

AFM Behind the Bash: Baby's 1st Birthday

Written by Written by Susie Tyler-Alofs

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Susie Tyler-Alofs provides the inside scoop on a fairytale first birthday party in Scottsdale, envisioned by acclaimed party planner, David Tutera.



Precious Moments

Every mom and dad dreams of making special memories for their little ones, and this first birthday was just one of many for this family of three. The birthday girl's parents enlisted none other than David Tutera, celebrity wedding and event planner, to execute their vision. They also hired nationally recognized photographer Erica Velasco to capture this special day.



Under the Big Top

What made this celebration successful was not the incredible venue, The Silverleaf Club, nor the beautiful décor. It was the meaning behind the day, a celebration of their daughter with special friends and family who matter most to them.

In keeping with this vision, Tutera worked his magic. Always remember that no matter how elaborate your party is, it is ultimately about the guests and the thought-out experience you provide for them. When planning any event, big or small, ask yourself: What is it that you can inject in the party that evokes emotion? What can you do to make your guests feel special or inspired?

Tutera executed this very rule of entertaining and opted for a circus theme. People of all ages love the circus, and it was the perfect way to engage and inspire the little guests. From the color scheme, to the array of exciting entertainment (magician and caricaturist) and activities (photo booth), the circus theme was apparent. "This vintage circus theme was not only a party for her first birthday, but a time to celebrate with such an incredible family," Tutera says.



Please Be Treated

Dinnertime presented a kidfriendly menu of sliders, hot dogs, French fries and sweet potato fries. And, of course, there was popcorn, a huge candy display with take-away bags—and even fresh cotton candy. All kids, big and small, left this magical day with a beautifully wrapped chocolate candy apple favor from Enjou Chocolat and one huge smile on their faces.

FUN & GAMES

Simple ideas to kick up kids' party games.

- Tug of War. Decorate the center of the rope.
 - Musical Chairs. Theme the music to your party, like girl-power songs.
 - Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Trying pinning earrings on an enlarged photo of the birthday girl.
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PARTY PROS

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Cake: Sedona Cake Couture, www.sedonacakes.com.

Caricature Artist: Nancy Kartoon, www.nancykartoon.com.

Favors: Enjou Chocolat, www.enjouchocolat.com.

Magician: Shawn Greer, www.idealmagic.com.

Photo Booth: Va Va Voom Photography and Entertainment, www.azvavavoom.com.

Planning and Décor: David Tuter, www.davidtutera.com.

Photography: Erica Velasco, www.ericavelasco.com.

Venue and Catering: The Silverleaf Club, www.silverleafclub.com.