

Dance • Film • Literature • Internet

the drag rag

Well, boys and girls, it's that time again to talk about the wonderful world of drag and all the trauma therein! Santa Claus is making his list and checking it twice; I sure hope you've been nice, or there will be no divas to entertain you in the New Year!

Hopefully, this column will be short and sweet...not too much to report on this time. But, boy, the ones that we do need to hash and re-hash! On the state scene, of course, there's the Miss NC USofA pageant which took place just before Thanksgiving. My sister Kelly Rae gave up the crown and congrats to her on a lovely year! Tiffany Bonét, a former Miss Gay America, ended up winning and did the best Tina I have ever seen her do! Her runners-up were Sabrina White, Coti Collins, Alicia Harris and

by Miss Della



Q-Notes Staff

Kim Chanel (lovely gown, girl!). Other finalists included Jasmine Knight, Nicole Stancil, Nicole Summers, Victoria C. Snow, Ebony Addams, Stephanie Ross and DeAgera Sherrington (formerly Delmar). Good job, ladies, and best of luck on the national level.

And while on the subject, let's not overlook the fact that a former, Dana St. James, recently won her spot to return to the arena...she's your new Miss Illinois and her RU was Sharon Sharealike. Dana will reign over 26 city/regional prelims as the new girl from the Land of Lincoln. Whew! Dana just gave up Miss Greater Florence (SC) and Amaya of Fayetteville won; her RU was Raleigh's Jada Starr! I want these NC girls to go out of town and turn it!

Drag has been all over the tv lately...have you noticed? Did you see Maya Montana and colleagues on *Ricki Lake* recently? Coti Collins, Hot Chocolate and
See DRAG on page 24

out in hollywood

by William Horn
Special to Q-Notes

Home improvement?

Talk about playing against type: Teen heartthrob Jonathan Taylor Thomas recently left the hit ABC sitcom *Home Improvement* for college and now looks to have an interesting future on the big screen. His part in the independent film *Speedway Junky*— executive produced by gay director Gus Van Sant (*Good Will Hunting*, *Psycho*)— is being described as a "gritty" film about a tough street kid. The movie's director, Nickolas Perry, is known for a segment he did last year for *Boy's Life Two*, a film consisting of three gay-themed shorts. Seventeen-year-old JTT will play a downtrodden youth who sometimes "hustles" to make a buck. Look for *Speedway Junky* sometime next year.

Rocky ratings

The new CBS comedy *Becker*, starring Ted Danson, seems to be taking a toll on the critically acclaimed *Will & Grace*. Plagued by a bad timeslot (opposite Fox's *Ally McBeal*) and a ratings-challenged lead in, *Will & Grace's* ratings have dropped a whopping 25 percent since *Becker* premiered earlier this month.

Elton scores

Grammy-winning superstar Elton John has agreed to score the new Albert Brooks film, *The Muse* (October Films), starring Brooks, Sharon Stone, Andie MacDowell and Jeff Bridges. Besides writing (along with Bernie Taupin) and performing the title song, the music legend will score the whole film, marking the first time he has done so since the 1971 film *Friends*. John's most recent film work won him acclaim and an Oscar for *The Lion King*. *The Muse* is due out next year.

The freshman shuffle

While the television season has already seen a number of shows either cancelled (*Costello*) or benched (*Encore! Encore!*), so far it seems the GLBT community has only lost one character, Luis the Latin-American weatherman on *The Brian Benben Show*. The latest shuffling of the primetime schedule had CBS's *To Have and To Hold* and *Buddy Faro* sitting out the November sweeps with a December return. ABC's *The Secret Lives of Men* has fared much worse—it will not return at all. The freshman comedy lost an average 35 percent of ratings-favorite *The Drew Carey Show's* lead-in audience. The irony in all this: *Secret Lives* holds the same timeslot as *Ellen* did last season.

Center honors Najimy

On November 21 the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center honored Kathy Najimy (*Veronica's Closet*, *Sister Act*) with their Rand Schrader Distinguished Achievement Award at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Ellen

DeGeneres, Najimy's long-time friend and the godmother of Najimy's daughter, presented the award. Najimy was the Grand Marshall of last year's Los Angeles Gay Pride Parade.

Blond ambition

People reports that Madonna is being courted to play famed Mexican painter Frida Kahlo in a film entitled *Brush with Death*. Madonna has long been a fan and collector of Kahlo's unique works and has publicly spoken of possibly portraying the artist's interesting life on the big screen. The production is slated for sometime next year and is said to be a look at Kahlo's affair with Bolshevik Leon Trotsky. No word yet if the film will address or depict Kahlo's bisexuality. If Madonna is cast, expect some very

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