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the drag rag

Greetings, my dear readers! And welcome back to the place where a list of drag queens is worth its weight in rhinestones! Although sometimes the names and titles of pageant girls might get boring to you, this is the one place where they will get their due — or as Kasey King would say, "Get their g's!" Miss Kasey is one queen that I do miss now that I'm living in Raleigh; she was always good to me. Actually, Oleen's was the last place Della Dietrich was seen, back in May of 1997.

Oh, we're coming up on a busy time of year again for pageants: Miss America is right around the corner; Miss USofA at Large just took place; then, it'll be time for Miss Black America before you know it. And, of course, there are prelims, bar titles...oh, it just never seems to end. And I sure am happy because of it.

A little tea to share with you on the Continental scene — the reigning, Michelle Dupree, is about to begin filming a movie in NYC with none other than Robert DeNiro. Yes, she'll be in drag, and you'll get more details as they develop. Hopefully, she'll be doing her lovely Marilyn Monroe impersonation in the flick, which is supposed to be very drag-positive. And rightfully so!

Since I mentioned Charlotte earlier, it's only fitting that I should bring up two more items from there — congrats to Kerri Nichols, former Miss NC and America, on recently celebrating her 10th anniversary of performing. As many of you know, Kerri was the closest I ever had to a drag mother and I appreciate everything she did for me back in the day. Also, Mythos just reopened after a redecoration blitz and they're doing big-name shows on Sunday nights now. First on the list, native Wilmington girl Lady Bunny, of Wigstock fame and Naya bottled water commercials. Would you believe she's never performed in NC! She turned Atlanta out when she lived there, though, and is constantly in the limelight in NYC. Look for more NYC celebs coming soon!

Speaking of anniversaries, my good friend Hot Chocolate just celebrated his 25th anniversary at a special "Show of Shows" in Houston, TX, where he's lived for years since moving from Atlanta. The show featured such big names as Miss Tiffany Arieagus, Jimmy James, Erica Andrews and Dina Jacobs, just to name a

few! I would have given my left one to be there, that's for sure!

I've just gotten in from Miss USofA at Large, held in Dallas, TX. Tajma Hall and I went out to see the big 'uns compete and I could not be any more pleased with the outcome. First of all, let me brag on our Miss NC, Shelby Daniels — the gal made finals her first time at the national pag and looked lovely as always. Others in top 12 included Donna Day, Simply Divine, Sybil Ann Storm, Tefra Carrington Devoe, Joanna Blue, Vanessa "just real" Casti and 4th runner-up Mahogany Knight, 3rd Lexus Chaney, 2nd Dina Jacobs, 1st dancing mama Chevelle Brooks and winner Dena Cass — who just gave up Miss Continental PLUS in April. If you know much about the past, you'll agree this crowning was overdue. High time, I say! My congrats to Whitney Paige, the out-going, on a most commendable job and also for win-

ning Daddy Bird's Chairman of the Board Award. My thanks to Mr. Bird and Mr. Gellman and Mr. Miles for their hospitalities while in the "Big D."

As I stated previously, Miss Gay America is the next biggie on the list and final night is Sunday, October 25, in Little Rock, AR. I just spoke with Maya Montana and she's all done with prelims. Before I list the last several winners with their respective titles, let me say this: the winner will have big shoes to fill and a lovely reputation to uphold because Maya has been nothing but a credit to that

sisterhood. My best wishes to all NC gals competing, including Kirby Kolby, Kristin Collins, Tyler Kole and Christina Carruthers. Here are the last prelims to MGA: Miss NY, Cherry Pie; Queen City, Janae Bordeaux; Indiana, Kendra Monroe, alternate Scarlett Fever; Western States, Elektra Bleau, alternate Cara Young; Ohio, ViVi Velure; Florida, Crystal Chambers; Mid-America, Taylor Bryans; Louisiana, Jessica Daniels; Delaware, Stephanie Michaels, alternate Christina Carruthers; Miss South, Kirby Kinkead; Oklahoma, Richelle Lee; Arkansas, Debbye Taunts; California, Renee Russell; and New Jersey, Alona. You'll of course get a full report when I return.

In closing, I wanted to welcome two NC girls back home where they belong. Erica Fontaine and Lauren Colby are both back to doing shows in Wilmington, I'm told. Hopefully, I'll be running into them soon. Also, congrats to Jessica Raye on her walk down the aisle. Lord, what will happen next? ▼

by Miss Della



Q-Notes Staff



by Brian D. Holcomb
Q-Notes Staff

Amidst the flurry of autumn CD releases (I'm looking forward to Alanis Morissette's *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* on November 3 and Jewel's as-yet-untitled release on November 17, myself), look for *Judy*, released October 13. This four-CD set gives the Garland fan an overview of her *oeuvre* (how often does one get to use that word?), as well as (grab your pearls, boys) a videocassette of excerpts from her television show. For those of you who have never seen *Judy*, at the height of her fame, introduce a new, relatively unknown, pre-*Funny Girl* Barbra Streisand to her soundstage, then you've truly missed something. Their duet of "Get Happy" and "Happy Days Are Here Again" will bring a lump to your throat. Lena Horne, Ethel Merman and other famous guests are also likely to make appearances on this videocassette.

Charlotte Repertory Theatre performs *Swingtime Canteen* at the Booth Playhouse October 21-November 1. This musical sensation features an all-female cast and big band era music. The script is by Charles Busch and features such over-the-top characters — like glamorous "movie legend" Marian Ames — that one wonders if it isn't supposed to be an all-male, all-drag cast. In any event, the music should be great and, if Busch lives up to his

former successes, the script should be hilarious. For tickets and info, call (704) 372-1000.

ManBites Dog Theatre Company of Durham presents *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* October 22-25. Their annual "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" series is a celebration of gay and lesbian theatre and performance. For those of you who missed the performance of this play at last year's OutCharlotte, or even if you did see it and want to again, this is a great opportunity to see some exceptional queer theatre. The one-man show traces a young man's move to New York in the early '80s and follows him through his entrance into the gay subculture, as well as through the destructiveness of the AIDS crisis. Funny, moving and ultimately affirming, *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* is something that everyone should see, at least once. For tickets and information, call ManBites Dog at (919) 220-6779. As a special bonus, the Thursday performance is a benefit for ACRA, a Durham agency which provides housing and compassionate care for people living with HIV/AIDS. See a great show and make your money count!

The Afro-American Cultural Center presents *Before It Hits Home*, a play by Cheryl West October 16-17 and 22-24. The play deals with a family's struggle to deal with the HIV diagnosis of one of its members. This should be a fairly moving theatre and it also addresses the growing HIV-positive population within the African-American community. For tickets and information, call (704) 374-1565. The October 22 performance is a benefit for Metrolina AIDS Project (see "QFYI" on page 29). ▼

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Dinner Meeting on Monday, October 19 has been cancelled

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