



CHRIS CARLSON / Associated Press

Australian actress Nicole Kidman's wedding to Keith Urban is expected to take place Sunday night.

Australia anticipates Kidman's wedding

By MERAIAH FOLEY
Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Although she has tried to duck the spotlight, Nicole Kidman's every move has been followed by photographers, TV crews and fans in the days leading to her wedding to Keith Urban.

On Friday, Kidman, Urban and some high-profile guests drove out of her waterfront property amid rumors of a ceremony rehearsal. "The nerves are fine," the Oscar-winning actress told reporters.

The fine points of the ceremony — expected Sunday night — remain top secret. But Kidman has been gracious and obliging, even sending out a case of beer for the paparazzi camped outside her harborside mansion Tuesday, her 39th birthday. (They sang "Happy Birthday" to her over the intercom.)

Kidman, who was born in Hawaii to Australian parents, and Urban, a country star who was born in New Zealand and raised in Australia, ended months of speculation shortly after arriving in Sydney on Monday.

"We are very happy to be back in Australia," they said in a joint statement. "We have come home to celebrate our wedding with our family and friends."

The couple are expected to be married in a Roman Catholic ceremony at a gothic-style stone church overlooking Sydney's Manly beach.

Local media have predicted an extravagant, black-tie affair with a guest list that includes Kidman's longtime friend Naomi Watts, Russell Crowe, Hugh Jackman and "Moulin Rouge" director Baz Luhrmann.

As for her dress, Kidman is likely to wear a design by Balenciaga, her preferred fashion house.

The Rev. Paul Coleman, a family friend and pastor, reportedly will preside over the ceremony. He met with the couple this week and said he was confident their marriage would be happy.

"You've got to rely on their maturity and knowledge of each other, and I'm impressed," Coleman told Sydney's The Daily Telegraph.

Coleman said he would advise the couple to "make time for each other, do romantic things together and never part without kissing," the newspaper reported.

It will be the first marriage for Urban, 38, who is based in Nashville, Tenn. Kidman divorced Tom Cruise in 2001 after 10 years of marriage.



Urban

FANS CONTINUE TO KLINGON

Trekkers and soap fanatics can meet two of the genres' best-known stars at Trek Expo

By JENNIFER CHANCELLOR
World Scene Writer

Trek Expo 2006 schedule of events

Note: All Trek Expo guest stars without specific autograph times will be signing throughout the day.

Saturday

10 a.m. Hollywood Previews

10:30 a.m. Richard Kiel — Jawwws from the James Bond motion pictures

11 a.m. Stargate acting workshop — Ivy Isenburg casting director. (classroom 2)

11 a.m. John Wesley Shipp / Star of the "Flash" television series

11:30 a.m. Garrett Wang — Ensign Harry Kim on "Star Trek: Voyager"

Noon Autographs with Jonathan Frakes, Genie Francis, Robert Beltran and John Wesley Shipp

Noon Trek Expo masquerade

1 p.m. Connor Trinneer — Commander Trip Tucker on "Star Trek: Enterprise"

1:30 p.m. Masquerade winners announced

1:45 p.m. Cirroc Lofton — Jake Sisco on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine"

2:15 p.m. Robert Colbert and Lee Meriwether — Stars of "Time Tunnel"

2:45 p.m. James Darren — Vic Fontaine on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine"

3:45 p.m. Jonathan Frakes — Commander William Riker on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" Genie Francis — Laura Spencer on General Hospital

4:45 p.m. Trek Expo Auction — Hosted by Jonathan Harris

6:30 p.m. Star Trek Wedding

7 p.m. Trek Expo Programing closes for the day

7:45 p.m. Supper with the stars (Buffet begins at 8 p.m.)

10:30 p.m. James Darren live in concert

Photo op schedule and schedule updates available online at www.starbase21ok.com

The husband-and-wife team of Jonathan Frakes and Genie Francis are two headliners of this year's Trek Expo 2006, which runs through Sunday at the John Q. Hammonds Arena, 6836 S. Mingo Road.

In a telephone interview just days before their Tulsa appearance, Frakes, 53, and Francis, 44, talked about the enduring devotion of "Star Trek" and "General Hospital" fans, upcoming projects and how Frakes wound up playing trombone on a Phish album.

"Well, I've done the Star Trek conventions for 20 years, ever since my show came on the air," Frakes said. "I had scheduled a Tulsa appearance before, but I couldn't make it."

"I'm really happy to be able to make it this time. . . . This year is the 40th anniversary of all things 'Star Trek.'"

Francis isn't quite as experienced on the expo circuit, she said. "This is only the second convention I've gone on with him. He's definitely the main course, and I'm the side dish," she said, then laughed.

Frakes is a sci-fi legend with an extensive list of accomplishments from directing to acting, but he's perhaps most famous for his role as Commander William T. "Will" Riker on "Star Trek: The Next Generation," through the 1980s and '90s.

And Francis has had her share of notoriety, as well. She was part of one of soap opera's most memorable couples, Luke and Laura from "General Hospital."

"I've been lucky to have a number of fans who have stuck by me for a number of years. It's been wonderful for my husband and me both. The 'Star Trek' fans are really amazingly supportive, too," she said.

Frakes admitted that sometimes even die-hard Trekkers have nothing on Francis' fans. "Her fans are as fanatical, if not more so (than 'Trek' fans), with the Luke and Laura thing."

Francis said that she's eager to meet her Tulsa fans, many of whom watched her as Laura until her departure from the soap in 2002.

"I was out of the country for three years. We were in London, and there is no 'General Hospital' over there, so I don't really know how everyone reacted after I left the show."

Frakes chimed in to add, "So, I guess we'll find out this weekend."

"Yeah! We'll see," she said. "I'm always struck at how much love you can receive from a total stranger. It's amazing to know that that's out there."

Frakes and Francis are living in Maine. Frakes has several film projects in the pipeline, while Francis said she has been spending time with their two children and opening a home furnishings boutique.

"My kids are 9 and almost 12. It's nice to be the boss of the situation, so I can make my own hours and spend time with my family," she said.

And Frakes has been "the boss," too, while directing.

"I've got a project we're filming in Africa and Mexico, a show called 'The Librarian' for TNT (Turner Network Television), starring Noah Wylie from 'ER,' and I'm about to start directing an episode of a TV series for ABC called

SEE TREK D-5

Remembering Luke and Laura

Trek Expo organizers expect a new kind of fan at this year's event — soap fans.

In more than 30 years on television, Genie Francis has ridden a wave of popularity for the "Luke and Laura" storyline on "General Hospital," which began in the late 1970s. In 1981, the characters wed (with guest star and fan Elizabeth Taylor making an appearance).

Throughout the '90s and into this millennium, the Luke and Laura saga remained one of the most popular storylines on daytime television.



Courtesy

Music lovers are keyed up to see weekend's Amadeus Piano Festival

By JAMES D. WATTS JR.
World Scene Writer

The 11th annual Amadeus Piano Festival begins its public programs this weekend, offering concerts, classes and competitions centered around the possibilities inherent in the 88 black and white keys of the piano.

The festival's primary aim is to offer school-age pianists a wide range of in-depth instruction on all aspects of musicianship. One aspect of that instruction is being able to see and hear local and national artists put what they

teach into action through performance.

Five series of events will be open to the public during the festival, from Sunday through June 30. Events will be held at Tyrrell Hall on the University of Tulsa campus, 600 S. College Ave., and in the Westby Pavilion of the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, Third Street and Cincinnati Avenue.

The first event is the finals of the third annual Amadeus 20th Century Piano Competition, scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Westby Pavilion.

The competition has categories for middle school, high school- and col-

lege-aged performers, with the winners receiving cash prizes.

The festival's Discovery Series, held at 12:30 p.m. Monday through June 30 at Tyrrell Hall, will feature local performers discussing the instruments they play and the music they perform. Among the artists scheduled to participate are harpists Jenny Burdine and Mackenzie Harp, French hornist Angela DeBoer, the Pendleton Family Fiddlers and the Tulsa Ceilidh Dancers.



Courtesy

Internationally known pianist Andreas Klein will perform at the 11th annual Amadeus Piano Festival at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

SEE PIANO D-5