

THE PERFECT ENGAGEMENT

Be it unique, creative or unusual, there are many ways to pop the question.

By LEOW YONG MAY

MARRIAGE proposals can be done in so many ways and at as many locations. We have seen countless ways to pop the question in the movies. From the unique train station proposal where Bill Pullman placed the ring on Sandra Bullock's train tray in *While You Were Sleeping* to the hilarious subway proposal, the nervous Colin Firth give in falling Portuguese, with a crowd of strangers supporting him in *Love Actually*.

Even so, it doesn't matter how it's done. A marriage proposal is a moment to be cherished and remembered. Here are some heart-warming proposal stories by our readers:

Proposal by the sea

WHEN David Lee, 26, and Elizabeth Kay Lee, 25, got together as a couple, they had established within themselves that the purpose of being a couple would mean that they would work towards a marriage.

After six months, Lee found himself in a jewellery shop looking at diamond rings. "While people would think six months is a little quick to be thinking of proposing, I had reasons to believe that the timing was right," said David.

Elizabeth, better known as Liz, who was 24 at that time, mentioned that one of her desires was to be married by 25.

"I did the maths: 24 plus one year of engagement would mean perfect timing," added David.

David eventually bought the ring, but it took him five months in preparation and anticipation for the right moment. He knew he had to come up with something private, as Liz wouldn't appreciate strangers in the presence of an important moment in her life.

David brought Liz back to Pasirang over the long weekend to celebrate his father's birthday. One evening, he brought her to a remote beach, and did what they both enjoy best: walking together and taking photos.

Instead of using the timer function to take a picture, David set the camera on video mode which also had the blinking light so Liz wouldn't suspect that the video was shooting. David managed to record the whole proposal on video.

With the setting sun as the backdrop accompanied by the sound of crashing waves hitting the shore, David went down on his knees (not one, but both) and asked for her hand in marriage. Liz was shocked as to what he was doing.

"She continued to ask if I was serious even after I pulled the diamond engagement ring out," laughed David. "But it was so nice I must say," added Liz. In the end, all David heard from Liz was her girly voice saying "yes".

A near Korean drama-like proposal

FOR Jason Kook, 28, shooting the attention of 22-year-old Hanh Wan was the best way to prevent her from finding out his proposal plans.

"Jason mentioned that we were going to buy the engagement rings that evening after work. Little did I know that he already bought the ring," said Wan.

Prior to that, Kook had no clue on buying a ring. He even played with Wan's fingers a million times before to measure her finger size. But it appeared to be a little effort



David Lee and Elizabeth.



David and Romy Lee.

"I didn't know that the shops were able to adjust the size of the ring in case it didn't fit," said Kook.

Fast forward to Day, Kook was feeling fidgety as he planned to pop the question just outside her workplace.

Instead of his usual routine of waiting for Wan in the car, he appeared at the entrance of her office. Apparently, it rained while Kook journeyed to her workplace.

"I thought, perfect!" said Kook. "I had the idea of proposing in the rain - with an umbrella, of course - and then close the umbrella and kiss her after she says 'yes' - just like how they would do in a romantic Korean drama."

But much to his dismay, the rain stopped the minute he arrived. Wan didn't expect anything from her beloved when she met him.

It took Kook a fair amount of labour to propose as there were strangers around. When he finally did, Wan was utterly speechless, and at the same time, looking around checking to see if her boss would be looking at them.

"I was shocked as he tricked me all this while!"

Both Kook and Wan were walking to the car when Wan suddenly realised she haven't actually given him an answer.

"I looked off in space again, and whispered, 'yes!'"

Light-house proposal

SARAH Ooi, 27 never knew how romantic Romy Lee, 29, could be till the day she was proposed to, at the lighthouse of Cape Rachado in Port Dickson.



Kook and Wan.

"When I scoured the area beforehand, I knew it was the perfect place to pop the question," said Lee.

With the lighthouse overlooking the ocean, Kook simply standing at the edge of the cliff. He agreed that Lee picked the perfect spot.

After the Malaysia reserve officials granted Lee's request to allow them to climb up to the lighthouse's observation deck, Lee started to gather his "proposal crew". He even drew a blueprint of the site and produced a timeline so his crew

shocked, overwhelmed and speechless" said the beaming Dai. "I said yes of course."

Lee said he treated his crew to a scrumptious seafood dinner after Dai said yes.

What if it's a no?

"Then my friends would have to give me a treat because I would have been a very sad man," laughed Lee.

When enough is not enough

AFTER eight years of being in a relationship, Paul Tan, 24, knew it was time to ask his girlfriend, Dora Hoon, 24, to marry him.

"A friend once said, if you are going to propose, do it big because it will only happen once," said Tan.

Tan searched online for ideas but he found the number he craved.

After much thought, he finally had plans - a few plans, in fact. To make it even more memorable, Tan planned to propose on Christmas Day.

He scattered rose petals on the floor in a family apartment in Cheras, and decorated the living room with roses.

Six. Wan didn't expect anything "special" to happen that night as she was tired.

They were sitting on the sofa when Tan excited himself to get Wan's Christmas gift. He then quickly tuned his guitar as he was going to serenade her before proposing.

When Tan returned to the living room, he found her sound asleep on the sofa.

Tan had no choice but to wake her up. Wan was happy to receive her gift - a photo album with all their past memories.

On the last page had lyrics to a song which Tan sang with all his heart.

To her surprise, the next page had the words "Marry Me" written out in ribbon. He went back to the room again and whipped out 99 red roses. When she was about to say 'yes', Tan said it wasn't enough.

"He sat me down near the balcony sliding window, took a thread that hung from the curtain rail, tied the thread to my fourth finger and yanked it. The ring then slipped down onto my finger," said Wan.

Tan then went down on his knee and asked the question again, and Wan said 'yes'.

"Sometimes a perfect proposal is a tad long and complicated, but it will forever be cherished" said the soon-to-be Mrs Tan.



Tan and Wan.

would have a clearer picture of his plans. "Video camera? Check. Flowers? Check. Ring? Check. Banner printed with 'Sweetheart I Love You! Will you marry me?' Check. Lee and his crew were all set to go.

However, the plan nearly went awry when Dai was feeling tired and not eager to travel that Sunday. After much persuasion, the party set off for Port Dickson.

"When we were at the top of the lighthouse, I didn't expect anything to happen as I was enjoying the sea breeze and the setting sun. I was distracted by the gorgeous view," said Dai.

Suddenly, Lee called out to his friends who were at the base of the lighthouse. His friend quickly unrolled the banner. It took Dai a while to digest that the message was for her.

"The moment I turned around, Romy was already down on her knee. I was