

RACHEL CRABTREE & MATTHEW MUCCIOLA 11.17.12

THE PROPOSAL: Every year, Matt's family has a "themed" Thanksgiving, and that particular Thanksgiving (2011), it was the "80's" theme. Matt had my family fly out to California for it. I wore my aunt's prom dress and Matt had on some sort of 80's work out gear - tube socks, short shorts and all! I had no clue what he was up to. After we all went around the table and said what we were thankful for, he strategically went last. That's when he got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. Everyone started screaming, and I was crying/laughing all at the same time. Of course I said yes! I couldn't believe we were finally engaged and wearing the 80's clothes made it even more unique and funny for us! .

He also made sure to ask my parents a few months beforehand for my hand in marriage. As far as the ring goes, we never went looking or even talked about it so I totally was shocked. He knew he couldn't get the ring in Chattanooga, and it would have to be from California so I wouldn't find out. He had in mind what he wanted to get me, so he would send pictures of things he liked to his parents and his best friend's wife in California. They would then email pictures of ring options and he would narrow down his favorites. With the help of friends and family and lots of picture messaging, he finally narrowed down his final decision. He had his parent's pick it up at the store in California and he finally got to see it in person the day we arrived for Thanksgiving. It was absolutely perfect and he had planned everything out during the whole process, all the while I knew absolutely nothing about the proposal. I just thought it was the traditional Thanksgiving family gathering.

PHOTOGRAPHER: John Bamber Photography - After looking at several local photographers online, I knew that this photographer was just the right fit for my wedding. It is a husband and wife team and everything I've seen them photograph is always so stunning and gorgeous. They have a special way of mixing classic, traditional shots with unique shots, and that's exactly what we were looking for. I could also tell that they weren't just a photographer with a camera, they are both skilled in the industry and have been in the business for numerous years.

We had two separate locations - I wanted to have the photo sessions in areas that were sentimental to me and had a special meaning. The first location was at my family's farm which features a true red barn, wooded gardens, and a gazebo my Dad built for my grandmother. This is where the photo shoot originated all with the Southern farm touch. It then transitioned to the railroad tracks outside of Council Fire, my parent's neighborhood. The black and white railroad photos look truly vintage and we closed out the photo shoot with an amazing sunset on the golf course. It had rained earlier that day so we were a little worried about the pictures later that day. Luckily, the sun came out and we had great weather! Since I am a little shy, I was a little nervous at first. Of course Matt picked up on this, and said funny things which always makes me laugh. John was especially great at making us comfortable to that helped as well. After the first few shots, we were good to go! He even allowed us to include our puppy "Willow" and she was all smiles for the camera. I have to say that they all turned out great, but I especially liked the train track ones. John did a great job and we cannot wait for the wedding pictures!

Behind the Story

Photographer John Bamber Photography



*Rachel Crabtree
&
Matthew Mucciola*

