

Liana & MarkAlain



Liana Elliott and MarkAlain Déry met at Mardi Gras and fell in love at French Quarter Fest, so it's only fitting they created a festival for their wedding.

Liana, co-founder of the Muff-A-Lottas dance troupe, and MarkAlain, a member of the Krewe of the Rolling Elvi, met on the parade route in 2010. But “the prospect of marriage was postponed,” MarkAlain said, as a move to the West Coast loomed for Liana to attend graduate school.

When she returned to New Orleans, Liana visited Race & Religious, an event space with a classic Crescent City ambiance. After touring it, she told MarkAlain it was the place they should have their wedding. “Shouldn't I ask you to marry me first?” he said.

Even though they weren't engaged yet, the couple booked the space for New Year's Eve 2015.

Lianna, who grew up in the San Fran-

cisco Bay area, and MarkAlain, who grew up in Los Angeles, are longtime residents of New Orleans. MarkAlain is assistant professor of medicine at Tulane University's Section of Adult Infectious Diseases; Liana does blight policy/program management for the city. Both are involved in the New Orleans Society for Infectious Disease Awareness. MarkAlain founded the organization and co-founded, with Liana, WHIV-FM 102.3, a radio station dedicated to human rights and social justice.

With this strong sense of community, Liana and MarkAlain wanted to make sure that their community — family and close friends — were involved with the creation of their wedding vows. “The idea being that if our community helps write the vows, they will have a greater stake in helping with the inevitable rough patches that a lifelong commitment can bring,” he said.

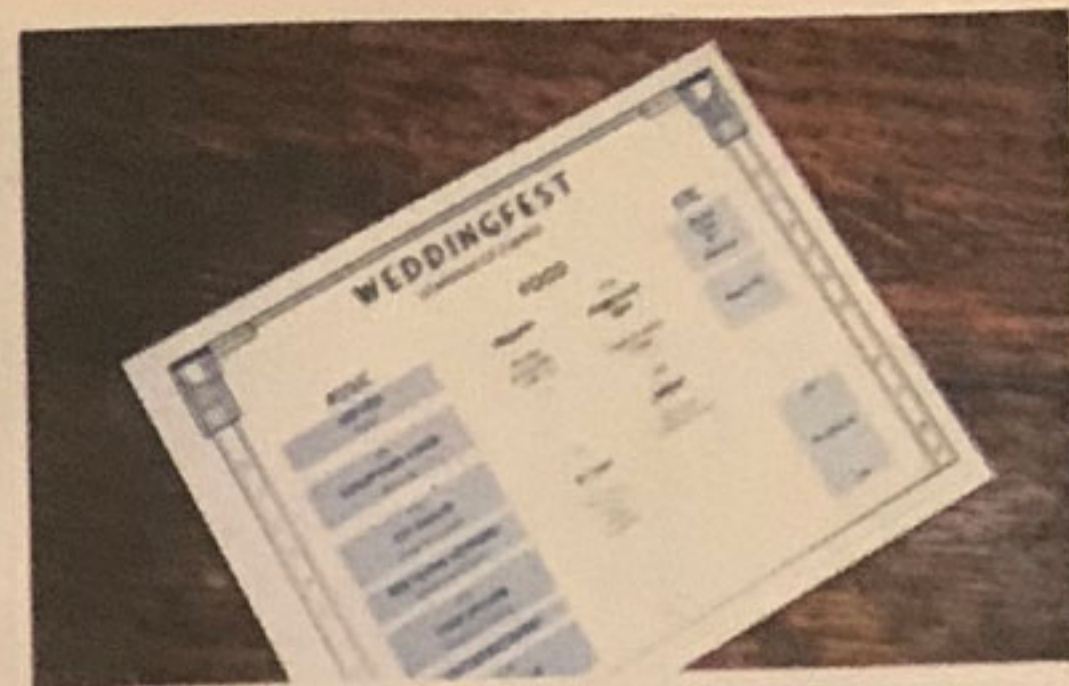
And so started the couple's three-day wedding.

Day one was at the Scottish Rite Temple, where guests were divided into eight groups to share their insights about the eight pillars of commitment that Liana and MarkAlain consider most important: Commitment, Well-Being, “Truthiness,” Tenderness, Change, Partnership, Appreciation and Compassion.

New Year's Eve, day two, arrived, and Race & Religious became wedding central, as it also was the space where the couple staged their “WeddingFest” on New Year's day. A common thread throughout the events was the couple's ninth pillar: Fun.

For the wedding, guests were greeted by stilt walkers, buskers, street performers and burlesque impresario Bella Blue, who floated inside a gigantic bubble on the courtyard's reflecting pool. Live music played through the night, and then at the stroke of midnight, Liana and MarkAlain sealed their marriage with a kiss.

— Sue Strachan, Social Scene columnist



INVITATION AND WEDDINGFEST 'CUBES'
Jeffrey Goodman

ATTIRE

Wedding dress: The Red Carpet
Coat: Pattern from TrulyVictorian.com, made by Gerry Bryan's Custom Dressmaking
Weddingfest kaftan: Jeannine Ford
Groom's ensemble: Purchased online, customized by Jade Brandt

RINGS

Bride's engagement: Custom design by Aaron Hanz
Ring guard: Black and white diamonds by Ann Harrington Jewelry
Wedding band: White gold and white sapphires custom design by Ardonn
Groom's ring: La Petit Fleur Contemporary and Estate Jewelry



FLOWERS

Pick-A-Petal Floral Design

DESSERT

No wedding cake, just buttermilk and red-velvet buttermilk drops from the Buttermilk Drop Bakery and Cafe

ENTERTAINMENT/AMBIANCE COORDINATORS

Ajay Strong + Bella Blue Entertainment

MUSIC (coordinated by the groom)

Dec 31: Sarah Quintana and Band (including James Williams)
Jan. 1: Joe Cea, Courtyard Kings, Yes Ma'am Band, Gina Brown Band and Debauche

MARDI GRAS INDIANS

Red Flame Hunters

WEDDING COORDINATOR

Meredith Bugabee, Belle Soirée Wedding Consultants

PHOTOGRAPHY

Evan Sanders

WEDDING HASHTAGS

#BestWeddingEver #MADLEinlove2015

