

Tony N' Tina Still Making Memories in Year 17

As any New Yorker knows, theater in the Big Apple is an invigorating force not to be

and an impeccable Italian twang. Joli Tribuzio's Tina is beautiful and endearing - despite her horrid bouffant and low I.Q., and she plays the role as though it were

written specifically for her. The supporting cast shines just as bright, and no one in the room will be at a shortage for laughs or grins.

On May 13, *Tony N' Tina's Wedding* began running under new management, with Raphael Berko and Jeff Gitlin producing. With this change came Trump's fired apprentice Sam Solovey, who guest-

Tony N' Tina's Wedding: Sam from "The Apprentice"

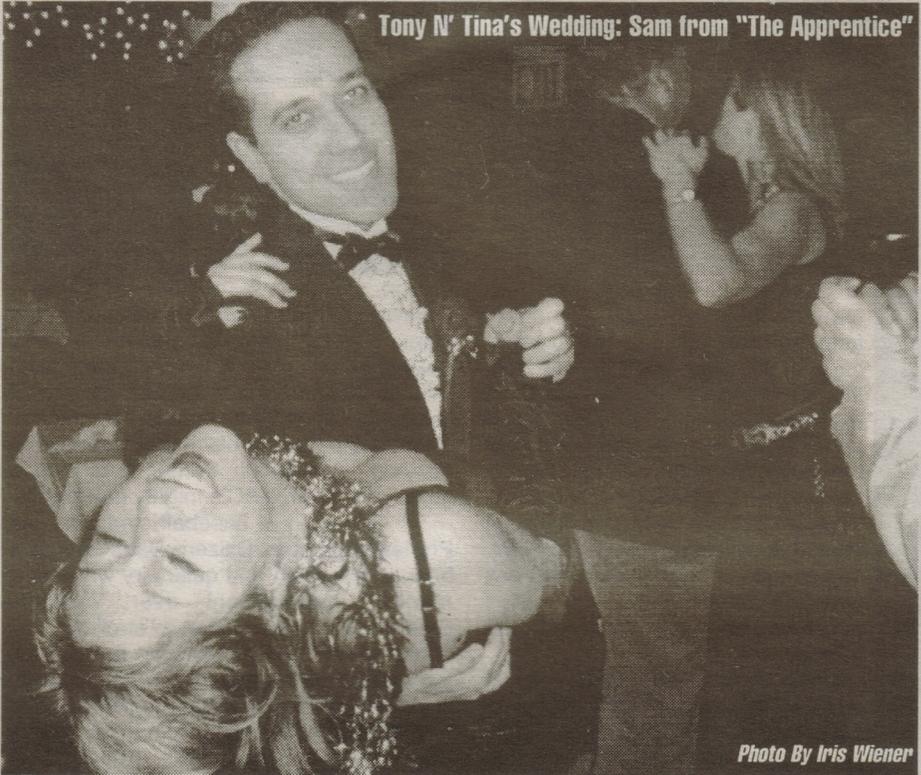


Photo By Iris Wiener

reckoned with, as it breaks down the fourth wall and entertains audiences in a way that no other medium can. This having been said, it's time to make sure that everyone knows about a marvelous thing to do that may, at times, get lost in the happenings of the big city. However, for the past sixteen years a small wedding of magnificent proportions has taken a bulldozer to that same wall, giving the theater-going experience a uniquely uplifting and enjoyable spin that has yet to be topped in originality and humor.

To stop by St. Luke's Church (308 W. 46th St., NY) Thursday through Saturday nights would mean bearing witness to the joining of two families wacky enough to make *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* look stuffy and proper. *Tony N' Tina's Wedding* is not so much a title as an invite, as "guests" arrive to immediately be thrown into the hilarious chaos that is Tony and Tina's Italian-American matrimonial ceremony. Guests should be prepared to participate in the festivities, as they'll be introducing themselves to both families, warding off illegal peddlers, singing unbelievably horrible hymns, and breaking up fights between any an all visitors.

The fun doesn't end once the two are hitched. Guests are escorted to a reception at Sofia's Restaurant at the Edison Hotel in Manhattan (228 W. 47th St.), con-

starred as himself while portraying the role of Tony's cousin. As for his favorite part of the wedding? "I think the best part would be when the bridesmaid's get up to do their dance, I think that's hysterical. My specific favorite moment is when Uncle Tony - Tony's father, smacks Tina's mother in the ass!" he laughs. Solovey is currently pulling the same stint in Las Vegas and Maui productions of the show, as he prepares for his own real-life wedding. "From *Tony N' Tina's Wedding*, I've learned to have fun, smile, and be a little crazy," he says.

Tony N' Tina's Wedding is Broadway's longest-running interactive comedy, and it's immediately apparent why the Big Apple has fallen in love with the Nunzio and Vitale families. The centered realism in this production is absolutely flawless, and it creates an environment in which attendees can always find humor in their own lives mirroring the antics in front of them. The improvisational talent and the authenticity of the entire evening contribute to an incredibly fun and entertaining experience that falls completely outside of the box, and under the shambles of a rapturously destroyed wall.

■ - Iris Wiener