



**RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS
PRESENTS**

Four

W E D D I N G S

and an

Elvis



BY NANCY FRICK

DIRECTED BY KIMBERLY LEONE

PRODUCED BY WESTON WEBER

January 24 - February 2, 2025

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM DONORS AND THE FOLLOWING:



Professional Touring Artist Series

LARA DOWNES AND RITA DOVE

the CenterStage at Reston Community Center

2310 Colts Neck Rd. Reston, VA 20191

Saturday, February 22

8:00 p.m.

\$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston



Hailed for her “luscious, moody and dreamy” playing by the New York Times, pianist Lara Downes is equally celebrated as a musical innovator and cultural investigator. In this collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rita Dove, she presents a kaleidoscopic evening of music and poetry inspired by myriad stories of migration and transformation.

Mindy Cooper • Director

Ian Wallace • Projection Designer

“A trailblazing pianist who combines exquisite musicality with an acute awareness of how an artist can make a positive and lasting social impact.”

—The Piano Magazine

www.restoncommunitycenter.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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We are celebrating family this season at Reston Community Players, and we hope you enjoy tonight's offering, *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, is a comedy about finding family in the strangest of places, celebrating their differences, and cherishing the love that surrounds us, however it finds its way into our hearts.

There's an incredibly important message here, and its apt for our time. A few months ago, we shared *Fiddler on the Roof*, the story of Tevye and his family (with over 2300 of you!) and how tradition and love, change and stability, joy and sorrow all need to find a balance in the world. A few months from now, we'll bring you *Mel Brooks' The Producers*, which redefines family in entirely different ways -- just wait until you meet Shirley Markowitz!

In the meantime, we are grateful to you -- those of you back for another great evening in the theatre and those of you here for entertainment, or a diversion, or to see friends onstage. You're joining a company of artists who are much like you: some returning, some here for the first time, and that is what's magical about the Reston Community Players. We strive to build a community where both audiences and artists want to return again and again.

We hope you will join us again, and beyond the audience, RCP runs on the energy of volunteers: over 160 unique individuals lent us their time and talent last year to build sets, sew costumes, serve on backstage crews, usher and more.

RCP is a big family of artists, audiences and volunteers, and we are here for it.

As always, I'm here for you if there's anything you need or want to talk about, just shoot me an email. Enjoy!

Michael Barret Jones

President, Reston Community Players

President@restonplayers.org

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Four Weddings and an Elvis

By Nancy Frick

Directed by Kimberly Leone

Produced by Weston Weber

January 24 - February 2, 2025

RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS IS FUNDED IN PART BY



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"Welcome to our production of "Four Weddings and an Elvis," a comedy that promises not only laughter but also moments of surprising depth and reflection. Set in a whimsical Las Vegas wedding chapel, this play brings together a diverse array of characters, each with their unique story and reason for being there.

As a director, I hoped to balance the humor of this show with the unexpected emotional layers that each character brings. The setting of a Las Vegas chapel, known for its quick and often impulsive weddings, serves as the perfect backdrop for the comedic chaos that ensues. However, beneath the surface of each humorous encounter lies a deeper exploration of love, commitment, and people just making their way through life the best they can.

The wonderfully eccentric characters in "Four Weddings and an Elvis" each add their own flavor to the narrative. From the hopeful romantics to the jaded skeptics, they all converge in this chapel, bringing with them a mix of hilarity and heartfelt moments. This fabulously talented cast has breathed life into these roles, skillfully navigating the fine line between comedy and drama, ensuring that each laugh comes with a moment of genuine connection.

I have found uncovering the layers of each character with this cast incredibly rewarding even as we laughed out loud at the absurd situations in which they find themselves. The moments where we get to pull back the curtain and glimpse into their inner lives add unexpected richness to the comedy, making the humor more resonant and the characters more relatable. We have aimed to create a production that celebrates the unpredictability of love and the myriad ways it can manifest. Whether it's through a spontaneous wedding or a heartfelt confession, "Four Weddings and an Elvis" reminds us that love is often found in the most unexpected places and moments. It also offers a chance to celebrate those moments when fabulous, unexpected people wander into our lives as they do every day in Sandy's Chapel of Love.

And finally, this show gave me the pleasure of remembering each and every rehearsal I married the man of my dreams in a drive-thru chapel in Vegas more than 20 years ago and I have the Polaroid wedding photo to prove it.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We hope you enjoy the laughter, the surprises, and the heartfelt moments that make "Four Weddings and an Elvis" a truly special experience.

Viva Las Vegas!

Kim Leone, Director

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Sandy.....	Lori Brooks
Bev.....	Emily Dawes
Stan/Producer.....	Dan Dymond
John.....	Sean Je
Lou.....	Scott J. Strasbaugh
Vanessa.....	Michelle Kritzler
Bryce.....	Moses Kutz
Marvin.....	Tyler Cook
Fiona.....	Kathy Ohlhaber
Fist.....	Anthony Pohl

DESIGN & PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Weston Weber
Director	Kimberly Leone
Stage Manager.....	Mai Le
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Patrick Hammes
Running Crew Chief.....	Weston Weber
Running Crew.....	Patrick Hammes, Mai Le, Elizabeth Shafer
Technical Director.....	Sara Birkhead
Set Designer	Kimberly Leone
Master Carpenter	Dan Widerski
Set Construction Crew.....	Benjamin Archie, Sara Birkhead, Lina Dajani, Nikko Elliott, Sean Jefferson, Francis Koscieszo, Anna Mintz, Thomas Pulisic, Tim Skjerseth
Scenic Paint Designer	Kim Leone
Scenic Painters.....	Jacquelyn Duval & Patrick Hammes
Set Decoration Design.....	Kimberly Leone
Properties Designer.....	Kimberly Leone
Properties Crew.....	Sohaila Hamidzada
Light Designer.....	Franklin Coleman
Master Electrician.....	Benjamin Archie
Light Board Operator.....	Cecilia Hilliard
Sound Designer	Elizabeth Shafer
Sound Board Operator.....	Brian Altmiller
Costume Designer.....	Lisa Leary
Hair & Makeup Designer.....	Kyle Chua
Photographer.....	Heather Regan
Playbill.....	Liz Colandene & Michael Barret Jones
House Management.....	Lina Dajani

SETTING

The Time:
2010 - 2012

The Place
A Vegas Wedding Chapel

WATCH* THEATRE REFERENCE GUIDE

ACCTAldersgate Church Community Theatre	ASGTAnnapolis Summer Garden Theatre
BCTBowie Community Theatre	CFTCCity of Fairfax Theatre Company
CPAColonial Players of Annapolis	CRTCastaways Repertory Theatre
DTCDamascus Theatre Company	DSDominion Stage
FCTFauquier Community Theatre	GACGreenbelt Arts Center
HBPHard Bargain Players	KATKensington Arts Theatre
LMPLaurel Mill Playhouse	LTALittle Theatre of Alexandria
MCPMcLean Community Players	MPMontgomery Playhouse
PPFProvidence Players of Fairfax	PTPPort Tobacco Players
PWLTPrince William Little Theatre	RCPReston Community Players
RLTRockville Little Theatre	RMRockville Musical Theatre
RTPRooftop Productions	SMPSt. Mark's Players
SPSterling Playmakers	SSISilhouette Stages
SSPSecond Star Productions	SSSSilver Spring Stage
TAPThe Arlington Players	VLOCVictorian Lyric Opera Company

*Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) Member

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LAS VEGAS WEDDING CHAPELS - A SHORT HISTORY by Jerry Morse

The year was 1930. The country was in the grip of a deep depression. Clark County, Nevada's largest and where Las Vegas is located, had 8,532 citizen. 5,165 of these citizens lived in Las Vegas proper. To a person, they were all doing poorly. Something had to happen, and it had to happen quickly.

In the thick of regional poverty and Prohibition, Las Vegas leaders needed something to tax, but also were looking to create the infrastructure needed for a tourist economy. So in 1931, Gov. Fred Balzar made history by legalizing all forms of casino gambling. He established Vegas as a city "where rules, inhibitions and restraint weren't welcome."

Legalized gambling was an instant success. It was then not a stretch to include what some might consider to be the greatest gamble, a quickie marriage. Clark County instituted the most lenient marriage policies in the country. Unlike other jurisdictions that required blood tests and waiting periods before licensing marriages, Las Vegas expedited the process, allowing for legal marriages to take place in a day. In 1939, 5,305 marriage licenses were issued in Clark County. In 1941, 21,000 Vegas marriages were performed...

**BOTH ARTICLES ON THESE PAGES ARE
EXCERPTED FROM LONGER PIECES WRITTEN
BY JERRY MORSE.**

**THE FULL ARTICLES CAN BE FOUND AT
WWW.RESTONPLAYERS.ORG/PASTSHOWS**



HOW ELVIS BECAME PART OF LAS VEGAS WEDDING CHAPELS HISTORY by Jerry Morse

There are two events, either one alone or the two together, that describe the role Elvis played in Las Vegas wedding chapels history. The first event involved the filming and subsequent release of the movie, VIVA LAS VEGAS (1964), starring Elvis and Ann-Margaret

When the wedding scene in the film was shot, many tabloid magazines published photos of the "wedding" and suggested that Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret really had gotten married. the Little Church of the West was the location used in the closing scene.

The chemistry between the two stars was apparently genuine during filming. Presley and Ann-Margret began an affair, and this affair received considerable attention from film and music gossip columnists. This public airing of an affair led to a showdown with Presley's worried girlfriend Priscilla Beaulieu.

In her 1985 book, "Elvis and Me", Priscilla Presley described the difficulties that she experienced when the gossip columnists erroneously "announced" that Ann-Margret and Presley had become engaged to be married. In her memoirs, Ann-Margret refers to Elvis Presley as her "soul mate" and stated: "We felt there was a need in 'The Industry' for a female Elvis Presley."

The second event involves the naming of Graceland Wedding Chapel and the first Elvis impersonator wedding in a wedding chapel. Late one evening in 1967, roused by an unexpected knock on the door, Ollie McKee, first owner of the then named Greta Green Wedding Chapel, went to greet his visitors. On the stoop, he came face-to-face with Elvis and his entourage.

FINISH READING THIS ESSAY AT WWW.RESTONPLAYERS.ORG/PASTSHOWS



MEET THE CAST

Lori Brooks (Sandy) is gratified to be returning for her fourth show with Reston Community Players. She was last seen on this stage as Gabriella in *Boeing Boeing*. Favorite other roles include Jennie in *Chapter Two* with RCP, Lil in *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* with DS (WATCH Award for Best Ensemble), Louise Maske in *The Underpants* with FCT, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Hedda Gabler* with Britches and Hose Theatre Company. She has also appeared in several local short films, TV shows, and web series. You can see more of her work at www.loripbrooks.com or on Instagram @character_actress.

Tyler Cook (Marvin) is excited to make his RCP debut! Other acting credits in the NoVA area include Braun Oakes in *Laughingstock*, Louie Grandville in *If It's Monday, This Must be Christmas!* (SP), Fred Gailey in *Miracle on 34th Street*, and John Willoughby in *Sense and Sensibility* (GCP+). Tyler worked on and off-stage for numerous productions in the Central Illinois area, where he also received his BFA in Theatre Studies at the University of Illinois. Many thanks to the cast and crew who have made this experience so wonderful, and much love to family, friends, and his amazing fiancée Cassidy for her endless love and support.

Emily Dawes (Bev) Hey there reader, I'm Emily. I haven't had to write one of these in almost 10 years, but I am excited to be back in the theatre! So many of my treasured memories from school took place either on stage or in rehearsals. I'm a physicist with a passion for the dramatics, and if I'm not learning lines or practicing my blocking, you can find me outside, hiking, camping or taking care of my 20+ plants. I have loved working with the cast and crew for the past few months. Shout out to Dan and Sean for putting up with my antics throughout the process. I also want to take a moment to thank my family and friends for all of their support. I love you all a lot. Ok, signing off. Enjoy the show.

Dan Dymond (Stan/Producer) is thrilled to be in his third production with RCP! Previous appearances with RCP include *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Boeing, Boeing*. He has been in performances with Sterling Playmakers, Stagecoach, and even a few tv and film projects. He is very excited to share the stage with such a talented cast and that he gets to play a character you love to hate! Much love and thanks to his supportive family who puts up with his rehearsal schedule! Enjoy the show!

Sean Je (John) is super pumped to be joining a very talented cast and director Kim Leone in *Four Weddings and an Elvis* while making his RCP debut! He was gently encouraged to embrace the challenge of not only playing John and Elvis but learning to sing and dance as well. He looks forward to a warm and funny show environment as he transitions from the Fiddler on the Roof construction and stage crews to donning the sequins and sunglasses of Elvis on a theater voyage of wholly different kind. Sean offers a special thank you to Reston, his extended family and friends for welcoming him from Pittsburgh recently and into the RCP tribe of talent.

Michelle Kritzler (Vanessa) is excited to be back on the RCP stage! Funnily enough, her own marriage story began with the last RCP show she was in: *Merrily We Roll Along* in 1998! That's where she played Mary and met her future husband, who played Frank. She'd like to thank Eric and their two amazing daughters for their love and encouragement as she steps back into theatre life!

Moses Kutz (Bryce) has been doing theater for many years, but this is his first show in DMV. During his 42 years in the Chicago area, some previous roles have been: Victor in *Barefoot In The Park*; Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* & Beverly in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*. Moses is delighted to be making his Virginia debut with such a talented and dedicated cast & crew.

Kathy Ohlhaber (Fiona) has 20 years of experience in community theater. Recently, she performed in *The Haunting of Hill House*, *Ripcord*, and *Design for Murder* at LTA. She has also collaborated with RCP, AGCT, the Greenbelt Arts Center and the Capital One Arena Stage. Having recently moved back to Reston after several years in Old Town Alexandria, Kathy is excited to reconnect with Reston's local arts community. She's grateful for her parents and her boyfriend, Jesse, who support her in everything she does.

Anthony Pohl (Fist) returns to RCP. Again? Seriously!? How can he "return" to RCP when he never friggin' leaves? Isn't this, like, the fourth production in a row or something? And why does he keep writing these insane bios? AND WHY DO WE KEEP PRINTING THEM!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S STAGE MANAGING SOMETHING FUNNY HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM!?!? He said he was retired from stage management...That's it! I've had it! He must be stopped and—He's standing right behind me, isn't he? Great. Aaaaand he's got the bat. He's going to make me put all this into the bio, isn't he? Ugh, fine. At least he's not involved with *The Producers*, right? RIGHT!?!?!?!?

Scott J Strasbaugh (Lou) has been, and currently active as an Actor and Director in both professional and local community Theatre. He was the singer for the band The Little Kingz and has been seen a good few times on the small screen in commercials and reality television. However, he is best known as “Olaf” in the film Zoolander. He dedicates this show and all he does to his mother who he misses terribly, and sends his love and gratitude to his kids, Gretchen and Maximus and girlfriend, Mary Ellen for letting him have the time off for rehearsals. Peace, love, and kindness to all that enter this amazing theatre.

DESIGN & PRODUCTION STAFF

Brian Altmiller (Soundboard Operator) is excited to return to his second show as part of the sound team with RCP. He enjoyed his debut with sound and lighting at RCP's recent production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. After six years as a theater dad, he's happy to finally get to do some of the fun stuff.

Franklin Coleman (Lighting Designer) enjoyed working on this fun show with its wonderful cast and crew. This is his 23rd lighting design at RCP, his 4th with Kim as a director, and his 145th overall. During that time he has been nominated for WATCH fourteen times and won four: *Sideman* and *Copenhagen* at ESP, *Hairspray* at LTA, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* here at RCP. Retired from designing data communication networks, he now spends time with his cat, collecting and reading books, and of course theater.

Sohaila Hamidzada (Properties Runner) is excited to be working with RCP for the third time. After working in RCP's previous productions, *Murder on the Orient Express* and , and rediscovering her secret childhood love for theater in the process, she is thrilled to be part of the crew of another show. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

Patrick Hammes (Assistant Stage Manager, Set Painter) is on his 9th show with RCP. Before that he did theater for several years in high school and college, primarily technical work along with some acting and directing. His first show at RCP was *A Little Night Music*. He is very grateful to his parents and friends who have supported him, and to the folks at RCP who have made him feel right at home in this community.

Mai Le (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back for a third time of stage managing both an RCP and Kim Leone production. RCP continues to be a strong part of her life here in Reston, and she is grateful for the community she has found there. *Four Weddings and an Elvis* has been a wonderful time working with both new and familiar faces, and she has loved being a part of this hilarious show!

Lisa Leary (Costume Designer) is thrilled to continue her costuming journey with RCP on this delightful show. Other design credits include RCP's *The Prom* (codesigned with Lori Crockett), *Murder On the Orient Express* and *Avenue Q*. Lisa has assisted on many RCP shows including *A Little Night Music* and *Bright Star*. Her favorite production will always be *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* and she will forever cherish the D'Ysquith family secrets.

Kimberly Leone (Director, Set Design, and some other stuff) like so many community theatre enthusiasts, does a little bit of everything, with her favorites these days being designing, directing, and scenic painting. She is endlessly grateful for the opportunity to work with actors, designers, and production teams at RCP to bring a show to the stage. She thanks everyone on the *Four Weddings and an Elvis* Team for embracing her highly caffeinated and not always orthodox approach to direction and design and the craziness that is her schedule. Many thanks to her hubby and her son for loving her just the way she is and delivering mac and cheese with chicken nuggies right to her home office desk, never forgetting the ketchup, and always tending to her inner child.

Elizabeth Shaher (Sound Designer) is excited to be working on her fourth show with Kim Leone. Elizabeth has done sound on five shows in the past year including *Murder on the Orient Express* (RCP), *Laughing Stock* (SP), *The Prom* (RCP), *Baskerville* (PWLT), and *Fiddler On The Roof* (RCP). Elizabeth loves all things sound, and is very excited to create a 2010s soundtrack for this show!

Weston Weber (Producer) is excited to join his seventh (oh geez!) show with RCP, and this time as the main producer! He wishes to thank this fabulous community organization for welcoming him two years ago and ~~never letting him leave~~ continuing to let him stay! During his tenure, Weston has participated behind the scenes (run crew, mic tech), in the booth (Soundboard operator, spot light operator) and on the board of directors! A huge thank you to the friends he's made that have made this all the more enjoyable and kept him sane. Enjoy the show! And remember, what happens in Reston, stays in Reston!!

MEET THE CAST



LORI BROOKS



TYLER COOK



EMILY DAWES



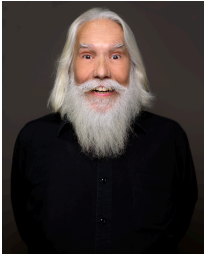
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