

**W**hen Natalie Sanusi was ready to settle down, she looked to the internet to help her find the perfect husband. But, when she got ready to plan the perfect wedding, she found almost everything she needed within a few blocks of her North Hill home in Pendleton.

A little over two years ago, the matchmaking site OK Cupid connected Natalie with Robert Rhodes of Tri-Cities, and the sparks flew. As deeper points of connection developed, the two knew they wanted to get married, and the wedding planning began.



Natalie was born and raised in Pendleton and has a deep devotion to the local businesses that make the city a great place to live.

"I did some browsing online and in bridal magazines, and had a clear idea of what I wanted," Natalie said. "We didn't have to compromise on the quality of a single thing."

As an artist, Natalie was familiar with the **Pendleton Center for the Arts** and knew it would be the perfect venue.

"We wanted something beautiful but cozy, something that had nice features but was still enough of a blank slate for us to put our own mark on the space," Natalie said.

Another important feature was accessibility. Robert has mobility issues, so the Arts Center's elevator allowed the couple to utilize both floors for the ceremony and reception.

Invitations designed and printed by **Master Printers Northwest** were soon dropped in the mail.

The next step was to contact Dawn Alderman at **John Loves June** on Main Street.

Alderman provides styling and rentals for weddings and special events, helping couples add a warm, personal touch. She picked out a sectional seating group for the reception and created a staging plan for personal items of Natalie and Robert's, as well as vintage

tableware that the couple had found at local estate sales and the **Community Thrift Store**.

Kris O'Grady from **A Bushel and a Peck** created a range of floral accents for the day, from tiny buds to bird bath sized designs. The boutonnieres, bouquets and arrangements incorporated succulents that Robert and Natalie could plant in their front yard flowerbeds after the wedding.

"It was so great to be able to sit down face to face at a local coffee shop with each of our vendors and share ideas," Natalie said.

On October 22, 2016, Natalie and Robert tied the knot. **Shannon Snyder of Defining Details Photography** in Hermiston was there to capture everything from beauty treatments at Shelly Peterson's **River's Edge Salon** to fresh baked pies being served at the reception.

"I really try to capture all those small details that make a wedding special," said Snyder. "Couples work so hard to make everything just right, and celebrating those details really helps to tell the story of the day."

One detail that couldn't be missed were the mouse ears that the bride and groom wore as part of their wedding attire. The couple shares love of all things Disney, and recently left for a 10-day honeymoon at the **Walt Disney World Resort** in Florida.