



IN AN EMOTIONAL CEREMONY BIF NAKED WEDS HER SOULMATE, VANCOUVER SPORTSWRITER IAN WALKER

The happy couple honour both their parents' faith and the bride's Indian heritage in a special day full of family, friends and love

Some weddings are so spectacular they are destined to generate headlines, and the marriage of Juno Award-winning rock star Bif Naked and *Vancouver Sun* sportswriter Ian Walker was one of those affairs. The popular punk princess, born Beth Torbert, and her reporter beau tied the knot in a traditional church ceremony Sept. 29 at St. Andrews Wesley United Church in downtown Vancouver, and *Hello! Canada* was invited to share their special day.

The intimate celebration – which honoured

both of their parents' Christian faith and the country of Beth's birth, India – kicked off on Friday night with a cocktail party in the lavish two-floor penthouse suite of Vancouver's Metropolitan Hotel, where close friends and family gathered to toast the happy couple. Stealing a few moments away, Beth and Ian revealed the story behind their unlikely union.

One could, after all, be forgiven for wondering what they might have in common. Born to teenage boarding-school students in



Canadian rock icon Bif Naked (Beth Torbert) and Vancouver Sun sportswriter Ian Walker wed in a traditional church ceremony in Vancouver on Sept. 29 (opposite and above). 'When she came through the doors with her dad, everything went slow motion,' he shares with Hello! Canada.



Bif Naked and her hubby Ian Walker may come from different worlds, but they share a youthful love of life

New Delhi, India, Beth was adopted by American missionaries and raised in Winnipeg. The 36-year-old singer has spent the past 17 years touring the world, sharing stages with the likes of Billy Idol and Sheryl Crow.

Ian, a 34-year-old sports reporter, has whiled away the hours watching games, barbecuing steaks and blasting rap music. Unlike his globetrotting girl, he doesn't possess a passport.

But just a few hours with the energetic duo reveals why they've chosen to spend the rest of their lives together. Both the bride and the groom possess a remarkably youthful spirit – a love of life that proves utterly infectious.

"I knew Ian from the gym," Beth tells *Hello! Canada* on the eve of her wedding. "I usually have earphones in so nobody talks to me, because I only have a spare hour. But Ian kept saying 'Hi' to me. He was very

nice, always a ray of sunshine.

"I hadn't dated in two years and I had a convalescing little dog and there was just no way," she continues. But Ian persevered, asking her out time and time again. "It didn't really occur to him that I was saying no – and that's him," Beth says with a laugh. "He's just always positive." So she decided to give him a chance. They went to see *Aladdin*, a children's musical. "If you



Wedding planner Soha Lavin of Countdown Events says Bif Naked and sportswriter hubby Ian Walker (above and top left) wanted to create an event that was warm, exotic and full of family, friends and love. The result was a lavish reception at Maurya restaurant in Vancouver, complete with gourmet Indian food and Bollywood dancing (left). "In my meetings with Bif, I found that she has exquisite taste and loves colour," Soha says. "She is a classy lady and loves elegance as long as it's not stuffy."



'If you boil it down, we're both kids. We really are. We want to have fun,' says Ian

boil it down, we're both kids," Ian remarks. "We really are. We want to have fun." Beth teases: "Ian's inner child actually lives on the exterior."

The rock icon says she wasn't sure about her hubby-to-be until the end of their first date. "It was cold, he parked far away and I was in *Mansolos*," she explains. "I was like, 'No, no, no, this is not going to work.' He dropped me off. He gets out, opens the door, big smile, exuberant. He didn't falter ever and he kissed me right on the mouth."

And that was it. Five months later, in May of 2007, Ian proposed at a small dinner party, after asking Beth's longtime manager, Peter

Karroll, for his blessing.

At the wedding, Ian stood nervously at the altar. As a soloist's voice soared through the stone cathedral, Beth appeared on the arm of her father, Kenneth Torbert, and made her way toward her smiling fiancé. Breathtaking in a cream Clara Couture gown with a custom-made, Indian-inspired veil, Beth joined Ian at the altar and wept openly throughout the ceremony, which included scripture readings from his minister parents, Gillian and Eric Walker.

Then it was on to Maurya – a fine-dining Indian restaurant in Vancouver that had been adorned with thousands of colourful handmade orchid garlands – to celebrate with family,

friends and a feast of butter chicken, followed by Bollywood dancing.

"When she came through the doors with her dad, everything went slow motion," Ian tells *HELLO!* *Comed* at the lively reception, gazing adoringly at his new wife. "Standing there with him, holding hands and putting the ring on him definitely [was the highlight of the day]," Beth adds, radiant with happiness. "We're kids all the time and suddenly it's a really grown-up moment for us. It's very endearing and very special to me." **41**

REPORT: TARA HENLEY
PHOTOS: JEFF VINNICK