

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a light pink suit with gold embroidery, stands in a room decorated for a wedding. To her left is a large, three-tiered white wedding cake adorned with white roses. In front of the cake are two champagne flutes. The room features large windows with white frames, decorated with floral arrangements and gold ribbons. The background shows a dining table set with white linens and gold chairs.

WEDDINGS

A Celebration

BEVERLY CLARK

*This book is dedicated to the talented individuals
in the wedding business who creatively assist the soon-to-be newlyweds
to realize their wedding dreams.*

*A*CKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Last, but certainly not least, I must thank all the delightful wedding couples, their families and friends, who are featured throughout the pages of *Weddings: A Celebration*.

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A VICTORIAN WEDDING

Mary Litzsinger, owner of Vintage Productions, makes her living turning wedding fantasies into reality. "We'll recreate an era right down to the sawdust on the floor or the bustles on the ladies' skirts."

Historic authenticity is a point of pride for couples who want a theme wedding. Victorian settings are especially popular. Allison-Claire Acker researched and designed the bridal attire, right down to her selected vintage accessories, for her Victorian wedding to Timothy Francis Sylvester. They hired a dance instructor to teach them a Victorian waltz, which was the first dance at their reception. The guests at this particular fête joined in the costume spirit: one pair came as chimney sweeps, while another guest arrived as an Indian Raj, visiting from the farthest reaches of the British Empire.

PHOTOS: CHUCK GARDNER PHOTOGRAPHY





A FESTIVE RENAISSANCE WEDDING

The Renaissance wedding is another favorite theme. It often features sporting games, musicians strumming lutes and dulcimers, and brilliantly colored costumes. A Renaissance-style bridal gown laces up the back of the bodice and looks especially beautiful when the bride and groom are standing at the altar. Other period details from the Renaissance include elaborate headpieces, flower arrangements with flowing greenery, and of course, tights for the men. A master reveler can set the tone of the celebration by announcing the arrival of the bride and groom and the activities of the day. A dance mistress might instruct the guests in various period dances.

MANNING PARK, MONTECITO, CA, WAS THE SETTING FOR A RENAISSANCE EXTRAVAGANZA CREATED BY **MARY LITZINGER** OF VINTAGE PRODUCTIONS, WITH FLOWERS BY HEARTS BLOOM'S JONI PAPAY. CUSTOM-DESIGNED COSTUMES FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM AND GUESTS ADDED TO THE GAIETY OF THE EVENT WHICH INCLUDED A FANCIFUL FEAST, COMPETITIVE GAMES, LIVELY DANCING, AND MERRY MINSTRELS AND JUGGLERS.
PHOTOS: GLENDA BACON-CARTER





THE FLYING LINDY HOPPERS

1940s SUPPER CLUB WEDDING

Richard Plotkin and Ryan Patterson of Los Angeles had their hearts set on a 1940s jazz wedding. To provide the setting, Vintage Productions transformed a historic theater into a jazz-age dinner club. The musicians, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, decked out in zoot suits, spent the evening regaling the crowd with big-band and swing-era tunes. The Flying Lindy Hoppers, a 1940s style swing-dance group, performed and instructed guests. A costumed cigarette girl circulated among the tables, handing out candy cigarettes, matchbooks, and banded cigars, bearing the names of the bride and groom. A magician entertained while a photo girl snapped Polaroids of guests at their tables and slipped the pictures into custom photo jackets as take-home favors. Silent black and white clips of old movies and TV shows were projected on the screen as guests celebrated. The cake was an Art Deco masterpiece.

If you're intrigued by the idea of a theme wedding but aren't sure what fantasy to pursue, take a trip to the video store. Movies such as *The Great Gatsby*, *The Age of Innocence*, *Immortal Beloved*, *Restoration*, and *High Society* offer detailed glimpses into the elegant styles of days gone by.



ABOVE CENTER: PERIOD LAMPS PROVIDED BY VINTAGE PRODUCTIONS. MIRROR-BLIND BUDS WITH FRAGRANT WHITE GARDENS
CENTERPIECES DESIGNED BY HEARST BELOW PHOTO: MARK PAPIC ALL OTHER PHOTOS: SCOTT VERRELL