

Star-kissed nuptials

Fairy-tale ending for Douglas, Zeta-Jones

By RUTH BASHINSKY
and NAUSH BOGHOSSIAN
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Hollywood lovebirds Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones were in honeymoon heaven yesterday as eager fans waited outside The Plaza, hoping for a glimpse of the newlyweds.

Inside and outside the posh Manhattan hotel, the \$1 million nuptials were still the talk of the town, a day after the star-studded event.

The 56-year-old Douglas kissed his bride three times after a female judge, who presided over the ceremony, pronounced them husband and wife.

The tough-guy actor was teary-eyed as he told guests that the 31-year-old Welsh-born actress is the girl of his dreams. They chose "Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me," by Gladys Knight for their first dance together.

Zeta-Jones was given away by her father, Dai, a retired candy salesman, who told guests, "Michael's made Catherine's life complete."

Holding the couple's 3-month-old son, Dylan, Douglas's mother, Diana, remarked, "This may prove to be Dylan's first conscious memory."

Douglas' 21-year-old son, Cameron, was the best man, and his father, Kirk, was the leader of an army of Hollywood royalty that included Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks and Jack Nicholson.

For security reasons, each of the 350 guests — also among them Sharon Stone, Martha Stewart, Jon Bon Jovi, Art Garfunkel, Heather Locklear and Richie Sambora — had to wear a gold rose pin and their hands were stamped.

Though most wine and dined, some celebrity guests were put to work: Ashford and Simpson performed "Solid" and singer Bonnie Tyler sang her "Total Eclipse of the Heart."

Oliver Stone, who directed Douglas in "Wall Street," said Zeta-Jones looked like Snow White, adding, "Catherine is Guinevere, and Michael is Lancelot."

Hours after the glitterati left the party, some of the hoi polloi braved the cold outside The Plaza, cameras strapped around their necks. Police Officer Alan Eskenazi, who was in charge of crowd control yesterday, tried to discourage the looky-loos from waiting.



UP CLOSE Actors Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones pose after their \$1 million wedding Saturday at The Plaza. The glittery, guarded affair attracted some 350 guests, including Tom Hanks and Jack Nicholson.

"Do you think they're just going to come out of the front entrance to see a crowd waiting for them?" he asked with an amused smile.

But die-hards such as Danielle Cox, 19, and Gary Cildicott, 21, from Birmingham, England, decided to stick it out. Fans of Zeta-Jones from her days on the British television series "The Darling Buds of May," more than a decade ago, the duo noted that the wedding has been a hot topic in the British tabloids.

"The mood in England is that we're disappointed that she didn't get married in Wales, where she's originally from," Cildicott said.

Not everyone in the crowd was excited about seeing the pair. Deb Avioli, 29, who was visiting from Annapolis, Md., was going to stay only as long as her cigarette lasted.

"I think it's kind of goofy for people to just wait around," said Avioli. "It's not like they're going to stop and say, 'Hi,' to us."



HOPING FOR GLIMPSE Onlookers wait outside The Plaza yesterday hoping to see newlyweds.