

International Mr. Gay contest brings 40 delegates to competition

Bruce Vilanch to host event
by Christopher Kingry

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — The U.S.A. Mr. Gay preliminary contests are over and soon



Finalists at the U.S.A. Mr. Gay preliminary.

the judges will select the candidate who best represents America's "boy-next-door."

When he's chosen, he will compete against Mr. Gay winners from Germany, Australia, Hungary, Philippines, Iran, Lebanon, Israel and the Vatican City (just to name a few of the 40 representatives) for the Grand Finale title of International Mr. Gay.

Both competitions will be held here Oct. 27-28 in the desert city's new Convention Center.

The event will be hosted by the hilarious Bruce Vilanch, star of "Hollywood Squares" and "Hairspray," and co-writer for just about every awards show known to man, from the Oscars to the Emmys to the Tonys.

Mr. Gay winners from 20 cities nationwide will compete for the U.S.A. title on Friday, Oct. 27. The next night the new U.S. delegate will go against 20-plus delegates from around the globe, heating up the desert valley faster than the summer sun! The winner will hold the worldwide title of International Mr. Gay 2007.

The number of contestants has grown from 12 at last year's inaugural competition to over 40 this year. Kevin Howard, producer of the Miss Texas Pageant for the past seven years, will produce the two stage shows — which will have the delegates questioned by celebrity judges, including gossip columnist Billy Masters, "Good Morning America" personality Steve Viscusi and Hollywood Diet co-founder Jamie Kabler.

"The International Competition for Mr. Gay has a mission of bringing together non-stereotypical gays from around our world to confront an often-times stereotypical bias in the mainstream press," said Producer Don Spradlin. "The competitive elements designed into the finals will allow judges to observe the character values and leadership talents of our contestants."

Both the national and the international competitions will follow an elimination

round format, similar to reality TV shows. As one of last year's judges, director Dirk Shafer, pointed out, "Believe me, this is not going to be your sister's beauty pageant." Shafer will be making a documentary of this year's competition.

Additional information, including photos of the competitors, U.S.A. preliminary schedules and last-minute updates can be found online.

The company producing this international network of competitions is Community Promotions, a California LLC owned and oper-

ated by Managing Partners Don Spradlin and Thomas Roth. Mr. Gay is a Trademark of Community Promotions. ▶

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