

10 QUESTIONS FOR SCOTT THOMPSON

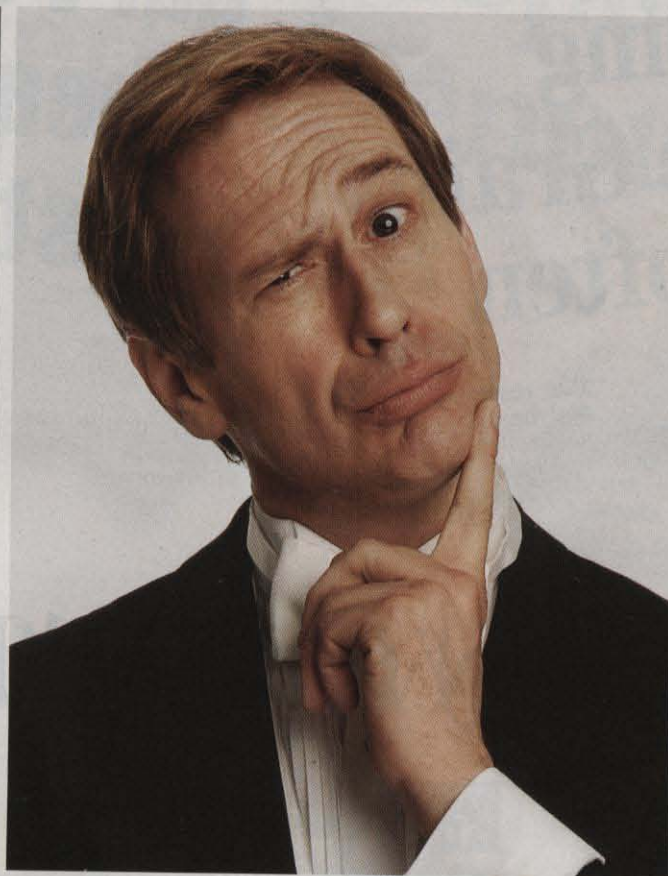
It's same-sex wedding season in Parliament and on prime time. Comedian Scott Thompson is hosting the reality-television series *My Fabulous Gay Wedding*, which recently began airing on Global TV. As the Wedding Fairy, Thompson—plus his team of planners—grants couples their dream weddings. He spoke to TIME's Leigh Anne Williams about the perils of controversial comedy.

AS THE WEDDING FAIRY, WHAT HAS BEEN THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB? The toughest part is keeping the balance between being funny and also realizing that at the end of the day, you must make the couple happy. If it was just about being funny, I'd only care about making the audience happy. It hit me when we were making the first one. I thought, Oh, my God, I can't screw this up. These are real people. They're not sketch characters. This isn't *Chicken Lady*.

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE? Tears. For a comedian, you don't want tears. But when it's your wedding, everyone is on tenterhooks and bursting into tears all the time. It's quite a delicate dance.

IT ISN'T EASY TRYING TO CREATE A WEDDING IN TWO WEEKS. ANY DISASTERS? In one wedding, the cake fell. We had this gigantic beautiful cake. And at the beginning of the night, we said, "Are you sure that's a safe table?" It was tilting, but Barb [the caterer] said, "It'll be fine." And then in the middle of the wedding, it collapsed with an unbelievable roar. It's all on-camera with Barbara crying.

WHAT DO YOU THINK VIEWERS WILL BE MOST SURPRISED BY? I think they'll be surprised by how funny and warm it is. It's



not a reality series, where people are being punked. I also think they'll be amazed at how much emotion a person can show when they have Botox in their face. That was what I couldn't believe. Crying with a forehead that doesn't move is quite astonishing to see. It's the eighth wonder of the world. Beyond that, I hate to say how normal it is because I'll play right into the hands of the Christian right, who keep

saying we're trying to advance an agenda, but people will find out that gays are boring. They're not fabulous. They'll realize that I'm the fabulous part. I'd be fabulous if I was straight.

DO YOU REGARD THIS PROGRAM AS A WAY FOR VIEWERS TO GET TO KNOW SOME GAY COUPLES? Yes, and not just as their decorators, or with women, their plumbers.

DO YOU THINK IT WILL WIN ANY HEARTS AND MINDS OF OPPONENTS OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE?

Yes, but I hope the show doesn't come across as preachy. I don't think it does. Getting to know someone of a different race or faith or orientation changes everything.

HOW DO YOU THINK THE SHOW WILL BE RECEIVED WHEN IT AIRS IN THE U.S. ON LOGO, THE NEW GAY CHANNEL, LATER THIS YEAR? I think it will be much more controversial in America. It's not called *My Fabulous Gay Wedding* there. It's called *First Comes Love*. They've changed the title. It's a little scary when a gay network takes the word gay out. That's not what I would call a positive sign.

YOU ARE REVIVING YOUR FAMOUS IMPERSONATIONS OF THE QUEEN FOR THE CBC SHOW POP-UP ROYALS. WHAT WOULD SHE THINK OF MY FABULOUS GAY WEDDING? I think she'd like it because I don't know if any of her kids are gay, but I know some of her horses are.

DID YOU FOLLOW THE ROYAL VISIT CLOSELY? Yeah, I just loved all the rain they had. She must have thought, I could have stayed home for this. But politically, it was so exciting. I kept imagining her saying, "Philip, there's all this excitement. Are you sure we're in Canada?"

IS IT TRUE YOU WERE PLAYING THE QUEEN IN OTTAWA THAT WEEK? I interviewed people as the Queen the day before Belinda Stronach left Peter MacKay. I had the last interview with MacKay before his heart was shattered. I'll tell you, Peter MacKay ... what a tall drink of water. She made a very foolish move. If it's power or Peter, I'd choose Peter.