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HITCHED!

At the stroke of Eid al-Adha, this unconventional couple tells the world: We're Getting Married!



Deha and Michael at a friend's wedding. Spring 2025.

KUALA LUMPUR: Everyone thinks the most romantic ways to meet are in slow-motion café encounters, dancing in the rain, or some epic love-at-first-sight moment. But they're not here for clichés. Deha and Michael met on Bumble. Yep, a dating app. And somehow, between swipes and emojis, they found each other. And honestly, they're killing it. Who says modern love can't look this good?

Let the record show: Michael Hauge did not expect to find the love of his life online.

He was Shanghai-seasoned, well-travelled, and thoroughly unconvinced that the right woman would appear as a thumbnail on his telephone. He downloaded the app anyway. This is how

most great love stories begin: reluctantly.

Deha Rahman had arrived at a similar position. A woman of taste and considerable personal standards, the modern dating landscape had not, to that point, covered itself in glory. She had been about to lose all hope entirely. And then his profile appeared.

What happened next is subject to some romantic revisionism. What is agreed upon: there was a match. There were messages. There was a first date, Michael's choice of cuisine, Indian, now immortalised in the crossword on page one. And then, at some point between the early messages and the first time they were in the same room, something shifted from interesting to undeniable.

Michael, characteristically, would

probably express this differently. He is not a man given to elaborate declarations.

He is more likely to hand you his grandmother's ring in a Dubai desert than to tell you how he feels in words. Classic Norwegian blood, they say. But the facts speak clearly enough: he found her, he recognised her, and he has not looked elsewhere since.

They are grateful, both of them, in the way that people are grateful when they understand how close they came to missing something. Different cities. Different continents. Different worlds. One app. One match. One long chain of coincidences that led, with surprising efficiency, to a nikah ceremony at sunset over the Kuala Lumpur skyline.

They never would have met otherwise. They try not to think about that too hard.

"Modern love has no dignity and no shame, and it gave us these two. We consider it redeemed," according to a correspondant at The Bureau of Modern Romance.

Their Sanding wedding celebration will take place on Saturday, May 30, in Janda Baik, just north of Kuala Lumpur. May all in attendance witness the birth of the next chapter of this extraordinary love story.

"It was love at first sight," Deha has said. "Or love at second sight, if we're only counting in-person and not his photos."

In this limited edition print, we wish to publish on official record their love story, adventures together, and backgrounds so all who witness the Sanding are well-versed in their respective histories.

Visitors from overseas may be enjoying their first trip to Malaysia or first traditional Malaysian wedding, so details related to the ceremony itself, recent Malaysian news, and other helpful contents may also be found inside.

Above all, treat this publication as a memento of a beautiful afternoon in the jungle and a treasured memory for you and your loved ones. Rain or shine, the flowers will be in full bloom on May 30, 2026.

Love is in the air.

WELCOME TO THE SANDING: A GUIDE

Drums, Dancers, Rose Water, and a Throne:

Everything You Need to Know Before Saturday in Janda Baik

JANDA BAIK, PAHANG: You have travelled far. You have dressed well. You are standing in a rainforest in the foothills of Pahang, surrounded by people who seem to know exactly what is happening.

The Malay wedding is one of the most layered, beautiful, and symbolically rich celebrations in the world. It draws from Islamic tradition, ancient Malay customs, and a deep cultural inheritance that stretches back centuries. It is also, for those unfamiliar with it, a great deal to take in at once. What follows is your guide, so that when the drums begin and the couple appears, you understand not just what you are seeing, but what it means.

First, an Important Distinction: The Nikah and the Sanding. These are two separate events, and understanding the difference will orient everything else.

The Nikah, which can be held the evening before the Sanding or the morning of, is the Islamic marriage solemnization. It is the religious and legal heart of the wedding: the moment the marriage contract is formally concluded. The *ijab* (offer) and *qabul* (acceptance) are exchanged between the groom and the bride's wali (guardian) in the presence of at least two witnesses.

The *mas kahwin*, the mandatory gift from the groom to the bride, her right alone to keep, is given. Prayers are offered. When this ceremony concludes, Michael and Deha are, before God and the law, husband and wife.

The Nikah is intimate and sacred. At this wedding, it took place at The Estate as the sun set over the Kuala Lumpur skyline, with guests dressed in white.



Deha's parents, on their wedding day.

The Sanding is what happens the following day. It is the cultural celebration: the public rejoicing, the communal feast, the elaborate ceremony through which the couple is presented to their families and guests as Raja Sehari, King and Queen for a Day.

The Nikah makes them married. The Sanding celebrates what that means.

At the centre of the reception space stands the *pelamin*, an ornate, elevated dais elaborately decorated with flowers, fabric, and gold. This is where our couple will be seated for much of the celebration, receiving the blessings of their guests. Do not be alarmed by how grand it is. That is entirely the point. For one day, the couple reigns.

Malay wedding dress is extraordinarily deliberate. Every element carries meaning.

The groom wears the *Baju Melayu*, the traditional Malay shirt, paired with a *sampin* (a folded length of fine fabric worn around the waist) and a *tank*, the distinctive Malay royal headpiece folded from a single piece of cloth in a style that varies by state and occasion.



Traditional Malaysian Songket.

The fabrics are typically *songket*, a sumptuous handwoven textile threaded with gold or silver, traditionally produced in the northern Malaysian states of Terengganu and Kelantan. *Songket* is not casual fabric. It is an inheritance worn.

The bride wears an elaborately structured ensemble in coordinated colours with her groom, paired with jewellery that may include necklaces, and a crown or floral hair arrangement.

The overall effect is one of regal splendour, and it is meant to be. She is, for today, a queen.

The *kompang* are the drums that announce everything. Before you see the couple, you will hear them coming. The *kompang* is the traditional Malay frame drum, struck with the palm and fingers to produce a resonant, rhythmic beat.

Kompang ensembles perform as their interlocking rhythms produce a sound that is simultaneously joyful and ceremonial. The drumming has roots in Islamic musical tradition, brought to the Malay archipelago through centuries of trade and cultural exchange with the Arab world and India.



Sentosa, Janda Baik. The Sanding Venue.

At a Sanding, the *kompang* ensemble accompanies the bridal procession, the rhythmic thunder of a dozen or more players building in intensity as the couple approaches the *pelamin*. It is impossible to hear *kompang* played well and remain unmoved. The sound is designed to reach something old in you.

Accompanying the procession are traditional Malay dancers. You may see *zapin*, a dance with strong Arabic and Islamic influences performed in precise, elegant footwork that arrived in the archipelago with Islamic traders and became entirely Malay as well. There may also be *joget*, a more animated, social dance form that invites participation and reflects the festive spirit of the occasion.

The dancers are not background entertainment. They are part of the ceremony, guiding the couple, framing the procession, and embodying the cultural heritage that this wedding is, in part, an act of passing forward.

The ritual you will remember the longest is the *Tepung Tawar*, the blessing of rose water.

As guests approach the couple on the *pelamin*, many will be invited to

continued on page 15



Deha Rahman, representing Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB).



Deha and her husband, Michael Hauge.

The Woman Balancing Billions and The Man She Manages

PNB's Most Trusted Accountant Also Manages the Nation's Most Complicated Asset: Michael Hauge

KUALA LUMPUR: In the offices of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB), the notable government-linked investment corporation that quietly holds the backbone of Malaysia's economy, there works an accountant of remarkable composure. Her name is Deha Rahman.

Her job is to make the numbers make sense. And for the past several years, she has done so with the kind of quiet precision that would make her late father, Major Abdul Rahman, immensely proud.

But to understand how Deha arrived at PNB, one must go back further. Back to a seventeen-year-old girl from Kuala Lumpur who sat an assessment that very few students in Malaysia are ever invited to take, and passed it.

At seventeen, Deha Rahman was awarded a government scholarship of remarkable high standards: a funded place to pursue her degree at the London School of Economics, one of the most prestigious universities in the world, studying accounting and finance. The scholarship is not handed out generously.

It is reserved for students who demonstrate, at an unusually young age, the kind of strong academic ability and great potential that a nation wishes to invest in. Deha was among the chosen few.

After her further studies in Malaysia, she packed her bags, left Kuala Lumpur, and went to London. She was twenty years old.

She worked hard and learned well. LSE is not a place that makes things easy

for students. It is a place that asks hard questions and expects strong answers.

It is a training ground for economists, finance professionals, and leaders who go on to shape institutions. Deha sat in those lecture halls, worked through those problem sets, and graduated with a degree in accounting and finance that she had earned in one of the world's most demanding academic environments, thousands of miles from home.

She then did something that speaks directly to her character: she came back.

Malaysia had invested in her. She returned the investment. She joined Permodalan Nasional Berhad, one of the most significant government-linked investment corporations in Southeast Asia, managing hundreds of billions of ringgit on behalf of the nation's investors, holding stakes in the country's most storied blue-chip institutions.

The work is serious. The responsibility is immense. And Deha, sharp-eyed and calm, shows up every Work-In-Office day, opens her spreadsheets, and makes it look effortless, leading submissions to the Securities Commission Malaysia.

"The numbers mean business," said a source close to the fund. "And so does she."

There is a kind of achievement that announces itself loudly, and a particular kind that simply accumulates, quietly, steadily, without requiring an audience. Deha's is the second kind. A global scholarship at seventeen. A degree from LSE. A career at the top of Malaysian

finance. She never made a fuss about any of it. She simply did the work.

Colleagues describe her as careful and organised, warm, and extraordinarily patient. This trait, insiders suggest, that was almost certainly forged through years of managing Michael Hauge's questions about Malaysian financial instruments at 11pm on a weeknight.

For Deha, the numbers have always told a story. And this May, the most important calculation of her life yields a simple, definitive result: her greatest assets increase by one.



*In loving memory of Major Abdul Rahman
1941 - 2022*

A NEW YEAR, A BIRTHDAY, AND A PROMISE: THE ENGAGEMENT OF DEHA AND MICHAEL

*On the 1st of January, at the Home of Uncle Nasir,
Two Families Gathered to Make It Official*

KUALA LUMPUR: The new year arrived, as it always does, with noise and light and the collective human insistence on fresh beginnings. But at the home of Nasir Wahab, brother of Faridah Wahab (Ibu), uncle to Deha and her siblings, the first morning of the year carried something quieter and deeper than fireworks. It carried the weight of tradition, the warmth of family, and the formal, blessed beginning of a new chapter.

It was Ibu's birthday.

That the engagement ceremony, the majlis bertunang, should fall on this day was not entirely coincidence. To gather the family in the home of Ibu's brother, to formalise the union of her daughter on the very day of her own birth, in the presence of the people who have always surrounded her: this is the kind of symmetry that families recognise as meaningful, and mark accordingly.



Ibu, the birthday girl, celebrates the engagement of her Daughter, Deha.

Al-Fatihah to Allahyarham Major Abdul Rahman, who was present in the hearts of everyone in that room.

In the Malay and Islamic customs, a formal engagement is not merely a social announcement. It is a structured and sacred ceremony, a covenant between families, witnessed and blessed, governed by traditions that carry centuries of weight. The process begins

with the merisik, the preliminary visit by the groom's representatives to the bride's family, to enquire in formal terms whether the match may be considered.

It is a gesture of respect and an acknowledgement that marriage is not only between two people but between two families, and that families deserve to be approached with ceremony and care.



Michael's brother-in-law, Lucas Sin, with Michael's friend and Learning Leaders co-founder, Hans von Meister. Both came to Kuala Lumpur strictly for the occasion.

At the majlis bertunang itself, the groom's family arrives bearing hantaran, gifts arranged on decorative trays, each presented with intention. The number of trays is traditionally odd, considered auspicious. The contents vary by family and region but typically include items of adornment, sustenance, and symbolic significance: a language of generosity expressed in carefully wrapped offerings.

The bride's family responds in kind, their own trays presented in return, the exchange a visible expression of two families reaching toward each other. The centrepiece is the exchange of the engagement ring, accompanied by doa, a prayer offered by an elder, asking for Allah's blessing on the union, for ease in what is to come, and for the couple to be brought together in the most honourable way. The ring is placed. The prayers are spoken. And what was private - a question asked in the desert outside Dubai - a yes given in the amber light of the Arabian evening - becomes public, witnessed, and held by the community.

Gathered as Malaysian families do: with food, with noise, with the layered warmth of people who have known each other across decades. The hantaran trays were arranged and admired. Photographs were taken. Children ran through rooms that suddenly felt small in the best possible way.



The engaged couple with their sisters, Camden Hauge Sin (L) and Najwa Rahman (R).

Michael arrived as he tends to arrive — with sincerity and without pretension, an American navigating an ancient Malay ceremony with the genuine respect of someone who understands he is not merely gaining a wife but joining a lineage.

The ring that Michael had carried across deserts and continents and cancelled visa applications was now, formally and before witnesses and before God, placed on Deha's finger in the presence of her family. Her mother, Faridah, birthday girl, matriarch, the quiet centre of everything, was there. Her brother Haziq and sister Najwa were there. Uncle Nasir's home held them all.



Michael and Deha, surrounded by Deha's uncles, the elders of her family who bestowed the couple with their approvals to wed.

Prayers were said. The new year stretched ahead. And somewhere in the middle of it, on a day that had always belonged to her mother, Deha Rahman became, officially, betrothed.

The wedding, it was agreed, would happen in May. At sunset. Over the Kuala Lumpur skyline.

And the sanding? In the jungle, on a balmy afternoon the following day.

The Tiger Sharpens its Claws: The World is Betting on Malaysia

***GDP Growth, a Semiconductor Boom, USD \$10 Billion from
Silicon Valley's Finest, and the Quiet Realisation From Investors***

KUALA LUMPUR: There is a particular satisfaction in watching someone make a bet early and watching the world slowly prove them right. Investors know this feeling. Entrepreneurs know it. And the guests at this wedding who have wondered, at some point, why an American entrepreneur would plant his flag in Kuala Lumpur, they are about to understand it.

Malaysia is having a moment. And the moment, by all indicators, is just beginning.

Malaysia's GDP grew at 5.2% in 2025, one of the strongest performances in Southeast Asia. In the final quarter of 2025 alone, the economy expanded by 6.3% year-on-year. Forecasts for 2026 project continued growth of 4.0% to 5.0%, supported by domestic spending, a healthy labour market, and a global technology investment wave that has chosen Malaysia as one of its primary landing zones.

To wit, Amazon Web Services, Google,

Microsoft have committed a combined RM74.8 billion (approx. USD \$16.9 billion) to Malaysia specifically.

Microsoft confirmed USD \$2.2 billion for cloud and AI infrastructure plus a National AI Centre of Excellence.

Google committed USD \$2 billion for its first-ever data centre in Malaysia. AWS launched the Asia Pacific Malaysia Region with a commitment of more than USD \$6.2 billion through 2038.

Malaysia handles a significant share of the world's semiconductor packaging and testing, centred in Penang.

Intel is investing USD \$7 billion in a Penang facility. The government's National Semiconductor Strategy targets RM500 billion in investments.

Semi exports grew to RM48.4 billion in early 2026, representing 32% of total national exports.

This is where the macro story and the personal one meet. The cloud infrastructure being built by Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, is the foundation

for AI services in Southeast Asia's most digitally capable mid-sized economy. For businesses in Malaysia, the question is no longer whether AI will transform their operations: it is whether they will lead that transformation or be led by it.

This is precisely the idea behind Pertama Partners: AI training and integration for mid-market businesses, and underneath it Pertama Capital, positioned to acquire and modernise the family businesses that form the backbone of Southeast Asia's real economy.

Michael looked at Malaysia, with its growth trajectory and its semiconductor spend, its young English-speaking workforce, and decided to build here. He did not move to Malaysia despite the economics. He moved because of them, before they became this obvious.

The data, arriving fashionably late, agrees with him entirely.



Hauge. (photo courtesy of Pertama Partners)

Next Stop: Below the Surface

***Michael and Deha Head to Indonesia, Where the Turtles Are, the
Coral Is Alive, and Childhood Dreams Finally Become Realised***

INDONESIA: When Deha Rahman was a little girl, she wanted to be a marine biologist. She loved the ocean, loved what lived in it, and reserved a particular, enduring affection for sea turtles - the ancient, unhurried, magnificently indifferent navigators of the world's warm waters. Life took her to the London School of Economics instead of the deep sea, and PNB rather than a research vessel. But the love of the ocean never left.

For their honeymoon, Michael and Deha are going to Indonesia, and they are going underwater.

The two of them will be get certified as open water divers in the Indonesian archipelago, one of the most remarkable marine environments on earth.

Indonesia sits at the heart of the Coral



Michael surprised Deha with a visit to a turtle sanctuary on Valentine's Day, 2025.

Triangle, a region of such staggering biodiversity that marine biologists have spent careers trying to document it. The reefs are extraordinary. The fish are countless. And somewhere in the blue, patient and ancient and entirely unbothered, there are turtles.

Deha will find them. She has been waiting her whole life to look them in the eye.

Michael, for his part, is venturing into the ocean with the same spirit he brings to most things: trusting that the person beside him.

Your generosity means the first chapter of their married life will be spent exactly where it should be: together, in the water, chasing turtles.

Scan to contribute to the honeymoon fund.

Password: honey



From Debate Champion-Maker to AI First-Mover

How One Man Turned a Generation of Winning Kids into a Vision of Southeast Asia's AI Future

KUALA LUMPUR / SHANGHAI: It started, as many unlikely empires do, with children arguing.

For over nearly a decade, Michael Hauge with his co-founder Hans von Meister, ran LearningLeaders, China's largest debate and public speaking training organisation for K-12 students. Under his leadership, LearningLeaders students did not merely participate in competitions.



Hauge, receiving the alumni award at Deerfield Academy, for a career dedicated to education.

They dominated them. World Championships. US National Champs. China National Champs. Asian Champs. European Championships too.

The trophies soon accumulated. The children grew eloquent, confident, and impressive. Parents wept. Coaches celebrated. Aristotle was chill with it. And Michael, equal parts ringmaster, coach, and person who always believes things will work out, stood at the centre of it all.

Then came the pandemic, and with it, the pivot to online learning. LearningLeaders moved to screens. The students adapted. The model held. And yet, somewhere in the quiet between Zoom sessions, Michael Hauge began to see what was coming.

Artificial intelligence, he realised, was going to eat the online tutoring market

whole. Not next decade. Not eventually. Soon. The business model was evolving.

"You could see it," he said. "The tools were getting better every six months. The question wasn't whether AI would replace human tutors, it was how quickly, and what to do about it."

Rather than resist the wave, Michael chose to ride it. He began building a mobile application to help parents navigate their children's education using AI: smarter planning, personalised pathways, a co-pilot for the modern family. The app drew interest. But something else drew more: businesses, one after another, began calling.

They had heard about his work. They wanted to know what AI could do for them.

Out of those conversations, Pertama Partners was born. Pertama is a training and advisory firm helping businesses integrate AI into their operations, not as a gimmick, but as a real change.

And then came Pertama Capital: an investment vehicle with a longer, quieter ambition. Southeast Asia is home to multi-generation family businesses, such as textile houses, logistics firms, trading companies built across generations by families who never imagined their grandfather's ledger would one day be

run by a language model.

Pertama Capital's aim? To acquire these businesses and modernise them from the inside out, deploying AI where it matters, and building equity as well.

The logic, Michael will tell you, is simple. "Training and teaching is what I love to do. But ultimately, I want to be directly accountable for the results."

The name Pertama, Malay for first, is no accident. It is a declaration. And for an American entrepreneur with Norwegian heritage, raised across countries, who found his second home in Kuala Lumpur, it feels exactly right.

Hauge remains, at heart, a teacher, and a coach. The man who shaped a generation of champions in the classroom is firmly moving into the boardroom.



Hauge, pictured at a debate tournament in 2017, with a long-time LearningLeaders family.

The Ring In The Desert: How a Cancelled Brazil Trip Became the Greatest Story They'll Ever Tell

A Postponed Visa, a Grandmother's Ring, a Spontaneous Photoshoot, and the Open Road to Oman

DUBAI / MUSCAT: The plan, originally, was Brazil.

A friend's wedding. Rio de Janeiro, or somewhere equally impossible and golden. Michael had the ring, passed down through the Hauge family. He had the intention. He had, he believed, the plan. It involved a sailboat, a sunset, and a the right moment.

Then the Brazilian visa was postponed. Indefinitely.

And so, as people who are good at life tend to do, they adapted. The destination became Dubai. The Emirates. The Arabian Peninsula. The desert.

It is worth pausing here to note the cosmic consistency of this: that Michael Hauge, a man who had first felt the full force of his decision in the dust of the Nevada desert, would ultimately propose in another desert entirely. As if the universe had a theme in mind all along.



The actual moment.

They arrived in Dubai and, somewhere in the ordinary logistics of travel, Deha made a suggestion. A photoshoot, she said. In the desert outside the city. Golden hour, dunes, the particular quality of UAE light that turns everything amber and cinematic.

She had no idea what she was setting in motion.

Michael, who had been carrying his grandmother's ring across continents and through cancelled visas and past multiple almost-right moments, heard the suggestion and felt the gears of the universe click quietly into place. Of course. The desert. The photoshoot. Her idea, his ring, the whole thing arranged by a combination of circumstances that no one could have scripted.

They drove out into the dunes as the sun began its descent. The light did exactly what UAE light does. It turned gold, then amber, then the particular rose that makes everything look like a memory even while it's happening. The camera was ready. The dunes stretched away in every direction.

And then Michael got down on one knee.

He produced his grandmother's ring. The one that had crossed Norway and New York, England and New England, and now the Arabian desert. He asked the woman he had found in Malaysia, the woman who had navigated the playa with him, the woman who manages billions for a nation and somehow still has patience for him, whether she would marry him.

She said yes.

What followed was one of the better surprise announcements in recent memory. And then, because the moment called for it and because they are precisely the kind of people who do this, they decided to visit Oman the next day.

Oman received them as Oman receives everyone: with remarkable hospitality, staggering landscape, and the particular calm of a country that he never felt the need to shout about how beautiful it is.

HOROSCOPES FOR THE COUPLE

PISCES: The fish swim in two directions, and Pisces has always known how to hold two worlds at once. London and Kuala Lumpur. Trumpet and Excel spreadsheet. Ocean and office. Today the stars place you on a pelamin and ask only that you receive what you have always deserved. Whether you decide to swim hard and fast, or gently flow with the current for a while, know that a Taurus stands beside you: steady, loyal, and absolutely certain. Lucky number: 18. Avoid: over-playing Sabrina Carpenter songs in the car. Please please please.

TAURUS: The bull. Patient and famously immovable once a decision is made. Some might even call it stubbornness. We don't know who those people are, though. Taurus does not rush. Taurus chooses well and stays chosen. Lucky number: 5. Avoid: engaging in squash competitions without stretching. Your Achilles tendon might rupture.



A loving moment watching the sun set.

In Oman, they drove. They hiked. They dreamed about the future. They took photographs in places they had not known they would see. They were engaged, and the world was large, and the road kept going.

They have been saying yes to each other ever since.

ONE GOD, ONE BILLION BELIEVERS: AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM FOR THE CURIOUS GUEST

The Faith at the Heart of This Wedding, This Family, and This Country, Explained With Warmth and Without Assumption

KUALA LUMPUR: Islam is the world's second-largest religion, with over 1.9 billion adherents across every continent and culture on earth. It is the official religion of Malaysia, woven into the constitutional fabric of the country and the daily life of its people. It is also, for many guests at this wedding, a faith seen from the outside - known by name but perhaps not well understood.

This article is an honest, respectful introduction. It is written for those who come from other traditions, or none, and who wish to understand something of the faith that shapes this ceremony, this family, and this country.

What Islam Is: The word Islam comes from the Arabic root s-l-m, meaning peace, wholeness, and submission. A Muslim - one who submits - is a person who has oriented their life around submission to the will of God, referred to in Arabic as Allah: the same word for God used by Arab Christians and Jews, a name without gender or plural, pointing toward a singular, absolute, and merciful divine reality.

Islam is, at its core, a religion of relationship - between the human being and God, and between human beings themselves. It is not primarily a religion of doctrine for its own sake, but of practice: of how one lives, gives, prays, eats, treats others, and carries oneself through the world.

The Five Pillars: Islam rests on five important practices, known as the Five Pillars - the structural framework of a Muslim life.

Shahada, The Declaration of Faith: "La ilaha illallah, Muhammadur Rasulullah." There is no god but God, and Muhammad is His messenger. To say these words sincerely, with full understanding and intention, is to enter the faith. The shahada is the first thing whispered into a newborn's ear and the last thing a Muslim hopes to say before death.

Salah, Prayer: Muslims pray five times daily: at dawn, midday, afternoon,

sunset, and night. These prayers are communal, directional (facing Mecca), and physical. The act of prostration - placing the forehead on the ground before God - is a physical expression of humility and gratitude. The call to prayer, the adhan, has been the sound of Muslim cities for fourteen centuries. If you hear it during your time in Kuala Lumpur, stop for a moment and listen.

Zakat, Obligatory Giving: The mandatory annual contribution of approximately 2.5% of one's savings above a minimum threshold, given to those in need. It is not charity in the Western sense of a voluntary act - it is a structural redistribution, a recognition that wealth belongs not entirely to its holder.

Sawm, Fasting: During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs from dawn until sunset. The fast builds understanding for those who go without, disciplines the self, and draws the community together. The breaking of the fast each evening, iftar, is among the most joyful meals a Muslim family shares.

Hajj, Pilgrimage: Once in a lifetime, if physically and financially able, every Muslim is called to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. At the Kaaba, millions of pilgrims from every nation on earth gather in identical white garments, erasing the distinctions of wealth and status, walking around the house of God together. It is, by any measure, one of the most remarkable human gatherings on earth.

Islam arrived in the Malay archipelago from the 13th century onwards, carried by Arab and Indian Muslim traders along the maritime Silk Road. It did not arrive by conquest but by commerce and culture, spreading through the port cities and royal courts of the peninsula until it became inseparable from Malay identity itself.

Today, Malaysia is approximately 60% Muslim. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the

King, is the constitutional head of Islam in the country. The adhan is called from mosque minarets five times daily. For the Malay Muslim, faith is not a weekend practice - it is a way of being in the world, present in how one greets a stranger (Assalamualaikum, peace be upon you) and how one begins a meal (Bismillah, in the name of God).

Islam shares deep roots with Judaism and Christianity, and exists in long conversation with the traditions of the East.

With Judaism: both believe in the one God, both follow dietary laws, both trace their roots to Ibrahim (Abraham). Muslims honour the Torah as divine revelation and consider Moses among the greatest of prophets.

With Christianity: the overlap is extensive and often underappreciated. Muslims revere Jesus - known in Arabic as Isa - as one of the most honoured prophets in Islam, born of a virgin, capable of miracles. The Quran devotes more verses to Mary (Maryam) than the New Testament does. The main difference is about who Jesus was: Christianity understands him as the Son of God; Islam understands God as absolutely one, and Jesus as a prophet rather than divine. This is a significant difference, but it sits atop an enormous shared foundation.

With Buddhism: both place remarkable emphasis on ethical conduct, compassion, and the importance of intention behind action. The main difference is about God: Islam believes fully in a personal God, merciful and intimately involved in creation. Classical Buddhism is generally not centred on a creator God, but on understanding the mind and relieving suffering. Yet both ask, with great seriousness, how a human being should live.

A word that appears in Islamic conversation, and that sets it apart from other faiths, is reversion rather than conversion. In this understanding, no one truly converts to Islam from the outside; they revert to a state that was always, in some sense, their own. To come to Islam is, in this framework, to come home.

This is a generous and welcoming theology. Islam does not ask where you have been. It asks only that you arrive. At this wedding, you will witness a faith being lived - in the Nikah ceremony, in the prayers offered, in the food prepared, in the names given and the blessings spoken. You are not required to share the belief to honour it. Curiosity and respect are more than enough.

Assalamualaikum. Peace be upon you.

THE SISTERS BESIDE THEM: NAJWA RAHMAN AND CAMDEN HAUGE SIN

One Is Reshaping Kuala Lumpur's Skyline. The Other Reshaped Shanghai's Dining Scene And Now Global Wine Trade. Between Them, They Have Not Wasted a Single Year.

KUALA LUMPUR / NEW YORK CITY: Behind every great love story, there are usually a few remarkable women making sure everything holds together. In this case, there are two - one on each side of the aisle - and they are each, in their own field, absolutely impressive. Enter Najwa Rahman.

Deha's elder sister, Najwa, has spent the past twelve months doing what she has always done: quietly outperforming every expectation. A rising force in Malaysian



Najwa Rahman. Demure and Elegant.

real estate management, Najwa works for Henry Butcher, one of the region's most established multinational property consultancies. In the last year alone she has been promoted not once but twice, each new responsibility a recognition that the person the firm gave the previous role to was handling it rather too capably to be left there.

Her current position: Building Manager of the Jendela Residence, a marquee

residential property adjacent to the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club, one of the most prestigious addresses in the city.

Jendela is not a quiet posting. It demands precision, authority, and the ability to manage complexity across multiple stakeholders simultaneously. Najwa manages it with the same calm competence that apparently runs in the Rahman family bloodline.

Michael's sister Camden is the kind of person who looks at a gap in the market and fills it like the patrons at her dining establishment fill their bellies - entirely.

She arrived in Shanghai and, looking at the city's café scene, concluded it needed an intervention. The result was Egg, a café that proceeded to win the title of best café in Shanghai for several years running. The kind of award that requires consistency, not just an opening night.

Not satisfied with redefining breakfast, Camden then turned to evening fare. Bird and Bitter, received acclaim among the best restaurants in Shanghai. Two different venues, yet the same standard of creative ambition and careful execution applied in equal measure.



Camden Hauge Sin. Timeless.

She was not finished. Camden founded the China Wine Club, a community for wine lovers across China, a call back to Shanghai Supper Club, an intimate dining experience that became a fixture of the city's social life for those lucky enough to get a seat. She built not just restaurants but worlds.

Camden now lives in New York City with her husband Lucas Sin, carrying her food and beverage career into the next chapter. Those curious about what she is doing next - and they should be - can follow at drinkchinawineclub.com.

About your Door Gifts

With every festivity, gifts are a must. Grateful for your presence with them, Michael and Deha have requested and arranged, with great efforts from Deha's family, some meaningful momentos.



Telur pindang (herbal eggs).

With every festivity, gifts are a must. Grateful for your presence with them, Michael and Deha have requested and arranged, with great efforts from Deha's family, some meaningful momentos.

The telur pindang you will receive are indeed a great source of lean protein, but importantly a traditional symbol of fertility in Johorean culture.

The honey is another reminder of the late Major Abdul Rahman's presence with us today. He loved wild forest honey from the tualang tree. There are two varieties: lighter (milder and sweet) and darker (bitter). Both equally healthy and valuable.

Michael also calls Deha 'madu saya' or 'my honey,' when feeling affectionate.

Finally, is the frangipani, the symbol of the wedding itself. The frangipani is the flower that Deha and Michael believe represents their love for each other: the near-symmetry, the effortless elegance, and the sweet-smelling aroma that you cannot help but draw close to your nose.

Thank you, once again, for joining this special occasion. It means everything to us. We know that whether you've come from near or far, you can take some treasures home with you.

THE HOLE TRUTH: HOW DEHA RAHMAN MASTERED THE NEW JERSEY BAGEL

KUALA LUMPUR: Every week, without fail, Michael and Deha Hauge have a date night.

This is not a small thing. In the accumulated busyness of two people building businesses, managing careers, travelling internationally, planning a multinational wedding with three separate events, and somehow also maintaining a music studio, the deliberate, scheduled, non-negotiable act of showing up for each other every week is, quietly, one of the most romantic things about them.

The rules are simple. They take turns. Three weeks a month, Michael plans. One week, Deha. The activity, the venue, the theme - entirely at the discretion of whoever holds the planning responsibility that week. It has produced, over the course of their relationship, an archive of evenings: some ambitious, some simple, some that have entered the permanent record of their shared mythology.

The bagel date is at the top of that record.

To understand the bagel date, one must first understand Michael Hauge's relationship with New Jersey. New Jersey, and more specifically the New York metropolitan food culture to which it belongs, has produced one of the world's great culinary gifts: the bagel.

Not the pale, doughy, supermarket approximation that circulates in countries that should know better. The real bagel. Boiled before baked, with a crust that gives and a chew that earns it. The kind that requires a proper smear, a paper bag, and a decade of muscle memory to truly appreciate.

Michael appreciates it. Deeply. Viscerally. With the conviction of someone who has eaten enough of the real thing to be permanently intolerant of imitations. Deha noticed this.

And so, on a date night that was hers to plan, Deha Rahman - accountant, and trumpeter, woman of remarkable capability - decided she was going to make bagels. From scratch.

Our correspondents report there is now a weekly request in the Hauge household for bagels. Tastes like home.

The Man Who Got a C in Penmanship, The Woman who Grew Up in a Gallery

***On Art, Beauty, and What Happens When Two Families With
Extraordinary Taste Converge at a Rainforest Wedding Venue That
Owns an Original Picasso***

KUALA LUMPUR / JANDA BAIK: Let us begin with the facts, as reported and not disputed: in the second grade, Michael Hauge received a C in penmanship. This is the earliest available evidence that whatever gifts he was given, the fine motor variety was not among them.

Michael himself is the first to admit this. He approaches art the way a person approaches a language they love but speak imperfectly: with genuine passion, great enthusiasm, and a cheerful acknowledgment that the execution does not always honour the intention. And yet.

He is, despite the penmanship grade, a man of budding artistic taste. He has spent years in genuine admiration of Hiroshi Nagai, the Japanese visual artist whose work defined a certain vision of 1980s urban romanticism. Nagai's paintings - their eternal sunsets, their cool blue swimming pools, their palm trees and the particular ache of a summer evening that never quite ends - occupy a precise emotional frequency that Michael finds irresistible. He has created work in his home inspired by Nagai's aesthetic. Whether this represents a faithful homage or a spirited interpretation is a matter of perspective. It exists. It is on the wall. He is proud of it. And will tell anyone who visits Senandung Kemaris all about it.

He also admires Chinese calligraphy - the discipline of the brush stroke, the philosophy that a single line can carry both technique and spirit. For a man who received a C in penmanship, this is either deeply ironic or deeply logical. Perhaps both.

Deha's relationship with art is intuitive and inherited, and the inheritance is remarkable.

Her mother, Puan Faridah Wahab, served as the Director of the National Art Gallery of Malaysia. Deha grew up in a home where art was not decoration but conversation, where the question of what is beautiful - and why, and what it means - was part of the ordinary texture of daily life. This explains why Deha has the eye she has.

Why, given any creative task, she approaches it as someone who has always known the difference between something made and something made well.

The artistic lineage does not stop there. Camden Hauge, Michael's sister, read History of Art at the University of St Andrews. Jennifer Hauge, Michael's mother, is a devoted admirer of the Wolf Khan and W.M. Turner, the whole glowing tradition of painters who decided that light was more interesting than outline. Emily, Michael's godmother, holds a PhD in the History of Art from Princeton University.

On one side of this wedding: the daughter of Malaysia's National Art Gallery Director. On the other: a family that includes a Princeton art historian, a St Andrews art history graduate, and a devoted Impressionist. In the middle: Michael, who got a C in penmanship and painted some Hiroshi Nagai on his wall.

He is, one suspects, aware of his position in this arrangement. He occupies it with good humour.

Guests who come to Sentosa in Janda Baik expecting only a beautiful Kampung-style rainforest wedding venue will find that, but they will also find something they did not expect.

Sentosa, under the care of its owner Omar, houses one of the finest private collections of Islamic art and Malaysian artists in the country. Guests are warmly encouraged to spend time at the Islamic Art Gallery on site, and to explore the other buildings on the property, where original works of considerable significance hang quietly among the greenery.

Search carefully. In another building, you will find an original Picasso.

A Picasso. In a rainforest in Pahang. At a wedding.

This is, we submit, exactly the kind of detail that belongs in a newspaper about our couple, who have consistently managed to occupy remarkable spaces with remarkable family.

Michael's handwriting is low-grade. Everything else, in this family, is considerably higher.

The Champions, The Jersey, and The Family That Plays Together

A Story of Athletic Love, Loyalty, and the Tennis Court Where It All Began.

LONDON / KUALA LUMPUR: In the mid 1990s, a young boy from New Jersey made his first trip to England with his family. He came back with something that would define the next three decades of his emotional life: a loyalty to Arsenal Football Club so absolute, so clear, and so magnificently unrewarded for twenty-two consecutive years.

He waited through the Invincibles era and the long, confusing decline that followed. He waited through the Wenger years and the post-Wenger years. He waited through top-four finishes that felt like consolation prizes and title challenges that dissolved in spring. He watched. He suffered. He renewed his commitment annually, with the particular stubbornness of someone who understands that loyalty only means something if it costs you something.

And then, in May 2026, the same month he is getting married, Arsenal won the Premier League Championship.

Deha does not follow football the way Michael does. This is widely understood and entirely beside the point, because what Deha does follow, with the precision of a PNB accountant and the attentiveness of a woman who has been paying close attention, is Michael.

For his birthday last year, she arranged an Arsenal cake. For their wedding, as a gift to the man she is about to marry, Deha sourced an autographed Arsenal jersey.



Hauge, signing a new lifetime contract.

She found, procured, and gifted him a signed jersey from the club he has followed since childhood, in the year they won the title, in the month they are getting married. There are people who spend years in a relationship without ever quite understanding what their partner cares about. Deha understood immediately and acted on it.

Arsenal face the Champions League Final on the evening of the wedding sendoff. For any guest who wishes to extend their celebrations into the night, Michael is organising a watch party at midnight in downtown Kuala Lumpur at The St. Regis Hotel. (If you want in, contact Michael directly. COYG!)

He has waited twenty-two years for a title. He will not be watching the Champions League Final alone.

Sport, in the Hauge household, is not a spectator activity.

Deha swam competitively for seven years and played water polo - a sport that demands physical strength, tactical intelligence, and the ability to stay composed while someone is trying to drown you. She continues to train seriously: group fitness classes and weight training are a regular part of her life.

Michael arrived at adulthood with a sporting CV that reads like a boarding school prospectus. Ice hockey. Soccer. Competitive squash at university. Golf. Tennis.

It is the tennis that carries the most weight. Michael's parents, Jennifer and Stephen Hauge, met on a tennis court. This is not a metaphor. They were playing tennis. They met. They married. The sport that introduced them is, in the Hauge family mythology, not merely a game but an origin story. Michael and Deha have taken this legacy forward, as tennis dates are a new feature of their life together. Deha serves. Michael smashes.

Michael and Deha do not yet have children. They have, however, given the matter some thought. They hope to pass on the love of athletics and sport as a genuine inheritance: the understanding that the body is worth respecting, that competition teaches certain lessons classrooms cannot, that playing together is one of the ways families stay close.

The courts or fields may change. The instinct runs constant.

EO Comes to KL: The Global Village

KUALA LUMPUR: Building a business is hard. Building one in a foreign country, or two, or three, is harder still. What makes it possible, more often than not, is the people around you.

For Michael Hauge, the Entrepreneurs' Organization has been that community. EO Shanghai welcomed him when he was growing LearningLeaders in China. EO Malaysia welcomed him again when Kuala Lumpur became home.

Entrepreneurs' Organization is a global peer network of over 18,000 business owners across 60+ countries: people who understand your ups and downs, without requiring explanation, what it takes to back yourself, carry a payroll, and keep going when the easier choice would be to stop. Michael has found his people in these rooms, in both hemispheres.

At this wedding, EO is well represented. Guests have travelled from the United States, Belgium, France, Spain, Pakistan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Singapore. This is a gathering that doubles, rather fittingly, as a snapshot of Michael's global professional life.



Michael, with his EO Shanghai Forum mates, at his 2025 birthday dinner in Madeira, Portugal.

Entrepreneurialism runs in Deha's family as well, as her late father, Major Abdul Rahman and her mother, Puan Faridah, both started and ran their own businesses for decades, before and after pursuing other careers in the military and in the arts, respectively.

The spirit of marching to their own drummers runs strong in the married couple, who know that the paths in life worth taking are not always the best marked, the most well-trodden, or the safest.

The best entrepreneurial ventures, it turns out, sometimes end in a Kampung rainforest in Pahang.

The Stephen B. Hauge Puzzle Page

Dedicated to the greatest father, teacher, strategist, and word enthusiast that a family could ask for. Good luck!

Word Search

BATIK
DURIAN
FRANGIPANI
HAUGE
KOMPANG
KUALA LUMPUR
MALAYSIA
NASI LEMAK

N A S I L E M A K M F Y U
K G C N R I V H A U G E K
M R E N D A N G R Q E B G
A O R A N G U T A N H W E
L B V Y Z L Y H X A Y L F
A W A D D D A B K Y T Z P
Y I P T E H U I O R D I K
S L K A I H N R U G V S O
I R N D Y K A T I O N Y M
A S F R A N G I P A N I P
M W H T O S A N D I N G A
K U A L A L U M P U R B N
T U A L A N G H O N E Y G

NIKAH
RENDANG
SANDING
TUALANG HONEY
DEHA
TURTLE
ORANGUTAN

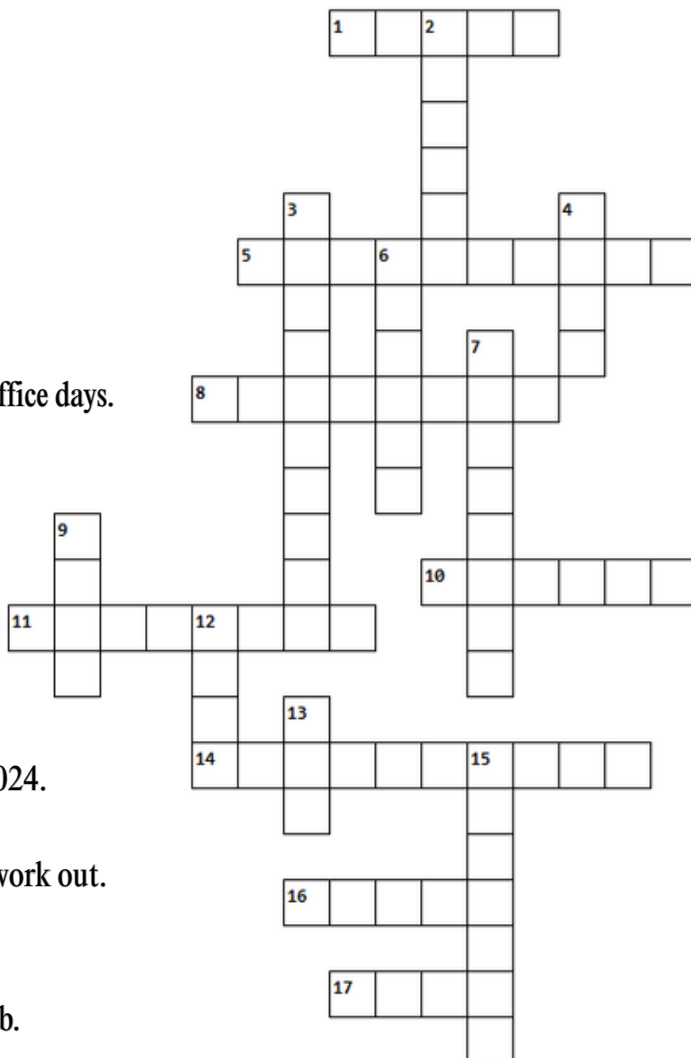
Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. The city where Michael got down on one knee.
5. The band in which Michael played drums.
8. Deha's all-time favourite Malay comfort food.
10. The cuisine Michael chose for our first date.
11. Michael's affectionate pet name for Deha.
14. The building where Deha spends most of her Work In Office days.
16. Our shared favourite music genre.
17. An Arabic word meaning "sacrifice."

Down

2. The accessory Michael is famously obsessed with.
3. The quality Michael most admires in Deha.
4. Michael's signature haircut in his best years.
6. The manly sport that led to Michael's Achilles injury in 2024.
7. The quality Deha most admires in Michael.
9. The country we travelled to when a Brazilian visa didn't work out.
12. The sport Deha competed in for seven years.
13. The desert acronym where the proposal truly happened.
15. Michael's undisputed choice for the greatest football club.



FROM SCHOLAR TO MASTER OF CEREMONIES

*The Foundation That Sent Her
to London Chose Her to Stand
Before All Its Alumni*

KUALA LUMPUR: Yayasan Dayadiri (YDD) is not an organisation that gives its scholarships lightly. Its overseas university programme selects, from among Malaysia's most promising young students, a small number of recipients to be funded through degree programmes at leading international universities. The selection is rigorous.

The honour is significant. The expectation, implicit in every award, is that the scholar will go, will excel, and will return to serve.

Deha Rahman was one of those scholars. At thirteen, YDD backed her. She went to Kolej Yayasan Saad, a top-ranked boarding school just outside of the city of Melaka.

The relationship between Deha and YDD did not end with her graduation. These things rarely do when the scholar in question turns out to be exactly the kind of person the foundation hoped it was investing in. This year, for the YDD Annual Meeting 2026, the organisation looked across its entire community of alumni and chose Deha to serve as Master of Ceremonies.

Not a participant. Not a panellist. The MC. The person who holds the room, sets the tone, and represents the organisation's alumni body to itself and to the world. After the event, she was recognized by board members and the Chairman himself on her control over the room and her poise and skills.

It is a recognition that goes beyond academic achievement. It speaks to presence, capability, and the kind of trust an institution places only in those it knows will carry the occasion with distinction.

She came home and of course made them proud. Then she came back and ran their annual meeting. This is what a return on investment looks like.



Deha presents in front of all YDD alumni, including its Chairman. August 2025.

Across the Rift Valley: on Safari in Kenya

NAIROBI / THE MARA: There is a particular kind of friendship that survives distance, time zones, missed calls, and the general chaos of adult life without losing any of its warmth. Michael and Deha have cultivated several of these. The kind that stretches across continents and manifests, when the moment requires it, as a last-minute flight to East Africa.

The occasion was a wedding - a friend's family celebration, steeped in Indian tradition, held against the

backdrop of one of the most remarkable countries on earth. Kenya does not ease you in gently. It arrives all at once: the scale of the sky, the colour of the red earth, the particular intensity of equatorial light that makes everything look as though it was painted with intention.

The wedding itself was a full immersion in Indian ceremonial tradition - colour and music and ritual layered over days, the kind of celebration that takes the idea of gathering seriously, that understands a wedding is not only between two people but between two families, two histories, a confluence of everything that brought everyone to this particular place at this particular time.

Michael and Deha, no strangers to cross-cultural celebration, felt in Kenya entirely at home. This is one of the gifts of a life built across cultures: the ability to sit inside someone else's tradition and find not foreignness but familiarity. To recognise the shapes of love and celebration even when the language and the dress and the food are entirely new. And then: the Mara.

The Maasai Mara is not something one adequately prepares for. You can watch every documentary, read every travel piece, look at every photograph, and still, the first morning on the savannah will undo you. The light arrives slowly, then all at once, turning the grassland from grey to gold.



At the wedding festivities in Naivasha, Kenya.

continued on next page

Kenya, continued from page 13

The animals move with a casualness that suggests they know exactly how magnificent they are. A herd of elephant, unhurried. A pride of lion, settled in the shade. A giraffe, improbably tall against an impossibly blue sky, eating breakfast with tremendous dignity.

Michael and Deha sat at the edge of the great plain and watched the world go about its ancient business, and felt, as people tend to feel in such places, very small, very fortunate, and very glad to be alive and together.

They took photographs and they will show them at every dinner party for the rest of their lives.



On the Maasai Mara.

What Kenya gave them, beyond the images and the memories, was something harder to photograph: the reinforcement of a belief they already hold. That the world is wide and worth exploring. That friendship is one of the great organising principles of a good life. That showing up - crossing oceans, taking the flight, being there - is always worth it.

Their network of global friends is not an accident. It is the result of years of saying yes to the world.

Michael and Deha also support a number of Kenyan entrepreneurs, especially single monthers, through microlending on Kiva.org. If you'd like to learn more how you can contribute, please don't hesitate to speak with Michael at any point during the sanding.

The Royal Wedding Party

Thank you to family who made it possible.

Deha's Family

Father

Allahyraham

MAJOR ABDUL RAHMAN

Mother

FARIDAH WAHAB

Elder Brother

HAZIQ RAHMAN

Elder Sister

NAJWA RAHMAN

Michael's Family

Father

STEPHEN HAUGE

Mother

JENNIFER HAUGE

Elder Sister

CAMDEN HAUGE SIN

Brother-in-law

LUCAS SIN

Fairy Godmother

EMILY BAKEMEIER

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen

SHIREEN SHAHIZAD

BRIAN O'TOOLE

LETISYA SULAIMAN

ADIL KHAN

NINA KAREENA

HANS VON MEISTER

NEHA SHAH

AMOS DENNY

BALQIS ZEDREEN

MICHAEL DIZGUN

ZAHIRA SAYEEDA

JAMES O'BRIEN

Partners and Venues

Prep by Agnes

Sentosa Janda Baik

The Flower Bar KL

The Estate at Federal Hill

Tiara Awatif

Visual Diaries

Binwani's

Sufalens

Fafa Bartending

Mastika Catering

Love Stories Asia

Zai Sri Gemilang Catering

RHYTHM & ROMANCE: THE MUSICAL LIFE OF THE HAUGES

One Plays Trumpet and Sings. One Plays Drums. Together, They Have a Studio, a Karaoke Habit, and an Open Invitation.

BANGSAR: It is a truth universally acknowledged that a couple who makes music together is deeply, irreparably fun to be around. Michael and Deha Hauge are evidence of this.

The musical histories began separately, as all the best duets do.

Deha Rahman grew up with a trumpet. She played in her school orchestra for years, developing the lung capacity, the ear, and the discipline that formal music training produces in anyone who sticks with it. She did stick with it. She is, by all accounts, the more technically accomplished of the two, and she has never let Michael forget this. She also sings - effortlessly, joyfully, in the manner of someone who genuinely cannot help it. In cars. In kitchens. At karaoke bars, where she is, witnesses confirm, impressive.

Michael came up through percussion. Drums, primarily - the rhythmic backbone, the thunder beneath everything else. He graduated from school orchestras to something considerably less formal: Loose Booty, a funk band based in Shanghai, in which Michael played drums and, by all available evidence, had the time of his life. Funk bands in Shanghai are not a common thing. Loose Booty were, apparently, exactly what they sound like: loud, groovy, and deeply committed to the low end of the frequency spectrum.

Together, they make the kind of couple who will, at a moment's notice, turn any gathering into a musical one. Their home in Bangsar contains a small music studio, not a professional facility, not a vanity project, but a working space with instruments and the particular creative mess of people who actually use what they own. Guitar against the wall. Keyboard waiting for itchy fingers.

The door is open. They mean this literally.

Friends who come to visit are liable to find themselves holding an instrument before the evening is out. This is not accidental.

Michael and Deha believe, with the conviction of people who have lived it,

that music is one of the cleanest forms of human connection - that sitting in a room with instruments and people you love, making something together, is one of the better uses of an evening.

Their karaoke dates, a tradition maintained across multiple cities and time zones, operate on a similar principle: that joy is loudest when it is shared, and that taking yourself too seriously is the enemy of a good night. Deha, armed with a trumpet player's breath control and a genuine love of performance, approaches karaoke as one might approach a concert. Michael approaches it as a drummer: with enthusiasm, questionable pitch, and complete commitment.

It is, those who have witnessed it report, magnificent.

In a world of passive entertainment, Michael and Deha have chosen, again and again, to make their own. The studio is real. The invitation is open.

Bring an instrument. Or just your voice. The door is unlocked.

Sanding, continued from page 2

participate in the tepung tawar, the traditional Malay blessing ceremony.

The name means roughly "plain flour" or "neutralising powder," and the practice involves the application of a fragrant blessing mixture to the couple's hands.

The central element is air mawar, rose water, its scent cool and sweet, sprinkled gently over the couple's joined hands. This is often combined with beras kunyit (yellow rice stained with turmeric) scattered over the couple as a symbol of prosperity and fertility, and sometimes a white rice paste applied by the fingertips of elders and honoured guests. Each element carries meaning: the rose water purifies and blesses; the yellow rice calls for abundance; the touch of a respected elder carries their prayers forward into the couple's life together.

When you are invited to offer your blessing - and you may be - step forward without hesitation. Dip your fingers.

Sprinkle the rose water. Think of something good you wish for them. You will be, in that moment, part of a tradition far older than any of us.

You do not need to know all of this to enjoy the Sanding. The warmth of a Malay wedding is not conditional on expertise - it is given freely to everyone present. But knowing something of what you are witnessing will, we hope, turn a beautiful day into an unforgettable one.

Watch the kompang players. Follow the procession. Let the dancers move past you. When the rose water is offered, accept it. And when Michael and Deha take their place on the pelamin, understand that what you are seeing is not merely a reception. It is a ceremony of remarkable depth, generosity, and beauty, performed in your honour as much as theirs.

Selamat datang. You are always most welcome here.

Our Wedding: Photos and Videos

Document and share your favorite moments. And share them with the couple!

To make memories of our special day available to all, we will be sharing a photo album after the wedding festivities with all who joined us to celebrate.

If you'd like to help contribute and record your favorite moments with family and friends, please help!

All it takes is to scan the QR code below and upload photos, videos, or messages to the bride and groom.

We can't wait to see our special day through your eyes, as well as ours.



سنتوسا، جندا باءك

SENTOSA, JANDA BAIK

٣٠ مي ٢٠٢٦

30 MAY 2026



Schedule

Arrival of Guests

1PM Blessing Ceremony

2PM Lunch Served

Photos with Deha & Michael

3:30PM Zapin Dance in Islamic Art Gallery

5PM Guests Depart