



## Mia & Mark

John Mark Burney had a definite plan for his wedding proposal to Mia Nicole Holmes.

The couple lives in Wilmington, Del., where they're both dentists. Mark planned to propose in early January 2017 in nearby Philadelphia. But he wanted to include several family members and friends in the surprise, so the date kept getting pushed back.

Finally, after three times of trying to pick a date that worked for everyone, "I had to put my foot down," he said.

Mia, a New Orleans native, met Mark, who grew up in Richmond, Va., when they both attended Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tenn. They had seen each other on campus, but it was on Facebook that they discovered their mutual love of "Orange Is the New Black." While Mia was in Hawaii on vacation, and Mark was studying for his national board exam, he was texting her — with a four-hour time difference — about the TV show. That's when "I knew we liked each other," she joked. The first time they hung out, they binge watched 10 episodes.

After graduation, Mark moved to Omaha for his residency. Once that was

completed, and Mia graduated, they moved to Delaware.

After finally nailing down a date for the proposal, Mark set everything in motion: dinner at their favorite restaurant followed by a sightseeing walk around Philadelphia. It was in the city's LOVE Park, named for the Robert Indiana sculpture in it, where Mark's proposal came to its happy conclusion.

Their parents, more family members and friends were waiting in the park to surprise Mia. Mark, who had the ring in his back pocket, got down on one knee in front of the LOVE sculpture and proposed. That was the cue for everyone to surround them.

After the shock of the proposal, Mia said, "yes," and then glanced around. Catching the eye of one her friends, Mia thought, "What is she doing in Philadelphia?"

The couple chose Dec. 15 in New Orleans for the wedding. Since the bride and groom lived out of town, Mia's mother, Ginger Holmes, took the lead on planning the event, with help from Lauren Hunter of Southern Oaks Plantation, where the ceremony — officiated by Mark's father, The Rev. John W. Burney — and reception took place.

When Mia walked down the aisle and saw Mark and everyone else gathered to share their joy, she said it was one of the happiest moments of the day — and it brought Mark's proposal full circle.

— Sue Strachan, *Social Scene* columnist





#### Invitation

Etsy, printed by Union Press Printing (Wilmington, Del.)

#### Wedding dress

Lazaro (sample size), preownedweddingdresses.com

#### Bridesmaids dresses

White by Vera Wang, David's Bridal

#### Groom's, groomsmen's, ring bearer's ensembles

TheBlackTux.com

#### Flower girl

pinkprincess.com

#### Rings

Mia's: AR Morris Jewelers (Wilmington, Del.); Mark's: JCPenney

#### Ceremony/ Reception/Food

Southern Oaks Plantation

#### Officiant

The Rev. John W. Burney (groom's father), Bethel Baptist Church, Powhatan, Va.

#### Hair and Makeup

Whetne Perez, Her Expressions Hair Salon; makeup: Corrie Victory, Victory Artistry



#### Cake

The Royal Cakery

#### Flowers

Beth's Flowers

#### Photographer

Calvin Gavion Jr.

#### Videographer

Still Motion Films

#### Event coordinators

Lauren Hunter of Southern Oaks Plantation; and wedding day coordination, Brianna Bell-Roussel

#### Honeymoon

Los Cabos, Mexico

