



Commitment Time

A guide to services
by Jedidiah Chavez

Many couples across the state are beginning to plan commitment ceremonies. From traditional to queer-as-a-three-dollar-bill, a ceremony can be an extension of a relationship. It can offer a couple the chance to publicly declare their love, their commitment and their uniqueness.

Unfortunately, walking into a tuxedo shop as a gay couple, or randomly picking a caterer out of the phone book, is not necessarily the best option for queer couples. Strange glances from a store clerk can take the romance out of planning any ceremony.

Luckily, the Portland metro area boasts a number of exceptional gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses. Here are a few of our suggestions.

Everyone Comes for the Cake

Remarkably decadent cake aside, the staff at The Dessert Tray is extraordinarily excited about customer service. With just one phone call, it can convince any cynic that its cake is, in fact, the best. A one-on-one tasting and consultation is provided for couples interested in the myriad cake options. The Dessert Tray has certainly reinvented the traditional butter cream frosting white wedding cake. (The *Just Out* staff can't seem to get enough of its delicious cakes, which are sold at New Seasons.)

The Dessert Tray
11950 S.W. Broadway
503-350-0881
www.thedesserttray.com

Get Something You Want

As a new addition to the Pearl District, Bravado Home is an excellent choice for any couple interested in gift registry. From sleek yet cozy contemporary furniture to sculptural vases, Bravado Home is the perfect venue to make others buy you what you want. And you will want it all. Bravado Home will unveil its gift registry Jan. 1, 2008, just in time.

Bravado Home
536 N.W. 14th Ave.
503-336-4162

Easy on the Eyes, and Ears

The Stolen Sweets perform vocal jazz arrangements inspired by New Orleans favorites The Boswell Sisters, one of the hottest girl groups of the 1930s. The Sweets deliver a unique brand of vintage swing jazz, dishing up abundant doses of coy stage antics and sideways glances as they play. Their delightful melodies will be sure to get Grandma and Grandpa out of their chairs while also entertaining the most discerning go-go boy.

jen@stolensweets.com
www.stolensweets.com

Everyone Needs a Drink

Hip Chicks Do Wine provides delicious sips for any occasion. As the only winery in the Portland area, Hip Chicks will add a touch of queer class and elegance to any function. Their services include providing a pouring representative and venue rental.

Hip Chicks Do Wine
4510 S.E. 23rd Ave.
503-234-3790
www.hipchicksdowine.com

Flowers by the Bouquet or the Truckload

As an artist and a New York transplant, Jennie Greene is the owner of the infamous Jennie Greene Designs. With the combined sensibility of a sculptor and a former Park Avenue Florist, she creates floral pieces that integrate metal, fruit, found objects and TLC. Beware: Her flowers may upstage you. The designs are high-end but moderately priced.

Jennie Greene Designs
2234 N.W. Thurman St.
503-957-9567
www.jenniegreedesigns.com

With classic sophistication, Westside Florist provides high-quality traditional arrangements.

Westside Florist
20455 S.W. Tualatin Valley Highway, Aloha
800-356-1884
www.westsideflorist.net

You Can't Show Up Naked

Duchess Clothier creates custom, made-to-measure suits for ladies or gentlemen. You will be haunted by ceremony photos for years to come, so you might as well look good.

AudioCinema Building
226 S.E. Madison St.
www.duchessclothier.com

Room with a View

Gay- and lesbian-owned and operated, Ainsworth House is the perfect venue for any couple interested in a spectacular storybook ceremony. In addition to a Cinderella setting, the venue also boasts complete catering services. For those uninterested in a grand over-the-top ceremony, be sure to check out the "elopement package." Ainsworth House is extremely dedicated to the queer community. In fact, the owners often donate their facilities to organizations such as Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Basic Rights Oregon; and the Human Rights Campaign.

Ainsworth House & Gardens
19130 Lot Whitcomb Drive, Oregon City
503-656-1894
www.ainsworthhouse.net

Built in 1924, the historic Viewpoint Inn is an overlooked gem. Built as a quintessential European getaway, the venue offers a boutique hotel and fine dining restaurant. Nestled on a bluff with a breathtaking view of the Columbia River Gorge, the Viewpoint Inn is only 22 miles from downtown Portland.

Viewpoint Inn
40301 E. Larch Mountain Road, Corbett
503-695-5811
www.theviewpointinn.com

An Evite Won't Cut It

Ruby Shadburne of Ruby Press specializes in custom handmade letterpress invitations.

Dedicated to sustainable practices, it uses soy-based inks and recycled products.

Moderately priced, Ruby creates couture in an envelope.

Ruby Press
503-709-0069
www.rubypress.com

Diamonds Last Forever

Jewelry by Ponce offers reasonably priced and elegant designs. Dedicated to supporting the queer community, it will soon begin donating 20 percent of all proceeds to local organizations. In addition to quality rings, Ponce also carries a large selection of high-end body jewelry. Who needs a ring on your finger when you can have a one-karat nipple ring?

Jewelry by Ponce
3288 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.
503-233-3698
www.jewelrybyponceportland.com

Judith Arnell Jewelers features unique hand-made designs including some of the country's finest designers. In addition to unique contemporary pieces, it also offers a large collection of antique platinum diamond jewelry. If you are into bling, this is the place.

Judith Arnell Jewelers
320 N.W. 10th Ave.
503-227-3437
www.juditharnell.com

No One Likes a Unibrow

Bouffant Salon provides full-service salon treatments including haircuts, coloring, waxing and manicures.

Bouffant Salon
33 N.W. Ninth Ave.
503-224-4099

To Revise the Will (Or Get Out of It)

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2455 N.W. Marshall St., Suite 11
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