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# ON A DECEMBER DAY

KRYSTAL THORPE & LEONARD C. RICKS III

December 28, 2013 Los Angeles, California | Photographed by Amy & Stuart Photography

When hypothetically discussing a wedding date, December 28th seemed most apropos to Krystal Thorpe and Leonard Ricks. After all, this was when they met at a matrimonial celebration months earlier: Leonard was a guest of the father of the bride and Krystal was a member of the bridal party. The couple had been inseparable since, so getting married a year to the day they met was just part of the magic of their romance.

Both from a Christian upbringing, it was important for Krystal and Leonard to have a church ceremony officiated by one of their ministers. They chose St. John's Cathedral for the beauty of its stained-glass windows, soaring wood-beamed ceilings, handmade floor tiles, and mosaics. Two elegant white floral arrangements in golden urns facing the Italian marble altar were the only finishing touches the sanctuary needed. A cellist played as guests took their seats.

## RESOURCES

### Beauty

Jamika Wilson for Epiphany Artist Group, Inc. - hair  
Leila VonSleichter - makeup

### Bridal Gown

Winnie Couture - ceremony  
Allure - reception

### Bridal Salons

Della Curva; Winnie Couture

### Bridesmaid Gowns

Monique Lhuillier

### Cake/Desserts

Fantasy Frostings

### Catering

Cocktail Concierge  
Contemporary Catering

### Consulting

Sterling Engagements

### Entertainment

Hope Easton for Pacific Coast Strings, cellist; Jason McGee and the Choir; Priscilla Renea, soloist; Sylvester Burks, pianist - ceremony  
Cool Sounds DJs - reception

### Floral Design

Butterfly Floral & Event Design

### Headpiece

Ava Couture

### Invitations/Stationery

Prim & Pixie

### Jewelry

Diamond Collection Inc.

### Lighting Design

Stage Labs Production Services

### Photography

Amy & Stuart Photography

### Registries

Bloomingdale's  
Crate and Barrel  
Pottery Barn  
Williams-Sonoma

### Rentals

A Rental Connection  
Designer Specialty Linens  
Lucky Photo Booth  
Modern Chair Rental

### Veil

Malis-Henderson

### Venues

St. John's Cathedral; Union Station

### Videography

Imagique Weddings



Krystal's father escorted her down the aisle, as a soloist performed a soulful rendition of Alicia Keys's "Never Felt This Way." "It was beautiful and I recall looking at the man I love and thinking *this is perfect – this is amazing!*" says the beaming bride, who donned a drop waist satin ball gown with a ruched bodice, beaded waist detail, and chapel train. A snowy veil was affixed above Krystal's classic French twist. She held a creamy compilation of peonies.

The instance that stands out in Leonard's mind was their declarations to one another. "My vows expressed my most true and inner feelings for my wife. Krystal's vows spoke to my soul," reveals the groom, who accessorized his black tuxedo with silver cuff links – gifted from his bride – engraved with the word "Love" on one and the all-important "12.28" date on the other. "It was a moment when our words were the only ones spoken." Following a tradition from African culture, the couple concluded the service by jumping the broom.

The grand concourse room at Union Station fulfilled Krystal's vision for a vintage reception

venue. Bridesmaids' sapphire blue gowns inspired the complementary bright color palette of the décor. "The final hue selection was jewel tones with gold accents. This fit perfectly with the winter season and my love of antiques," explains the bride. For the evening celebration, Krystal changed into a lace gown more suited to the historic locale.

The space was framed by violet and hot pink uplighting on one wall and champagne uplighting on the other. Two floral compositions graced tables swathed in amethyst linens. One design featured tall gold vases filled with roses, hydrangeas, and orchids in shades of purple, fuchsia, and red, sitting atop mosaic mirror disks sprinkled with rose petals. A petite version of this floral design housed in small bullion urns was the centerpiece for the long tables. A golden touch also glinted from chairs, chargers, glassware rims, and votive vessels. To add another personal element, "I researched events in history [that occurred] on December 28th, selected the top 30, and used them as our table numbers," says Krystal.







A DJ duo, one of who is Leonard’s fraternity brother, ensured guests had a great time on the dance floor. “As soon as you walked in, the music was flowing and made you want to get up and dance!” recalls the groom. Since Leonard’s mother was unable to attend the wedding, he shared a brother-sister dance – “which turned into a family dance, and that was super special,” notes the bride. “We created our own tradition!” Finding the usual bouquet and garter toss a bit boring, Krystal thought up a more fun and unique approach. To laud her unmarried friends, she invited them to join her and they danced to Beyoncé’s “Single Ladies.” As for the men, they played a rousing game of musical chairs to 50 Cent’s “P.I.M.P.”

In keeping with the celebration, the couple strived to offer their guests a feast of fare and libations. To great success, since attendees raved about the sit-down dinner. “The food was phenomenal!

They’re still talking about it. The rib eyes were to die for, the lobster mashed potatoes – everything!” says Leonard. He credits their amazing caterer, Nathaniel Neubauer of Contemporary Catering, for flawlessly customizing their menu.

The four-layer cake with understated ribbon, lace, floral, and sparkling elements was “an unexpected beauty,” admits the bride. This was particularly so because it had to be redesigned a few days before the big day to reflect Krystal’s last-minute reception dress addition. With so many other pressing details to handle, she confidently turned this task over to her outstanding planners after they offered to work with the baker. It just goes to show that with the right team it is possible to compose a magnificent event for 200 guests in a span of just six months. As Krystal attests, “It was absolutely perfect.”

ROSIBEL GUZMÁN



“My vows expressed my most true and inner feelings for my wife. Krystal’s vows spoke to my soul.”

