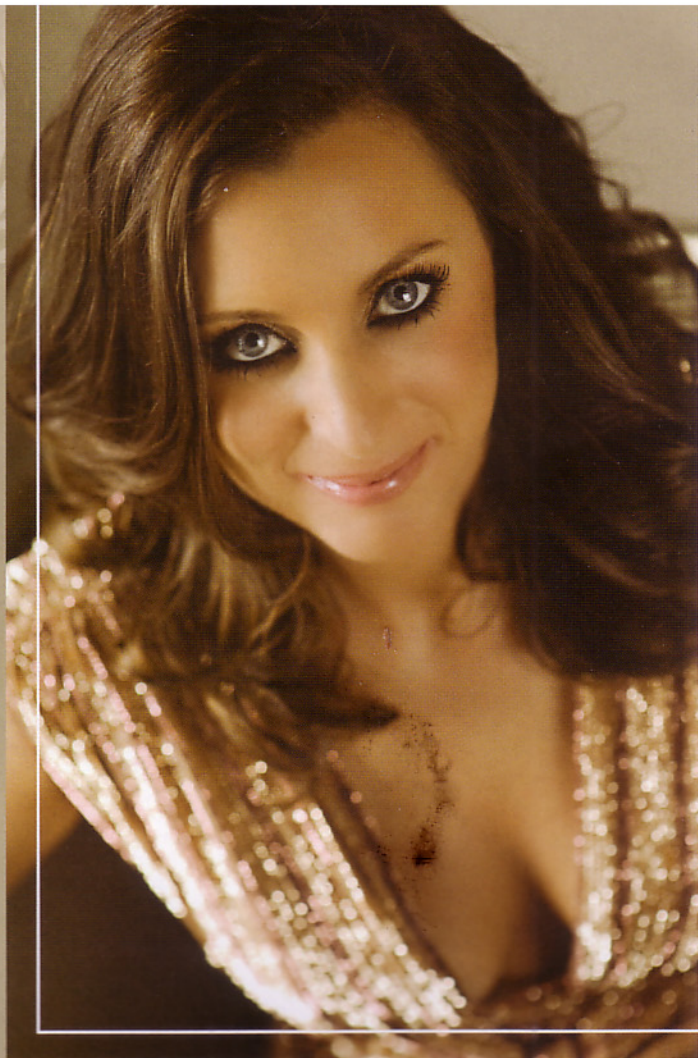


# Hello Brides to be!

**W**ell ladies I don't know how long it is to your big day but I hope it turns out to be as much fun as mine. I remember the build up to my wedding, I couldn't wait! It really is something to be excited about. Whether you're planning a big do with all the trimmings or it'll just be the two of you who say "I do" makes no difference, because either way getting married is a big deal. It certainly was the biggest day of my life, so it matters, it matters a lot. Which means there's huge emotion invested in this one day, which is what makes it so special, but it's also why you will want to plan your big day to the best of your abilities and most importantly, within your budget. And that's what this issue of RSVP vows is all about, giving you the best advice for every part of your wedding day. Now I'm very lucky, in my job on Ireland AM I've met many of the best in the business when it comes to weddings. So from hair to make-up to dresses, to flowers, to food, we're going to provide you with a complete A-Z of everything you need to know to make your day perfect and I'll be telling you exactly who I used for all aspects of my big day. Davie was incredibly involved in the planning of our wedding. I know that some women want to do it all and are happy for their fellas to just turn up on the day, and some men are more than happy with that arrangement. But it's been very much a joint effort for us, and I'm so glad about that. Choosing to have our wedding abroad was undoubtedly the single biggest wedding day decision we've made. And yes we did get a wedding planner, but to be honest if you're having a wedding abroad I don't think you can do it without one, and they don't cost the earth, in fact if they're good they're worth their weight in gold! Going into planning our wedding we thought we had very modern attitudes to marriage but as it turns out, we're both very traditional. So we've ended up having an Irish wedding in France, we got married in a church, with a choir, had dinner and a dance and thankfully the sun



shone beautifully. Now for the bits nobody will tell you, as I want to be honest with you. Unfortunately some women will get jealous, or be bitchy about your engagement ring, or your man or your wedding plans, let it wash over you, your true friends will only be happy for you. You WILL have a bridezilla moment, allow yourself to have it and move on. As for family I can only comment on my own. Both my family and Davie's were fantastic, they didn't cause a single problem between the lot of them, well so far anyway! Davie's mum was so thoughtful and gave me huge support through it all, while my own mum spent a huge amount of time helping me with the music, paperwork and priests! Thanks mum! But for some, families will mean complications. So just remember, this is your day, you're only going to do this once, do it the way you want it. But what will overshadow any disappointments you experience will be your friends and family who will blow you away with the amount of love, support and help they will give you. And the fact that planning a wedding is great, great, fun!

I loved choosing my bridesmaids dresses with the girls, picking out our wedding rings together, choosing the church readings together, and posting our invites out. Every stage of wedding planning is memorable. But everyone's wedding day journey will be different so the best piece of advice I can give you is the advice I have been given by exbrides- to-be, which is, don't sweat the small stuff! Davie and I have had plenty of tears, tantrums, laughter and hysterics, but once you keep the reason why you're getting married at the heart of your plans you won't go far wrong. I hope this helps in some way, and I hope what you find on the pages of RSVP Vows helps you to have the most special of days. Because when the all salmon has been eaten, when all the champagne has been popped and when all the confetti has settled, all that matters is that you love each other so much you have chosen to spend the rest of your lives together. Don't lose sight of that and you'll be fine. In fact you'll be more than fine, you'll be fantastic! Happy weddings to you all!

*xxx Sinead*

