

# PALISADES NEIGHBORS

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Creative To Their Core:

*Meet The Massey's*

Cover photo by Robin Aronson Photography



## Sculpting the Perfect Marriage

By Zoe Nauman

Photos by Robin Aronson Photography and the Massey Family

Most women would not want their husband to see their wedding dress before the big day. But Dawn Massey had no choice – because her groom-to-be was designing it!

As artist and sculptor, Ed Massey, tells *Palisades Neighbors*, it wasn't just any ordinary wedding dress he was creating.

It was a steel-framed sculpture moving sculpture covered with carefully hand-made roses. There were hidden wheels underneath so Dawn could glide effortlessly to her imaginative and eager groom.

Ed recalls: "Dawn didn't know this, but I had someone following her as she walked down the aisle just to make sure she didn't accidentally swerve off course, and end up in the nearby swimming pool."

The couple's families grew up across the street from each other in the Palisades. Ed says: "We were both probably under five when we first saw each other but neither of us remembers it!"

Dawn and Ed didn't actually meet properly until a family get-together many years later: "Dawn walked in and I had no idea she was the same person that I had played with as a child," says Ed.

"From then, things went very slow, five years of just friendship, until we started dating."

Both keen runners, their first date was at the Palisades Fourth of July 5k and 10k event. They now try to attend every year as it marks the beginning of their lifelong romance.

Ed, who is well known as a public artist, has had his work featured with the Spheres in MacArthur Park, on all 156 LA County Lifeguard Towers of the 31 miles of coastline from San Pedro to the Ventura County line, as well as a fleet of 5,000 New York Taxis. And most recently the massive exterior of the L.A. Convention Center.

Dawn, herself, is an artist - a composer, lyricist, and creative writer, whose work has been on radio and TV including, most recently, the Hallmark Channel.

Ed says he knew he had to harness his creative streak for his proposal to Dawn, setting up a 'pretend' children's birthday party. It featured a pinata Ed designed containing a special small box with a diamond engagement ring in it.



(LEFT) Ed working on the dress (Right) the amazing steel skirt of Dawn's wedding dress  
Wedding photos by Thomas Neereken and Ed Massey Studio

He recalls: "When the kids broke the pinata all these colorful toys and elements started coming out.

"I had put a double ribbon around the one for Dawn, so everyone, except Dawn knew it was for her. One of the little girls handed it to Dawn."

She didn't realize what was happening until Ed got down on one knee in front of her.

Ed says: "Dawn was in such shock that I proposed to her at a two-year-old's

birthday party for a niece of someone we had never met... but it was all a guise... It was a party for her!"

After such success, the artist said he knew he had to be involved in designing Dawn's dress. "I told her: 'I have to make your wedding dress.' She thought I was joking initially," he recalls. "I know it takes a very special person to accept that her fiancé is going to make her wedding dress. She had confidence in me, which meant a lot."

The stunning steel skirt was covered in over a thousand floral roses, with a train featuring two ducks and 12 ducklings on a pond, symbolizing fertility and family.

Dawn happily stepped into Ed's artistic creation on the big day. And rolled down the aisle to the amazement, delight, gasps (and smiles) of hundreds of guests.

Right after the ceremony, Dawn changed into something light and airy, plus easy for dancing to the two live bands, who were performing beautiful love songs Dawn had written for Ed.

Ed's proposal and Dawn's wedding dress have been featured, along with love songs by Dawn, in an exhibition at the Skirball Center, and a number of other galleries.

Their love story and wedding dress were also featured in national dailies, from the LA Times to People magazine.

The couple lived in Santa Monica for eight years before moving back to the Palisades. "Initially, we thought it was just too quiet here," says Ed. "We liked New York and we had both lived in different cities." But they settled here and love it.

## RESIDENT FEATURE



*The family live in the iconic home designed by architect Owen Moss. Ed worked on a series of designs on NY taxis - two of which are now outside his home*

The Massey family grew to include Felix, now 21, and Georgi, 17, and their dog, Milo. Felix and Georgi have enjoyed growing up in the Palisades where they attended local schools, both graduating from Pali High. Georgi will be a freshman at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, where her brother, Felix, is completing his studies. Both are engaged in the arts and play intercollegiate volleyball.

It was Dawn who discovered their new home here, which was designed by architect Eric Owen Moss. Initially, Ed was looking for a Mediterranean/Spanish style home, but Dawn's eye was geared more for the modern, mid-century style dwelling. Ed says he has grown to love their home: "It actually fits perfectly with the type of work that I do."

He adds: "Our kids love it. We spent the first year adding all our personal touches... and now we've made this house very much our own. Living so close to Palisades High School, Felix and Georgi were able to have friends over often. And, of course, being close to the beach, Felix surfs, and they both play beach volleyball. So, living here and raising our family here couldn't be more perfect for us."

*The family love doing things together, including enjoying a spectacular family vacation*





Work in progress at POH - South Bay Studios, for the "Spheres at MacArthur Park" project.outside his home

Why does Ed love the Palisades? He says: "I think most people that reside here or visit can identify with the natural beauty of the magnificent scenery that we all enjoy, between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Pacific Ocean.

"There's something about that small-town feeling, of course. It's rare being so close to a major metropolis and still having that small-town flavor." □



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