



A KISS IS *Still a Kiss*



This spring one video brought out the romantic in millions of viewers. Its creators have their own love story to tell. **BY RACHEL MOSELY**



GREEK LIFE *Top and above:* Tatia wore a custom gown by Jaclyn Hodes. Andre collaborated on his suit with Patrik Milani, the costume designer on Andre and Tatia's next film. *Right:* The couple in linked crowns, a staple of Greek Orthodox nuptials. *Below:* Guests could swim between houses rented for the week.



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TATIA PILIEVA AND ANDRE Lascaris know a thing or two about romance. The Los Angeles-based pair (a director and a cinematographer, respectively) became a couple after spending four days in a tent on set while they were students at the American Film Institute. Ten years later they got more than 80 million people (and counting) hooked on a study in intimacy. *First Kiss*, their short film showing the titular encounter between 10 pairs of strangers, went viral in March, bringing them international recognition. "It was, in some ways, an extension of our own love affair," Tatia says. Last September they married in Mitzela, a tiny village three hours north of Athens where Andre's family has owned land since the 1960s. "It's the real deal," he says. "No white houses with blue shutters—no Greek postcard stuff." Andre and Tatia wanted the wedding, which they planned themselves, to incorporate both their heritages (his, Greek; hers, Georgian).

She performed a traditional Georgian dance (in the groom's words, "graceful, feminine, proud, powerful—everything I love about her"). Locals Andre had known since childhood threw rice at the newlyweds during a post-ceremony walk through the village. "It was a celebration of the entire community," Tatia says. That celebration continued into the morning, as guests—including

Andre's 90-year-old grandmother—danced barefoot all night. "Friends keep asking when we're going to reaffirm our vows," Andre says. Next up for the couple is their first feature, *Forever*, due later this year. Like *First Kiss*, it explores romantic love. "We're beginning to notice a trend," Tatia says. "But I think we can always use more love stories." •

