**WEDDING TOAST**

**FOR**

**JOHANN RANGEL**

Hello everyone!!! It's great to be here and to celebrate the wedding of my great friend, Michael and his beautiful bride, Kelli. Times like these call for speeches, toasts, and a look back on the moments and memories that have added up to form the paths that brought us here today. Mike and I met a **loooooong** time ago….let’s just say that it should probably have been enough time for me to have practiced my public speaking, but hey!! Maybe not!! So please bear with me and remember… It's the thought and sentiments that count, right?!?! (**Wait for the laugh**).

Mike and I met when we were in eighth grade and have been best buddies since then. For those of you that know and love him, you know how easy it is to be with him and to be friends with him. You know what a sense of humor he has…. How he truly has a knack for putting the “**humor**” in “**humanity**” as he provides his running narrative for all that he sees and hears. Maybe it’s because he’s “part hippie” on his parents’ side that inspires a blend of consciousness and self expression, but whatever it is, I hit the best friend jackpot when we both remembered to show up at (**Give the name of the school where you met**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Junior High that fateful day in (**Give the year you met**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I have lots of memories of growing up with Mike…. Visiting his house was a **trip**…. No. **Really**… I remember going there as a kid and entering what seemed like a whole new world each time I visited…. Maybe it was the sage? The presence of Buddha? The Native American art that graced the walls? The **groovy** vibes in the house? Yes… Mike grew up as a child of children of the 60’s…. His parents, Ayesha and Collin were and are proud ex-hippies from the center of the “happening” in San Francisco and that hippie heritage colored his adolescence and helped to form the man we see today…

With an open mind and a sense that anything is possible, we continued our great friendship through high school and beyond to college… we were even roommates with two other guys…. And **four** dogs…. Which was, as you can imagine… **TOTALLY** beyond…. I mean, as far as I can remember, **NONE** of us majored in housekeeping… if you know what I mean… (**Wait for the laugh**) But we embraced the mess and we learned about life, laughed with each other, and Mike honed his skills at pointing out “stunt doubles” for the people we would run into along our travels.

There are so many highlights that come to mind when I look back on our friendship and each one reinforces why our bond is so strong. He's a great guitar player… and so dedicated to his craft and to those that inspire him, that he switched from regular guitar to bass when the Red Hot Chili Peppers became his favorite band in the late 80’s…. And Mike… have I ever thanked you for stopping just short of adopting and keeping Flea’s hairdo? (**Wait for the laugh**). Thank goodness we can't point **YOU** out as a stunt double for Flea!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Our cinematic careers also began…. Way back then…. We used to love to make movies with our friends, each one showing an admirable range as we played different characters… from Batman to skateboarding, we produced a body of work that was…. Special? Perhaps you've seen our epic, “Driving Under the Influence,” a piece we produced at the ripe age of 15 1/2….. inspired by our mandatory Driver’s Ed class…. I still don't get how we didn't make the cut for Sundance or Cannes that year…. (**Wait for the laugh**). Our most recent effort, “Wine,” an homage to horror films, is unique in its scope and depth… or at least **we** think so… (**Wait for the laugh**).

I've watched Mike and witnessed his evolution over the years from “the funny kid” to the bright, wise, discerning, professional with a selective eye for the finer things in life, and whether it's food, fun or fashion, Mike has shown he appreciates the best…. And that is also obvious in his choice of his bride. Kelli, although we’ve known each other only for the past three years, I know that because you mean so much to Mike that you two make a great couple. (**Mention your wife**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I wish both of you all the best and look forward to continuing the history, the laughter, and yes…. the cinematic documentation, especially now that we both have such stellar muses and leading ladies!

Mike, Kelli, now the two of you are one…. And you've brought a whole new meaning to the phrase, “Sleepless in Seattle.” (**Wait for the laugh**)…

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Kelli and Mike, whether you find yourselves sleepless in Seattle or up on Cripple Creek, may you find only happiness and humor, partnership and love, health, prosperity, and more than you could ever wish for…. Remember… “Life is a Carnival…” and may your first “waltz” as husband and wife last forever. Congratulations!