

---

# WEDDING BELLES

## A Guide to the Show

---

**WEDDING**  
*belles*

BY  
ALAN BAILEY  
AND  
RONNIE CLAIRE  
EDWARDS

DIRECTED BY KAREN LUND

**TAPROOT THEATRE** COMPANY  
SEPT. 22 THROUGH OCT. 23

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [TAPROOTTHEATRE.ORG](http://TAPROOTTHEATRE.ORG)  
OR CALL 206.781.9707 | 204 N. 85TH STREET, SEATTLE, WA

SEASONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: **PONCHO** The Huskies Foundation

PIZZA AND A PLAY SPONSOR: **ROMIG'S**

SHOW SPONSOR: **YOUNG**

## Table of Contents

Play Synopsis	1
The Set	2
The Costumes	3
The Cast	4-5

---

### *Wedding Belles* A Guide to the Show

Created by  
Sonja Lowe

---

<b>Scott Nolte</b>	Producing Artistic Director
<b>Karen Lund</b>	Associate Artistic Director
<b>Mark Lund</b>	Design Director
<b>Anne Hitt</b>	Production Stage Manager
<b>Sarah Burch Gordon</b>	Costume Shop Manager
<b>Pam Nolte</b>	TTC Ambassador/Co-Founder
<b>Rick Rodenbeck</b>	Finance & Operations Director
<b>Nikki Visel</b>	Marketing Director
<b>Daytona Strong</b>	Communications Manager
<b>Sonja Lowe</b>	Marketing Assistant
<b>Zach Brittle</b>	Director of Development
<b>Anne Kennedy</b>	Development Associate
<b>Jenny Cross</b>	Patron Services Manager
<b>Sarah Madson</b>	Box Office Manager
<b>Marty Gordon</b>	Custodian
<b>Sara K. Willy</b>	Director of Education
<b>Nathan Jeffrey</b>	Director of Outreach
<b>Suzanne Townsend</b>	E & O Associate
<b>Paul Adolphsen</b>	Patron Representative
<b>Laura Bannister</b>	Patron Representative
<b>Alysha Curry</b>	Patron Representative



204 N. 85<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, WA 98103

[www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org)

*We value faith. We respect people  
We celebrate theatre.*

# Wedding Belles

By Alan Bailey and Ronnie Claire Edwards

Directed by Karen Lund

## Play Synopsis

*Wedding Belles* takes place in East Texas during the year 1942. At the opening of *Wedding Belles*, Glendine Slocumb, Bobrita Tolliver, and Violet Montgomery arrive at the home of Laura Lee McInerny. They are scheduled to have their regular garden club meeting in Laura Lee's backyard, but for some reason Laura Lee is not home.

These four women have been friends all their lives, but it's clear from the conversation that the friendship is now strained. Sisters Bobrita and Violet have quarreled. Violet has moved out of Bobrita's house and is staying with Glendine and her husband. But Violet is getting on Glendine's nerves too. All three of these women are annoyed with Laura Lee. She has been involving herself in so many war effort projects that she can never get anything done. The women know that Laura Lee is just trying to distract herself from the tragedy that happened to her husband, but nobody will talk about what the "tragedy" is.

When Laura Lee arrives home she has yet another project in tow. Ima Jean Tatum is a girl about 18 years old that Laura Lee found stranded at the bus station. Ima Jean is engaged to a soldier and is meeting him at the bus station so that they can get married before he ships out overseas.

When the garden club ladies hear about this, they excitedly begin planning a grand wedding for Ima Jean. However, one thing after another keeps threatening to ruin their plans. First, Ima Jean runs away because she thinks that she is causing the ladies too much trouble. Then there's a rainstorm. Then they can't find the groom. Finally the ladies' squabbling spills over into the wedding plans and culminates in a grand fight.

Just when all hope is lost, things turn around. The fight, like the rainstorm, has cleared the air and the women realize how lucky they are to have each other. Working together they give Ima Jean the wedding she's always dreamed of!

# The Set

Look No. 1 (Top of Show Clutter)



**WEDDING BELLES**  
TAPROOT THEATRE  
R. LORIG '10

## The Setting

*Wedding Belles* is located at the home of Laura Lee McNerny in the fictional town of Eufala Springs, Texas. The month is June of 1942. Designer Richard Lorig has created a set that shows Laura Lee's backyard and porch. Notice that there are large windows in the house and a screen door on the back porch so the audience can see and hear the women even when they are inside the house.

Production Team	
Director	Karen Lund
Scenic Designer	Richard Lorig
Sound Designer	Mark Lund
Costume Designer	Sarah Burch Gordon
Stage Manager	Sarah Hitt
Lighting Designer	Jody Briggs
Props Master	Jennifer Matthews
Dramaturg	L. Nicol Cabe
Dialect Coach	Nikki Visel

## What to Watch For

At the beginning of the play the women's lives are stagnated. Laura Lee is haunted by the past and refuses to let go and move on. Bobrita and Violet are stuck in a quarrel and both of them are too proud to bend. This situation is reflected in Laura Lee's backyard which has junk all over it and flowers dying in the flower beds. However, in helping Ima Jean, the women also begin to deal with their own problems. Notice that throughout the play the yard begins to look better and better. By the end the yard is decked out for a wedding and the women are also ready for new beginnings in their lives.

# The Costumes



## Costuming Characters

Costume designer Sarah Burch Gordon has created light summer dresses for the cast to wear. All of these dresses are styles worn in the 1940's, but there are slight variations to fit the women's personalities.

Bobrita and Violet wear simple, practical dresses. Laura Lee used to be the mayor's wife and has always been a leader in Eufala Springs. Her dress is slightly more elegant and she has pearls to go with it. Glendine is by far the most flamboyant of the four women. Her costume has brighter colors that catch the eye.

Subtle differences like these are an important contribution from the costume designer to the show because they give the audience a better understanding of each character.

## What to Watch For

The women bring out lots of second-hand wedding dresses in their attempts to find the perfect dress for Ima Jean. Notice all the fun styles and the different types of gowns that Ima Jean tries on! Do you recognize any of them?



# Spotlight on Pat Sibley



## **Actor Pat Sibley plays Glendine in *Wedding Belles***

Returning to Taproot Theatre for the first time since *The Fantasticks* in 2005, Pat Sibley joins the cast of *Wedding Belles* as Glendine Slocumb.

Pat has been acting professionally since her 20s, with credits both in Seattle and in a number of national tours, including *Annie*, *Oklahoma!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. It was in 2002, when she was in *Oklahoma!* at Village Theatre that she got her big break into national touring.

We sat down with Pat at the beginning of the rehearsal process and asked her to share a bit of her story and some of her thoughts about the play.

Here's what she said:

**Q: You have quite the career, touring with national productions. Tell us a little about the life of an actor on the road.**

A: I did 3 years of *Oklahoma!* , a year of *Annie* and now I am about to start my 3rd year of *The Wizard of Oz* in November. Obviously, I like the lifestyle! I like living in hotels, I like living out of a suitcase, I like eating in restaurants, I like moving around all the time, I like the long bus rides--I think there is something seriously wrong with me! I think you know within the first few months if this is going to be a lifestyle that you will like, and it's not for everyone! Most of the people I work with are in their 20's. Usually they are right out of college and this is one of their first jobs. Most of them are doing this for the credit on their resume with their goal being Broadway. That is not--and never has been--my goal. Mine was always to be a working regional actress. I stumbled upon National Tours and I really like it! But this world might soon be coming to an end, as all things do.

**Q: Our subscribers will recognize you from several past shows at Taproot Theatre, including *The Fantasticks* and *You Can't Take it with You*. Will you describe what your experience is like when you're performing at Taproot versus being on tour?**

A: I guess the biggest difference is that these big touring companies are "for profit" organizations. As much as it is still the work we love to do, there is the ever-present reminder that this is a business. Time is money. Money is always important in every theatre, but when you're working at Taproot it is so much more a feeling of doing this for the love rather than doing this for the money. I'm looking so forward to working on *Wedding Belles* because I know I will feel safe and loved. That atmosphere makes for wonderful creativity. I like the situations of both Taproot AND touring! One is small and safe, the other, big and thrilling! Oh, and please don't forget about my first and favorite Taproot show, *Radio Gals*!

**Q: What do you like best about your character in *Wedding Belles*, Glendine?**

A: That she loves men! I've never been married but I've always been boy crazy! I think Glendine believes that life is fun and she doesn't take it too seriously. I'm curious to see what kind of a character I come up with!

## What to Watch For

**Watch for the four fantastic women who join Pat Sibley to create this ensemble cast! Left to right below:**

**Gretchen Douma** was last seen at Taproot as Emma Cristano in *Over the River and Through the Woods*

**Karen Nelson** previously appeared on the Taproot stage as Enid Blyton in *Balmoral*.

**Carissa Adams** is a former Road Company actor for Taproot and this is her first appearance on the mainstage!

**Kim Morris** most recently appeared in Taproot's production of *The Great Divorce*.

