

the drag rag

Hello, honeys, and welcome again to my spot in the paper! There hasn't really been a whole lot going on in the pageantry circles since the last time you heard from me; there are a few things I'm looking into that you'll hear about later, but I wanted to start off with something I feel really good about — and it's so long overdue!

I don't know if many of you know much about the Atlanta drag community, and I admit I don't know a lot, but the legendary Mr. Billy Jones, known from years back as Phyllis Killer (circa 1962), was recently given a special honor in his hometown. He was inducted into the Older Atlantans Task Force Portrait Gallery, which is on permanent display at City Hall East. He was also recently named Senior Citizen of the Year (being the spry Septuagenarian that he is.) I'd meant to include this several weeks ago, but I think it's great that he's left the mark on Hotlanta that he has — and is still involved in the community there. According to a published interview with him, he's missed one pride march in decades. How's that for a drag grandma?

As I type this, prelims are going on in Dallas for the silver anniversary Miss TX America. My friend Laken Edwards, the outgoing, called to let me in on a few top contenders: Charity Case won Miss Dallas, her RU was the lovely Kalexis Davenport; Miss Heart of Texas was by Kofi; Miss Metroplex was Marina Moore; Highland park went to Cassie Nova and her RU was Obsession; Twin Cities is Nikki L'Amour; Miss Fr. Worth is Lauren LaMasters — but *not* the one you're thinking about (former NC USofA). Along with these lovely ladies is Victoria West, who I'd mentioned in an earlier column. Sounds like a lovely pageant, huh? The sad part about it is I thought that all the top 10 spots for Miss Gay America were already filled. Any good pageant queen knows that you should never forget about Miss Texas! Miss America is going to be a bloodfest this year so remember that I told you so a few months early! Recent qualifiers from other prelims are the "Sex Kitten" Tracy Morgan, our 16th Miss NCA, who won the first annual Miss West Virginia Regional; her RU was Lynette Summers, a former Miss VA. April Scott, a former Miss Arkansas, won Miss Southern Elegance.

The first Miss Vintage (on the Boulevard) pageant was recently held in Charlotte and here are the results: Miss Vintage Emeritus Tracy Stephens crowned Basia; her RU was Keisha Wellington, formerly of NC, now enjoying Atlanta as her new home. When precious Jasmine Bonet came to perform there a few weeks ago, I got to assist her and she's as sweet as I had imagined. She's back in Atlanta now, and she brought her friend Nicole Love Dupree of Loretta's who is the reigning Miss Black USA. Boy, that Vintage is sure pulling in the titleholders!

Since this will come out while Miss USofA at Large is going on, I wanted to wish Neely O'Hara, the new Miss East Coast, good luck, along with her RU, Summer Storm of Winston-Salem. (Summer is also the reigning Miss Satellite at Large, a pageant I overlooked from a while ago; my apologies to her and her RU, Amaya Mann of the Fayetteville area.) Every former USofA at Large but one will be in Hickory — if you enjoyed Carmella when she was here, go on up there and let her put you in stitches once again! I know I'll be there!

A quick note on miss NC USofA — while there are a few more prelims that I need to get the dirt on (and you'll have it the next go 'round), I wanted to tell you about Miss Durham/Chapel Hill. Kelly Raye won and Alicia Harris was her RU. Good luck, ladies! What's this about Melissa Montgomery planning on doing the pageant this year? Save me a seat on the front row for this one, Nancy!

And to close out, let me share the results from Miss Continental. First of all, my seats at the Baton Show Lounge and at Park West couldn't have been any better! The show at the Baton was incredible as always — you need to go! Dena Cass, the reigning Miss PLUS, was there and she has lost tons of weight — she

looks fabulous! Bitch turned the place out! The opening "stand and model" number (a tribute to outgoing Paris Frantz and French-influenced fashion) was worth the \$50 ticket, let me assure you! Anyway, the winner and her court consisted of the following: 4th. Damien Deevine of Ft. Lauderdale, 3rd. Danielle Hunter of Orlando, 2nd. the talented Martina Diamante, also of Florida, 1st. Kentucky's Ashley Kruiuz and the winner was a deserving Tasha Long. While I, admittedly, have never been a huge fan of Tasha's, I have always given her her G's — like when I knew she deserved to win Miss National a couple of years ago and she did. The same was true for this one — I thought Danielle might pull it off (til I saw her gown), but after Tasha did talent final night, I was like, well, she finally did it. Then with gown, and the all-important on-stage

question, there was no doubt in my mind and I am so happy for her! Congrats to Jim "Felicia" Flint of Chicago for pulling off another professional, *always* on time, pageant.

OK, kiddies, I'm gone — remember, drag, not drugs. Don't let the good taste fool you! ▼

by Miss Della



Q-Notes Staff



by Brian D. Holcomb
Q-Notes Staff

film that was the inspiration for *The Birdcage*. If you have never seen it, you should, and if you have never been to Thalian Hall, you should see that as well. It is one of the most beautiful old theaters in the state. For tickets and information, call 800-523-2820.

Sisters ACT!, a celebration of women through music, is a benefit for the Shelter for Battered Women. It will be held October 11 in Fourth Ward Park and feature Beth Chorneau, Doubting Thomas, Vickie Pratt Keating and others. \$10.00 at the door and all to benefit a very worthy cause.

Halloween Fundraisers:

You have a choice of two, but they are in the same block, so I suggest making it to both. "Damn it, Janet!" is a (you guessed it!) Rocky Horror-themed party at the Holiday Inn Cen-

ter City (College Street), Charlotte from 9:00pm to 1:30am. It is a benefit for the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard of Charlotte. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple.

Actors' Theatre of Charlotte and Mythos are teaming up for a Halloween benefit as well. It will be a masquerade party and will feature skits performed by the Actors' Theatre.

Both are excellent causes, and you can really spread some holiday cheer (okay, wrong holiday) by attending both. If you can't do that, make sure you get to at least one and help support our community!

There is lots of drama in Charlotte in October. And finally, it has gotten out of the Government Complex and back in the theaters where it belongs:

October 8-19: Charlotte Repertory Theatre presents *The Old Settler*. Set in the Harlem of the past, it is touching and funny, as well as being a new work fostered by CRT. Show them that we appreciate their fight.

October 14-19: *Oklahoma!* kicks off the first season of the Broadway Series of Charlotte at Ovens Auditorium.

October 16-19: Opera Carolina presents *Tosca*, the first of their season of operas that seem to have a common theme of unrequited love. It'll give you a good cry and all of the opera queens will be there. Definitely a chance to break out the pearls. ▼

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