

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SWEET TALK

Since the beginning of time, people have been stung by the love bug. And since the beginning of time, they have tried to think of the most eloquent (and effective) ways to declare their deepest desires. The next time you're searching for the right words to pen a love letter, consider these zingers from the masters of old. —Jude Stewart

WOO-ER	WHEN?	WOO-EE	WHAT WAS SAID	DID IT WORK?
Socrates	469–399 B.C.	Xanthippe, his wife	"The hottest love has the coldest end."	The only person ever to have won an argument with Socrates, Xanthippe once dumped a chamber pot on the philosopher's head.
King Solomon	200–100 B.C.	Either the early Christian church, or one of several concubines	"Thy neck is like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men."	She's also got hair like flocks of racing goats and teeth like just-shorn sheep. If Solomon's advances <i>did</i> work, the results weren't pretty.
James Joyce	1909	Nora Barnacle	"Write the dirty words big ... and hold them under your dear little farting bum. Do <i>more</i> if you wish and send the letter then to me, my darling brown-arsed fuckbird."	Barnacle married him—and Joyce wrote <i>Ulysses</i> , with Barnacle reportedly serving as the model for Molly Bloom.
Samuel Beckett	1958	Suzanne Descheveaux-Dumesnil	"Love, that is all I asked, a little love, daily, twice daily, fifty years of twice daily love like a Paris horse-butcher's regular, what normal woman wants affection?"	They met in a publicity storm after Beckett was stabbed by a pimp—and stayed together for 51 years. Success like that calls for a juicy horse-steak.
Andy Warhol	1975	Indeterminate multitudes	"Fantasy love is much better than reality love. Never doing it is very exciting."	Andy ditched his dates to dye his eyebrows and dream about what might have happened.
Mother Teresa	1982	God	"I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world."	There's a reason she's on the fast-track to canonization.



AMRITA HUJA

Hoop Dreams

Viva la revolution! The hula hoop has officially emerged from the depths of cultural kitsch to become a plaything at weddings. To spirit guests onto the dance floor, dedicated hoopers are creating their own models from polyethylene irrigation tubing, and decorating the rings with brightly colored gaffer's tape. With diameters as large as five feet across, these giants are easier to keep in rotation than the Wham-O models of yesteryear. And nothing beats seeing the groom's mother gleefully gyrating to "YMCA."

—Ariel Meadow Stallings