

the drag rag

Hello, drag devotees, and welcome back! My apologies for the absence of the last column...I sent it to the wrong e-mail address and it bounced back. Unfortunately, that old file has disappeared — and after I type something, the written info goes in the trash...a really stupid mistake. I'll have to backtrack in the next one to catch you up. But, because of this, we get more time to talk about the two most recent national pageants that have taken place. Both were full of surprises, I might add.

I do know that my last column was to cover Miss NC America. Kristin Collins of Asheville won — the first to do so as a Miss Charlotte, thank you. Her RUs were Tyler Kole, Isis, Jasmine James of Winston-Salem, Ebony Black and (a blast from the past) Brittany Allen. Congratulations to the NC America family for making it last 20 years! A special treat that pageant weekend was our reigning Miss Gay America Maya Montana who could not be any lovelier. If you saw (and especially *met*) her, I know you'd agree. Just a few weeks later, Maya was back to reign over Miss SC, which Veronica Ciccone, formerly of Raleigh, won. And former Miss NC, Kirby Kolby, swept all categories at Miss West Virginia Regional a week or so after that. Her NC sister Tracy Morgan crowned her.

Lauren Taylor, a former MGA, and the current Miss USofA, had her first prelim recently in San Antonio. The winner of Miss Texas was Layla LaRue. Her runners-up were Cara Dion (his twin brother does drag, too: Tara Dion) and the lovely Courtney Van Wales. Congrats to Whitney Paige who gave up the title and is finishing up her reign as Miss USofA at Large. And what better time to discuss winners at her

most recent prelims: Miss Windy City: Sybil Ann Storm; Oklahoma: Tiffany Adams; Iowa: Mahogany Knight; Florida: Tefra Devoe; East Coast: Dina Jacobs with RU Amaya; Southern Carolinas: Cameron Brae with RU Beverly Hills; Cosmopolitan: Shamu with RU Eva Destruction; and Great Lakes: Celeste Olds.

After my sister and good friend Kelly Rae went through the trouble to call with all her prelim winners, I now have to call her back due to the missing drag file incident. Anyway, I know she's been travelling and having a blast, but I can tell you about two recent prelims: Miss Wake County, won by Nicole Stencil with alternate Jasmine Knight; and Winston-Salem, won by Tiffany Bonet with alternate Ebony Addams. Have mercy!

The Entertainer of the Year pageant was held in Louisville almost a month ago and here's how Top 12 looked: NC's Versage; Michelle McCausland of St. Louis; Dominick Sanchez and China Blue, both of Arkansas; Calpernia Addams of Nashville, TN; Kitty Litter; Symone of Louisville;

Alana Dupree Steele of Indianapolis; Dallas' Laken Edwards; 2nd RU Angel Sheridan of NYC; 1st RU Atlanta's Necole Luv Dupree; and winner, little Daisy Deadpetals of Ft. Lauderdale, who is a sweet child and will add diversity to what it means to be a Miss EOY.

Before I go on, let me say this — I hope you enjoyed my "prediction pictures" of the Continental girls, because I will never do that again! Those predictions were based on what I saw last year at the pageant and what I had heard about preparations for this year. Trouble is, some new girls put a hurtin' on some established divas with reputations for being fierce. All my six made Top 12, of course, but it basically ends there.

The pageant was the most flawless ever and

a bloodbath to the very end. I will bill it now as *the* pageant of 1998. 'Nuff said? Just ask any of the other 11 kids from NC who were there. I'm still on my high from it.

Anyway, opening production — A Tribute to the Divas of Hollywood — was worth the entry fee alone. Monica Munro as Joan Crawford and Chanel Dupree as Gypsy Rose Lee were phenomenal! Then the parade of contestants...I thought I would pass out! Truly, some of the loveliest queens in the industry were in the house that night, including spectator Tommie Ross — who turned the party out in her brocade suit with black boa trim. Oh, it was good to me!

Finalists outside of Top 5 were Hawaiian goddess Yoshiko Oshiro, Danielle Hunter, Whitney Gaitan, Yosmeir Campbell Starr (who keeps getting better), Jessica Michaels, Regine Phillips, and an angel from above, Jasmine Bonet. The winner and her court included 4th RU Armani (a new diva to worship!), 3rd Erica Andrews, 2nd Sasha Valentino, 1st Silkie

Munro (formerly O'Hare, but now taking her drag mother Monica's name), and winner Michelle Dupree. Saywhat?

Yes, Mr. Scott Cooper from NYC! He made finals two years ago when Paris Frantz was crowned. Michelle is the first "boy" queen Continental has had in almost a decade and it upset many kids in attendance who thought the idea preposterous. However, he won overall talent doing a scene from *The King and I*; won overall interview — as he did in 1996 — and won on-stage question. I never thought I'd see the day!

But, when a pageant is fair, kids, everyone has a chance! So, no more lip about having to be a transie queen, okay? Mr. Cooper is gonna have a rough enough time as it is! Because when I say "boy" queen, I mean it! This Miss Continental wears pads and glues on his wigs. What an interesting year it's gonna be!

I'll close with a thought by super dragster RuPaul: We're all born naked and the rest is drag! ▼

by Miss Della



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