

rag rag



miss bella

The best of 2004

Happy holidays, folks — just like last year, before we enter into a new year, let's look back on some of the biggest stories in female impersonation pageantry.

1) Perseverance does the trick. In May, the multi-talented Layla LaRue won Miss Gay U.S.of.A. after having won Overall Talent for three years in a row (but the gowns held her back in my opinion); Raquel Chevalier won Miss Gay America after several attempts; and Kitty Litter won

Miss Gay U.S.of.A. at Large in Dallas in December after having excelled at competing at Miss At-Large before, as well as EOY and Miss Continental PLUS.

2) Year of the return to competition? Impersonators who were either successful on a national level before or who were known in the industry competed once again on whatever level in 2003, like Kirby Kolby who won Miss Ibiza down in Wilmington, Ashley Kruiz who won Miss Renaissance in Orlando, Continental promoter Alyson Thomas who won Miss Time Out in Myrtle Beach, Jessica Raye won Miss Liquid Pearl in Myrtle Beach, Angela Carrera (a previous Continental favorite) crossed over and won Miss Pennsylvania U.S.of.A. (and made finals, thank you) and Kourtney Van Wales returned to Continental after 5 years and made finals there.

3) Healthy girls rule! Seems like 2003

was a year when healthy impersonators were at the forefront—Kofi, a former Miss U.S.of.A. at Large, won Miss Texas U.SofA., Dena Cass was named Miss International PLUS, former Carolina girl Tajma Hall won Miss Canada Continental PLUS, and at Miss U.S.of.A. in May, three big girls are featured prominently in the opening—Miss Continental PLUS Angelica Sanchez, former Miss U.S.of.A. Chevelle Brooks, and Kelexis Davenport, who was Miss U.S.of.A. at Large then. And not to mention, one pig crowned another — Miss Continental PLUS Victoria Parker, known as “the Pig,” crowned Angelica “Piggy” Sanchez. Nice nicknames.

4) Texas domination, as usual. Not to the surprise of anyone, at the time of this writing, five national titleholders have Texas in common — Mr. Continental Antonio Edwards called Dallas home for more than a decade (but is now based in Roanoke, Va.), Miss Continental Erica Andrews hails from San Antonio, Miss Black America Tommie Ross is from Houston (but now liv-

ing in Memphis), Miss Big and Beautiful Chevelle Brooks is also from Houston and Miss U.S.of.A. Layla LaRue moved from San Antonio to Dallas. Like I always say, Don't Mess with Texas!

5) New ones come, old ones go — Mimi Marks of Chicago took top honors at the first pageant for “transies” in Las Vegas with Erica Andrews right on her stiletto heels. Three girlies with local ties competed also — Victoria Parker, Dorae Saunders, and Tamalah Taylor. From what I understand, a small scandal came to light afterwards — the organizers thought all the contestants were post-op. Uh oh! We also saw the premier of the first Miss Gay United States in Roanoke, which Coti Collins won. Also, there was all kinds of chatter as to the future of the Miss National pageants — a website that would come and go, and the Miss National at Large Chelsea Pearl reportedly surrenders her title in frustration with Miss National

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