

the year of LIVING DANGEROUSLY

**TWO NASHVILLE LAWYERS
EMBARK ON AN AROUND-THE-
WORLD HONEYMOON**

ON A SWELTERING FRIDAY AFTERNOON in late August, Nashville attorneys Derek Hughey and Shanna Singh were as delightfully preoccupied as a couple on the verge of their nuptials could be. Earlier that day they'd picked up Singh's wedding dress, just before heading downtown to sign their wills. This was no average day.

Now here they were, sauntering into the forever bustling Fido coffeehouse in Hillsboro Village. Hughey, a 35-year-old Nashville native and veteran of elite local firm Bass, Berry & Sims, had the visage and gait of a man satisfied with his current station in life. Singh, 29 and a former Oval Office intern in the Clinton White House, was less casual but equally cordial. Every bit the quintessential happy couple, Hughey and Singh were in the midst of preparing for a 365-day sojourn, an around-the-world expedition, the honeymoon to trump all honeymoons.

The pair, who were married in Michigan on Sept. 2, are now in the midst of their yearlong honeymoon. They've dubbed their journey "One Year on Earth," and they're charting their progress on a blog: www.oneyearonearth.com. Depending on when you're reading this, Hughey and Singh might be in Malaysia, Indonesia, Macao, or China. Between now and next September, they'll spend time in numerous exotic locales on four different continents (five if you include North America), among them Cambodia, Chile, South Africa, and Slovenia.

How did all of this come to pass? It began in January 2006, when Hughey and Singh met through friends. They quickly discovered a shared love for travel.

"I guess we'd been dating a few months before we started talking about it," Hughey said.

The couple traveled together to Myanmar last summer, a trip that amounted to a trial



SHANNA SINGH AND DEREK HUGHEY

run. Afterward they began talking about marriage—they got engaged in November of last year—and about a honeymoon of epic proportions. In crafting their itinerary, they chose destinations that might be less practical in later years, with children in tow. They also wanted to see parts of the world that are in the midst of rapid change (e.g. Macao, Cambodia, and China).

"You always go to places and you meet people and they say, 'Yeah, this place is awesome, but man, if you'd have been here ten years ago, it was really awesome then,'" Hughey said. "So we're trying to go the places that we'll be able to say down the road, 'Man, you should have been here ten years ago.'"

Hughey and Singh also plan to engage in a number of community service projects over the course of their journey, including working with impoverished children in Cambodia, with AIDS patients in South Africa, and with a microfinance organization in India. Though their blog will primarily allow them to stay in touch with family and friends, they hope it will also help them identify additional service opportunities.

"We're hoping that the blog will help us find legitimate service organizations that aren't trying just to charge tourists money to meet poor Chinese people," Singh joked. "The service angle was really important to both of us."

A yearlong honeymoon may not be the ultimate test of a marriage, but it can't be far off. Hughey and Singh conceded as much, but said they were much more

excited than worried.

"We've talked a lot about it," Hughey said. "We feel like we should be nervous, but we're not."

"You're more nervous than I am," Singh interjected. "I'm not."

Hughey paused, nodded and quietly agreed with his soon-to-be wife, then continued.

"The key," he said, "is you have to have a strong relationship before you go, and we obviously think we have a strong relationship. We'll find out."

—Alex Carey

LISTINGS

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FINE ART EXHIBITIONS AND
ONGOING SHOWS AROUND TOWN

FRIST CENTER

The Société Anonyme: Modernism for America

(Oct. 26-Jan. 26)

Life's Pleasures: The Ashcan Artists' Brush with Leisure

(Through Oct. 28)

fristcenter.org

CHEEKWOOD BOTANICAL GARDENS & MUSEUM OF ART

A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era
(Oct. 6-Dec. 30)

Scarecrows!

(September 29-November 4)

cheekwood.org

TAG ART GALLERY

Front Gallery: Michael McConnell
(October 6-27)

Back Gallery: Nick Butcher
(Oct. 6-27)

tagartgallery.org

PARTHENON

Erin Harmon
(Through Jan. 5)

Maureen McCabe
(Oct. 19-Jan. 12)

nashville.org/parthenon/Galleries.htm