

Second Annual Pride Festival

By Ivy Pope
Staff Writer

On April 13, Brevard College hosted its very own Pride Festival for the second year in a row, and with that festival came the college's second annual drag show. Featured in this show were drag queens and kings: Ithika Cerise, Natasha Noir Nightly, Jada Queen, Katarina Eclipse, Viktor Grimm, Adonis Steel, Ida Carolina, Vincent Martin, and Cherry Wine.

Three Brevard College students participated directly in the show: Dal Davis (Jada Queen), Caroline Vargas (Cherry Wine) and Lisa Arrona (Vincent Martin). Professional queens and kings were Viktor Grimm, who was ranked #6 in the nation for his drag king performance, and hosts the kingdom drag king showcase at Scandals nightclub in Asheville North Carolina.

Ida Carolina was the former Ms. Blue Ridge Pride, former Asheville Sweetheart, and is the current reigning Ms. Tricities, colloquially known as the Queen Elizabeth of the South. Adonis Steel is known as the pocket-sized daddy of Asheville. Katarina Eclipse, a.k.a. the Glitter Queen of the Mountains, is a former Ms. Inferno

a pageant put on each year during Halloween. Ithika Cerise is a step instructor, speaks Korean, and is known as Ms. "Traffic Hazard". Natasha Noir Nightly is the bearded vixenn of Asheville.

Cherry Wine and Vincent Martin were a duet performed by two Brevard students, Lisa Arrona and Caroline Vargas. When they were asked about how their characters came to exist, Lisa Arrona stated, "It all came down to the choice of songs. Cherry Wine chose the mash-up of New Rules by Dua Lipa and Poker Face by Lady Gaga. From there, we just decided to act out the song."

When asked whether she enjoyed participating in the drag show, Arrona responded, "I loved it! Cherry Wine and I were talking afterwards, and we both agreed that this was the best night of our lives so far. The first drag show we ever saw, was the one we were in! I loved hearing the other kings and queens stories - it made this night all the more meaningful." When asked why the name Vincent Martin was chosen, Arrona responded: "I took a BuzzFeed quiz."

Caroline Vargas, described who Cherry Wine was to her saying, "Cherry Wine is the happiest

version of myself. I chose the name Cherry Wine because I am always drinking Cheerwine when I do drag makeup. It makes me happy, it's bubbly, and it sounds like it's an alcoholic drink, but it's really just a fun soda."

Vargas also went on to discuss the look for Cherry Wine saying, "I built my whole look around the name, including the wine colored dress and the hundreds of rhinestones I put on it to make the soda bubbles."

When Vargas was asked what she thought about doing drag for a night, she replied: "I am very introverted out of drag. I was nervous all week because I know there is a lot of hate within the drag community towards queens who identify as female out of drag..."

"I felt like I was supposed to prove myself and show that I wasn't just taking the easy route by choosing to be a queen instead of a king. As someone who never walks in heels, never wears makeup, never performs in front of people, and has never even been to a drag show, I can say that this is definitely not the easy route. I won't even say how expensive it was to pull this look

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Photo by Madison Ramsey

Pride flag on Blue Ridge Pride's booth flaps in the wind.



Photo by Madison Ramsey

Kendal James performs at Friday's Pride Festival.