

A theatrical wedding indeed

Performance artist, professor tie the knot again

STEPHEN HUNT
CALGARY HERALD

Pure emotion. That was the theme, subtext and vibration last night at the High Performance Rodeo, where the Sunday night show was an actual wedding, between performance artist Annie Sprinkle and professor Elizabeth Stephens of San Francisco.

The two were married by Nomi Whelan, who has performed over 5,000 weddings, including one on an airplane flying from Los Angeles to Calgary. (She refused to let the couple say their vows until the plane flew over Alberta airspace.)

Stephens, dressed in a Viking hat, gold catchers' chest pad, gold silk skateboarder shorts, and black boots, tied the knot with Sprinkle, resplendent in a gold taffeta (I may be wrong about the fabric, but I'm doing my best) dress, gold veil, and Viking horns. Sprinkle chose to wear her breasts out, lending a Dionysian essence to the affair.

Once the vows were complete, Whelan pronounced the duo life partners, and asked them to seal it with a kiss.

Before kissing, Stephens announced that she wanted the kiss "to also be for all those people who fought for equal rights."

"And made it possible for us to get legally married today," said Sprinkle, completing her partner's sentence.

They then kissed for a really long time, as the bridegroom of honour wrapped them in yellow ribbons, in honour of the wedding night's colour.



Calgary Herald Archive.

Performance artist Annie Sprinkle, left, and professor Elizabeth Stephens were married for the seventh year in a row on Sunday.

As the kiss continued, Whelan said, "I've done a lot of these, and this is the longest."

The evening was presided over by Shari-D Wilson, Artistic Director of the Calgary Spoken Word Festival, who has known Sprinkle and Stephens since the 1970s, when they met in New York.

"Yellow isn't a colour you find in sex shops," Wilson said.

"I wonder why. Maybe it's the Golden Arches that ruined that colour for sex. We're not sure."

In addition to vows, there were performances by a variety of acts, including Eric Moschopedis, Chantal Vitalis, Matthew Popoff, Emmanuel Piron, The Fake Mustaches, Nico Hofferd and Shone Abet, Danielle French, Jevon Hills, Anthony Appleby, Claudia Manley, Liss Platt, Victoria Singh, and Stephanie Norn.

Wedding goers were greeted by

music from The Consonant C, and the coat check was a charitable affair, with Sprinkle, Stephens and One Yellow Rabbit donating the proceeds to the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch, who donate money to several AIDS hospices in Calgary.

An overflowing crowd jammed the Big Secret Theatre for the event, many of them dressed in yellow and gold, for a wedding that celebrated several things: the theatre community, gay community and the Canadian community.

Sunday night's wedding was the third stage of the Love Art Laboratory (www.loveartlab.org), a project created by Sprinkle and Stephens exploring love as art by getting married seven years in a row.

The duo were previously married in New York in 2005, and in San Francisco in 2006.

SHUNT@THEHERALD.CANWEST.COM

Calgary Herald Jan 15/07