

# CrownMedia



THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

## **'WEDDING AT GRACELAND'**

### **Cast Bios**

**KELLIE PICKLER (Laurel)** – Kellie Pickler grew up immersed in country music in the small town of Albemarle, North Carolina with the words of Tammy Wynette, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton shaping her musical footing. At the age of 19, she first gained fame as a contestant on the fifth season of “American Idol.” She has gone on to release four critically acclaimed albums, including her Gold-certified debut Small Town Girl as well as 100 Proof, which Rolling Stone named the Best Country Album of 2011. Among her best-known hits are the Gold-certified “Red High Heels,” “I Wonder,” “Best Days of Your Life,” “Don’t You Know You’re Beautiful,” “Things That Never Cross a Man’s Mind,” “Didn’t You Know How Much I Loved You” and “No Cure for Crazy.”

In spring of 2013, Pickler partnered with dance coach Derek Hough and won the Mirror Ball Trophy on ABC’s “Dancing with the Stars.” That same year, she also released her fourth album, The Woman I Am, with Black River Entertainment, which featured three songs co-written by Pickler including the title cut. In 2014, she voiced the lead character, a sweet potato named Mirabelle, in the Veggie Tales animated movie *Beauty and the Beet*. Last fall, she performed the national anthem in *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk*, and starred in Hallmark Channel’s holiday movie “Christmas at Graceland.”

Pickler is an avid supporter of the U.S. military, having completed 11 USO Tours thus far.

Her CMT docu-comedy series “I Love Kellie Pickler,” which co-stars her husband, songwriter/producer Kyle Jacobs, debuted in November 2015, propelling the network to its highest premiere with adults since 2012 and women since 2008. After three successful seasons, the series was retired so that Kellie could focus on her daytime show “Pickler & Ben,” which premiered in September 2017, as the highest-rated syndicated talk show of the season. The show is currently in its second season.

For more information, please visit [www.kelliepickler.com](http://www.kelliepickler.com).

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**WES BROWN (Clay)** – Wes Brown was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he attended Louisiana State University. Prior to graduating from LSU, Brown got his big break right in his home state, filming the Jerry Bruckheimer-produced 2006 sports drama *Glory Road* which shot on location in Southern Louisiana. Soon after, he relocated to Los Angeles and landed another supporting role in the Warner Bros. feature, *We Are Marshall*, playing actor Ian McShane’s son.

Brown is perhaps best known for his role on HBO's hit vampire series, "True Blood," in which he played Luke, a former football player with a vengeance against vampires.

Brown has also had guest-starring roles on CBS's "CSI: Miami," "Criminal Minds," "NCIS," "NCIS New Orleans" and on ABC's "Desperate Housewives," along with recurring roles on the NBC medical drama "Trauma," The CW's "90210" and "Hart of Dixie," ABC's hit "Private Practice" and David Lynch's "Twin Peaks." He also portrayed Disney's legendary Gaston on ABC's "Once Upon a Time."

Additionally, Brown was a series regular on the Lifetime network's "Beach Girls," starring Rob Lowe, as well as on NBC's "Deception."

A favorite of Hallmark Channel fans, Brown has starred in the Hallmark Channel Original Movies "June in January," "Love Begins," "Love's Resounding Courage," "Shadow on The Mesa," "Love Under the Stars" and "Christmas Cookies." Most recently, he starred in Hallmark Channel's holiday movie "Christmas at Graceland."

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**PRISCILLA PRESLEY (Herself)** – Priscilla Presley portrayed Jenna Wade on the most successful evening soap-opera style television drama of its time from 1983-1988. "Dallas" was seen by over 300 million viewers worldwide every week. The show, set in the Texas city of its title, chronicled the adventures and exploits of the Ewing family saga. Presley became an instant audience favorite. During her five years on that top-rated television series, she generated mass audience appeal, becoming one of the show's most popular leading ladies.

Presley then displayed her considerable comedic talents in the box office smash *The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad!*, then reprised her role in *The Naked Gun 2½* and *The Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult*.

She has starred in the movie *Breakfast with Einstein* as well as the Showtime original movie *Haley Wagner Star*, a family-themed movie with a valuable message for young teenagers.

She also guest starred on television's "Melrose Place" and "Touched by an Angel." As a direct result of her appearances, the programs enjoyed their highest rated episodes in their seasons. In addition, Presley guest starred in back to back episodes of the award-winning ABC Television comedy series "Spin City."

In 1979, Presley became co-executor of the Presley Estate after the death of Elvis' father, Vernon Presley. She has since brought the Presley Estate from a burgeoning entity into a phenomenally successful organization consisting of the famous Graceland Mansion, a worldwide licensing program, merchandising, music publishing, and television and video projects. Most recently, in February 2005, EPE (Elvis Presley Enterprises) partnered with Bob Sillerman and CKX Entertainment to build and extend the Graceland brand worldwide. Presley sat on the CKX Board as a director. With that relationship dissolving in 2013, the company now partners with private company ABG (Authentic Brand Group) to help with the expansion of Elvis' popularity globally. Presley sits on the advisory board of that company.

Presley continues to be a steward of the Elvis Presley legacy. She recently served as an executive producer and was closely involved in the creation and development of two No. 1 Elvis Presley albums and a sold-out UK & European Live arena concert tour. The first album If I Can Dream, featured a collection of handpicked classic Elvis vocals embellished with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's backing. Released in October 2015, the album debuted at number one in the United Kingdom and Australia and it was a staple at the top end of the Official Albums Charts in the UK, Australia and New Zealand for several weeks. The album sold more than one million copies in the UK alone, and was the second biggest new release of 2015, behind only Adele. As a follow-up to this phenomenal No. 1 album came The Wonder of You. Released in October 2016, The Wonder of You shot straight to the top of the official album charts in the UK, beating off latter day artists including Michael Bublé and Lady Gaga to take the No.1 spot after a hugely exciting chart battle. In so doing, it also gave Elvis a staggering, record breaking 13<sup>th</sup> UK No. 1 album-which sees him become the single most successful solo artist in UK history. In November 2016, following the success of these two No. 1 albums, Elvis returned to the UK and 10 European cities for a sold out, live concert arena tour. The live show, which received rave reviews from fans and media alike, featured Elvis on the big screen backed by a full symphony orchestra performing songs from these two hit albums and also included a special personal appearance by Presley.

In keeping with Presley's passion for revitalizing Elvis's hometown, she actively oversaw the design elements for The Guest House at Graceland, a new hotel which opened in Memphis in Fall 2016. The property marked the largest hotel project in Memphis in nearly 100 years and has helped infuse additional economic prosperity in the city as well as offer a new cultural experience for its visitors.

Born in New York, her father's career as an Air Force officer enabled the family to travel extensively. She attended high school in Wiesbaden, West Germany, where she met her future husband, Elvis Presley. Although Presley and Elvis divorced in 1973, they remained very close until the time of his death.

Presley currently has in development, a stage play based on her unique life, from the perspective of a teenage girl to a woman thrust onto the world of rock and roll. She also continues to tour the U.S. on her first ever live tour, *An Evening with Priscilla Presley: An Open Conversation*, which she launched in 2016. The intimate, interview-format show in front of a live audience, offers an extremely rare opportunity to gain insight into a world only a few have entered.

Presley performed as the Wicked Queen in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* at the Wimbledon Theatre in 2012-2013 and at the Manchester Opera House 2014-2015. She returned in 2016-2017, playing the Genie of Lamp in *Aladdin* at the Milton Keynes Theatre.

Presley has been an ambassador of the Dream Foundation for the past 18 years, helping to fulfill the dreams of adults battling terminal illnesses. She has also worked closely with the Humane Society of the United States and has spent time in DC to lobby Congress to pass the "Prevent All Soring Tactics" (PAST Act) bill that will strengthen enforcement of the 1970 Horse Protection Act. She has a strong affection for all animals and when visiting Graceland, she can often be found in the stable on the property visiting horses she helped rescue.

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