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REAL LGBTQ+ WEDDINGS

MODERN BLACK TIE INDUSTRIAL WEDDING IN AMISH COUNTRY

Alaina Emery Lavoie, 3 years ago | 3 min read

Lee and Nathan's black tie wedding was chic, modern and industrial and took place right in the heart of Amish country in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They wanted to give their guests an eco-conscious respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life to focus on love for just one day. Lee and Nathan designed each others' rings. Their first dance was to "Make it to Me" by Sam Smith performed live by Najwa Parkins and Bachelor Boys Band.

What advice would you give to engaged LGBTQ+ couples?

Our top tips for pulling off the wedding of your dreams:

1. Sweat the small stuff early, so you don't have to later.

2. Think about the experience you will provide to your guests above nearly all else.

3. Evoke as much your personality when planning the day, but don't go overboard.

4. Be diligent with the event's branding. Have a color palette, font, vibe/feel and stick to it.

Advice for vendors and venues working with LGBTQ+ couples?

When we interacted with vendors we did our best to meet in person so that it was obvious we were a gay couple. For over the phone first meetings, we made sure to let them know early this was a gay wedding. We just didn't want to get too far into planning and later be discriminated against.

Luckily we had no vendor issues and had such a positive experience. As this may not be the case for every couple, we think being upfront about your event and noting that it's same-sex or LGBTQ+ is wise. Besides, with our community, there's the opportunity to make the event more customized and tailored, and vendors can help with that.

One thing we hate: When the vendors referred to a room on-site at the venue as the bridal suite—we made sure to correct everyone to start using "wedding suite" instead.

What challenges did you face as an LGBTQ+ couple planning your wedding?

Fortunately for us, we didn't experience any issues. Our family and friends definitely questioned why on earth we wanted to get married in Amish Country since neither one of us have any relation to that area.

However, we knew that we wanted to treat our guests to new memories together and have new experiences. Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is surprisingly LGBTQ-friendly, full of arts and culture. We realized this when we visited the venue for the first time and absolutely fell in love with the city. All of our guests did too, as many stayed the weekend and explored.

EQUALLY WED: The Ultimate Guide to Planning Your LGBTQ+ Wedding by Kirsten Palladino (Seal Press) BUY NOW!

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- Rooftop and garden engagement session with surprise second proposal
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- Joyful intimate wedding outside Chicago with geometric arch and outfit change
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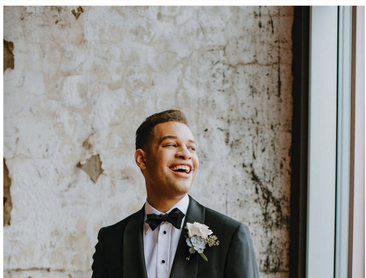
- Romantic Malibu engagement session by the beach
- Outdoor New Jersey wedding filled with love and sunflowers
- Bright and cheery sixties-inspired wedding ideas
- Breathtaking Sedona elopement surrounded by close friends and family
- Inclusivity in the wedding industry: faux allies, transphobia and performative actions
- Stunning and joyful elopement at Colorado's Garden of the Gods
- "Same Love" singer Mary Lambert is engaged

OUR PREFERRED PLATINUM VENDORS

- Generation Tux
- The Bride Candy
- Bario Neal
- Riley Glenn Photography
- Braemar Country Club
- Talamore Country Club
- Drumore Estate
- The Palencia Club
- Inn at Lenape Heights Event Center & Golf Resort
- Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant
- River West Photography
- Hawkesdene Estate
- Amanda Summerlin Photography
- Emily Chelsea Jewelry
- Omni Royal Orleans Hotel
- Rivers Casino Philadelphia
- The Culinary Institute of America
- Stroudsmoor Country Inn

If You're Crashing
This Wedding
You Better be Funny... or Famous



SEARCH FOR LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY WEDDING VENDORS

VENDORS

Photographer: Katie Ging

Ceremony & Reception Venue: Excelsior

Florist: Petals with Style

Planner: Lee Planned

Day of Coordination: Planned Perfection

Band: Bachelor Boys Band

DJ: Adrian Hardy

Invitations: Minted

Attire: Tux: Suit Supply & Versace & Hugo Boss & Comme des Garçons & Atelier Munro for Boyds & Calvin Klein

Jewelry: Marissa Perry & Henri David of Halloween Jewelry

Videographer: Nathaniel David

Catering: Excelsior

Cake Designer: Nutmeg Cake Design

Officiant: Joseph P. Mathew

TAGS #AMISH COUNTRY #AMISH COUNTRY WEDDING #BLACK TIE #BLACK TIE WEDDING #GAY WEDDING #INCLUSIVE WEDDING #LANCASTER PA #LGBT WEDDING #MODERN WEDDING #PENNSYLVANIA #SAME-SEX WEDDING #TWO GROOMS

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Alaina Leary Lavoie

Alaina Leary Lavoie is an award-winning editor and journalist. She is currently the Communications Manager of the nonprofit We Need Diverse Books and was the senior editor for Equally Wed Magazine from August 2018 to March 2020. Her work has been published in New York Times, Washington Post, Refinery29, Healthline, Teen Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Boston Globe Magazine, and more. In 2017, she was awarded a Bookbuilders of Boston scholarship for her dedication to amplifying marginalized voices and advocating for an equitable publishing and media industry. Alaina lives in Boston with her wife and their two cats. You can find Alaina on Twitter and Instagram @alainaskeys.

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