

"GMA" WEDDING

# Good Morning, Mr. & Mrs. Abundiz

**W**E DID EVERYTHING BUT KISS [the bride] ourselves," *Good Morning America* anchor Diane Sawyer told *Us weekly* about the June 22 wedding of Peggy Beeuwsaert and Lorenzo Abundiz, which was televised on the show. The Rancho Cucamonga, California, couple's love story was selected from thousands of entries in GMA's "Happily Ever After:

Love in Times Square" contest, earning them an all-expenses-paid wedding. It wasn't the first time the two got lucky: Beeuwsaert, 33, a personnel administrator, and Abundiz, 47, a retired fireman, had been dating for one month in 1998 when he was diagnosed with a rare form of tissue cancer that he eventually beat. They exchanged vows in New York's Times Square in front of 4 million television viewers, 200 guests and a Dalmatian named Rebel, who served as the ring bearer. A horse-drawn carriage brought the newlyweds to a reception at the hip Hudson Hotel, after which they were off to honeymoon in Ireland. Sawyer said her own wedding 13 years ago to director Mike Nichols couldn't compare to the lavish ceremony. "[Ours] was so small and half-baked and hilarious," she said. "If we had *half* of the romance of this wedding, it would have been great."

KATE LEE



Rebel, the ring bearer

Guests threw rose petals instead of rice.

Sawyer (second from left) prepares to raise a glass with coanchor Charles Gibson, correspondent Lara Spencer and Lorenzo and Peggy Abundiz (from left).

