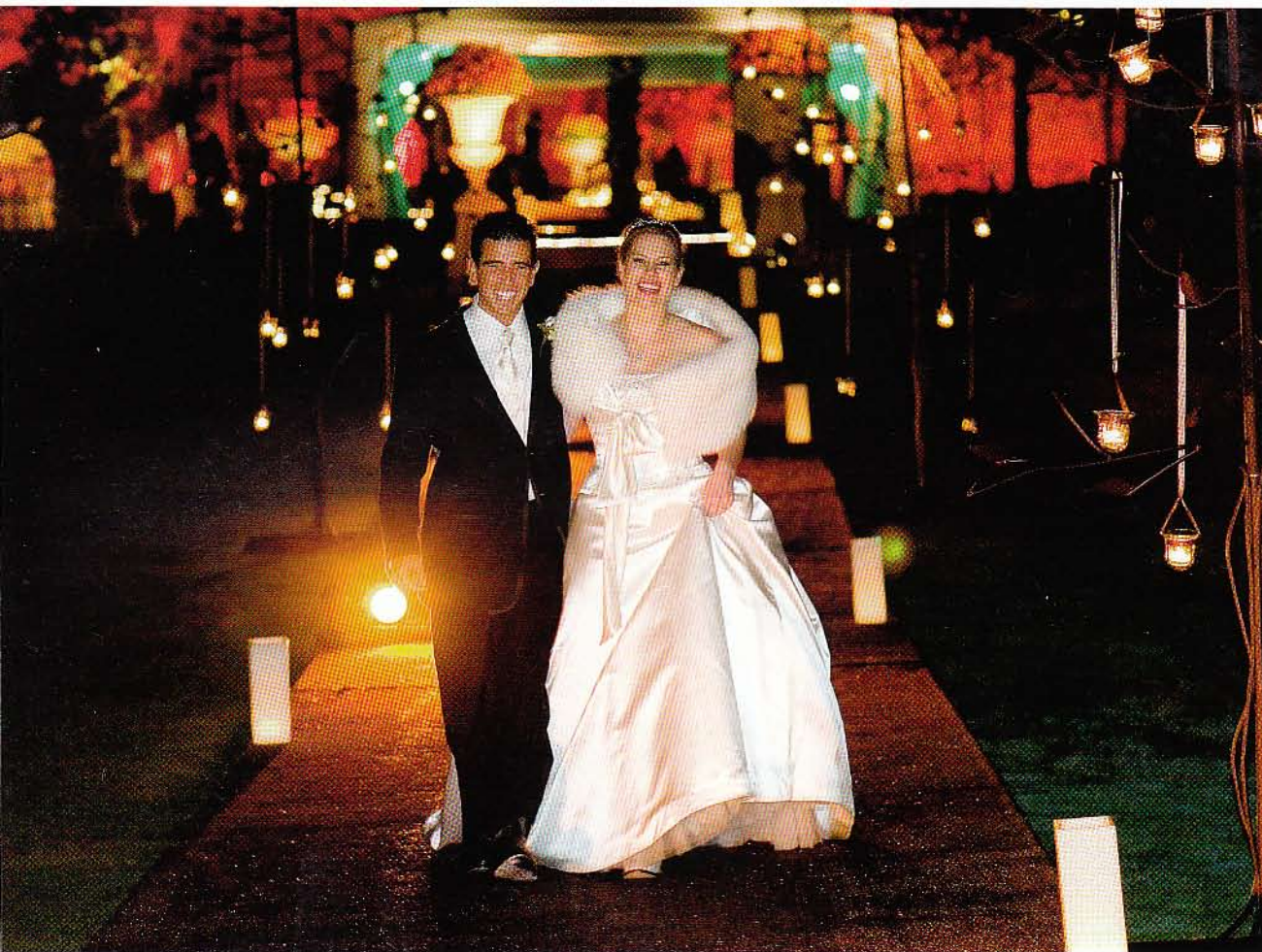
Matthew Perry (who is even more handsome than the *Friends* actor of the same name) has childhood memories of watching Saturday morning cartoons with his dad. *Chilly Willy* was their favorite. They loved laughing together at the antics of the little bird who was forever looking for a warm place to land, and those fun times instilled a lifelong affection for penguins in Matt, now 30.

Apparently, it just didn't seem right to get married without his feathered friends. And when Natalie and Matt were married last fall, the guests numbered nearly 700—plus a couple who are always dressed for the occasion.

Natalie, who was born and raised in Dallas, and Matt, who was born in LA and went to boarding school in Vancouver, met after he moved to Dallas to be near his three younger brothers, who were attending college at SMU. He was working with the Texas Tornado, in Frisco; she'd ventured out to explore purchasing tickets to the hockey team's games as part of her job as marketing director at the law firm Godwin Pappas Ronquillo.

Matt showed her around the arena, but the two didn't talk much about sports that day. At dinner a few nights later, they knew they were onto something special. And it wasn't long thereafter that Natalie met his penguin collection, his brothers, and the rest of the family.





They were all there, along with Matt's extended family from Britain, for the couple's November 18, 2006 celebration, which included a ceremony at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church and the first tented wedding reception ever held at the Four Seasons Resort and Club in Las Colinas.

It was a three-tent event, says Katy Taylor, director of catering for the resort, four if you count the kitchen. The whole undertaking was so large that the Four Seasons's

event lawn couldn't hold the party, which took place instead overlooking the 18th green. Construction started more than a week ahead of time, Katy says, and guests were taken out onto the golf course in shuttles.

Revelers first entered a tent with a large round table festooned with flowers. That's where they signed the guest book before the festivities and picked up their favors after. The main tent, where cocktails preceded dinner and dancing, was more than 13,000 square feet. The kitchen tent, complete with working ovens and running water, turned out hors d'oeuvres, such as crispy cones with wasabi mashed potatoes and caviar, and mains, including New Zealand lamb chops with gorgonzola polenta cakes and portobello mushrooms. The penguins—African black-footed penguins on loan from the Fort Worth Zoo's Wild Wonders Outreach Program, to be exact—had their own tent.

The merrymaking, complete with two bands and DJ Andy Austin, as well as four (yes, four!) cakes, lasted until 2 a.m., when the bride and the groom hopped in a golf cart and rode off into the night. You might say that Chilly Willy finally found a warm place to land. **D**



