

Meet the Candidates Dinner and Elections

by Marchioness Barbie Queue

On August 22, members of the Imperial Court of New York and their guests gathered at La Traviata restaurant for the annual Meet The Candidates dinner. After cocktails and a buffet dinner, Empress XVI Lita Austin and Emperor XII Mathius Blousant announced several elevations. Empress Candidate Demi-Tasse was recognized for producing the successful fund raiser, Demi's Italian Christening, and elevated to Princess. Ashley Pennington was thanked for her efforts as personal secretary to the monarchs and elevated to Marchioness. Craig Hollywood was elevated to Marquis. Barbie Queue was also elevated to Marchioness. Following the elevations, Coco LaChine introduced the candidates for office.

The elections were held at monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 4 at the Center. The new board members are:

President	Charles Ching
Vice President	Wendy Lewis
Treasurer	Matt Baney
Secretary	Jeffrey Wallach
Executive Board	Gary Cosgrove
Executive Board	Tony Monteleone
Executive Board	Rich Parisi
Executive Board	Mark Costanzo

Crown Princess Royale Demi-Tasse is the new Empress elect and Crown Prince Royale Ron is new Emperor elect. Both will be crowned at Night Of A Thousand Gowns in March. Emperor VI Steven was elected Minister of Protocol.



Vermont Adornment

by Marchioness Bonbon La Rue

Just when you thought that Vermont was all about ice cream, teddy bears and maple syrup, the Barony of All Vermont added some real spice — and a little Fairy Dust (literally!) — to that mellow mix. On August 9, 2002, the Barony's Coronation "The Quest for Avalon: A Night of Music, Magic, and Laughter" was held in Burlington. New York was well represented by the dynamic four-some of Tony Monteleone, Lorenzo Dee Skies, Mario D'Ziner and our very own Go-Go Girl, Bonbon LaRue. The event was well attended and, although our New York contingent was limited in number, we certainly made our presence known. As the fun evening began to wind down, our little flower was caught in a mystery: what was Bonbon doing on the service stairs and why was her purse filled to the brim with silverware? Stay tuned for some scintillating answers!!!



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for Gay & Lesbian Community and social service organizations; to provide a safe, social environment for people with the same interest as those of the corporation; to create and promote positive Community awareness of the ideals of the Imperial Court System.

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The Executive Board of the Imperial Court of New York meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

The General Membership meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Center, 1 Little West 12th St. at 8:00pm.

Empress Billie Ann Presents Court and Fire Island Stars in Royal Revue

by Bruce-Michael Gelbert

Empress VIII Billie Ann Miller brought this year's edition of her star-studded annual Royal Revue to the stage of the Ice Palace, in Cherry Grove, Fire Island, on August 18. The event benefited the Imperial Court of New York and the Arts Project of Cherry Grove's Community House Improvement Committee. Empress Billie Ann began the show with an upbeat "I'm Shining High" and also contributed a flirtatious "My Heart Belongs to Daddy." She introduced Empress I Jose, who spoke about the founding of the Imperial Court System.

MCs for the evening were Emperor XII Mathius Bloussant and Empress XIII Anne Tique, who began by hoofing it in "You and Me," from "Victor/Victoria," and Prince Royale Ron and Count Parisi, who surprised by declaring their loyalty in "Sisters." Empress IX Philomena delivered a wonderfully suggestive "Can that Boy F...xtrot," the number cut from "Follies," and conducted a lively Chinese auction of creations by Court jewelers and a DVD player.

Stage manager Viscountess Gale Storm celebrated, in song and dance, a love that strikes "Closer to the Bone." Pinky and the Blenders (Princess Royale Wen-D Bouvier Pinkhouse and Ladies Wanda Lust and Sally Forth), wearing hot pink boas and toting pink rubber guitars, offered a swinging "Pink." Countess Mistress Sharon, at the keyboard, sang sweetly in love song "Get Here." This writer and baritone's selection was "Some Enchanted Evening."

A larger than life Princess Royale Luisa Verde told off an errant lover in "Why Did You Lie" and, as a "Barbie Girl in a Barbie World," joined Prince Royale Greene Piece, as Police Officer Ken, for a reprise of this favorite number. Countess Rose Levine paid tribute to the Big Apple by singing a rousing "New York, New York," of Kander and Ebb. A symphony in red, white and blue, Emperor I Raffaele Martino, of Rhode Island, danced to Neil Diamond's "America."

Princess Freetta Chews made an emotional outpouring of a monologue and the song "When a Man Loves a Woman," from "The Rose," and Princess Angela Mercy, as Cher, proffered a fervent "The Way of Love." For a fittingly climax to the revue, Princess Royale Bella, joined by Mr. Fire Island Leather 2002 Peter B, made a return to the Cherry Grove stage with a medley from "Dream Girls," culminating in a searing "And I Am Telling you I Am not Going."





From the Desk Of:

Blousetta, Diarist to Their Majesties

Another summer comes to an end, and our majesties prepare for the autumn assault. Upcoming events swarm about their heads making them long for the dog days of August.

That's what they told me anyway!

In the next few weeks we will see the royal couple in Iowa, Toronto, ICP Demi's review, the annual Miss Sobriety Contest, and "Halves on the Clam Shell" a fund raiser for the Imperial Court of Connecticut, to name only a few. Our ICNY Casino Royale is scheduled for November 9th. Other events in the works include Mama's Birthday Party in December, the Massachusetts Coronation in November, "Romanovs on Ice" and "Glamazon II" in January.

Our regal duo attended the San Diego Coronation in August. Accompanied by a cadre of NY court members, the pair represented our fair city in a glamorous and festive manner. By the end of the weekend, the NY contingency left the West Coast with a variety of awards, and fond memories from our Mother Court. The folks in San Diego could not have been more generous, friendly, or fun.... Reminded us a little of our own empire! Hats off to San Diego and we look forward to our return next year!

The Billie Ann Miller Review also took place in August. Our membership was well represented in the event, with Ms. Miller as always the gracious hostess. The event raised over \$2000 with proceeds to go to the Arts Project of Cherry Grove/CHIC Fund and the Imperial Court. Thank you Billie, and all court members who attended. You were all wonderful!

Several of our court members attended the Vermont Adornment in August. Due to prior imperial commitments, the Emperor and Empress could not be there to share the joy of the event. But our emissaries, a nifty gaggle of geese, did a wonderful job representing us. Thank you to all for providing a New York presence to the event.

Lead by our own Empress Lita, several of our court members went to Connecticut to share the magic of the "Big Hair Ball". The event was well received with our usual contingency of big-haired beauties. Next year we hope to bring more courtiers from NYC to show our support of our sister court.

Speaking of support, Mathias, Panzi and Mama headed for Connecticut in early in September to represent New York at a fundraiser for 911 relief. The event, a show hosted by Emperor David and Empress Miranda, was also well attended with Mama as guest of honor. Shortly after the benefit ended, Mama and Mathias were swept away by the enthusiastic Panzi to spend the rest of the weekend resting in the Mohegan lands. No one came home empty handed, or broke! Great all around weekend.

While our Empress was away visiting royal relatives in London, Mathias along with several court members presented our first participation in the Shubert Alley Flea Market benefiting Actors Equity. Our booth, organized by our own Kay Sera, sold delicious baked goods and refreshments to the never-ending parade of queens looking for a Broadway Bargain! We are extremely thankful to Kay and her assistants Lord Mikhail, Marchioness Fanny Fondue, the talented Daisy Eagan, Countess Trai La Trash, Marquis Craven DeButz, and the ever lovely Demi -Tasse for their work. Such plans for next year!

This weekend our royal pair set off into the friendly skies to Des Moines, Iowa to join Empress Suzie and Emperor Tim at their Ball. Joining us is a trio of past monarchs - Steven, Ran Dee, and Gianna- as well as our favorite traveling companions Tony Monteleone and Pat Harrington. Our reigning monarchs both love Suzie and Tim and look forward to a wonderful weekend. Hopefully we will report back to you on its success in next month's column.

Well, have to run now! Must pick up the dry cleaning for the Emperor, feathers for the Empress and Advil for myself. Taa Taa!

ICNY Bakes for Broadway Cares

by Duchess Kay Sera

On Sunday September 22, Imperial Court members joined with the companies of Broadway shows and theater organizations in the annual Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Shubert Alley Flea Market. With baked goods and "sweet stuff" for sale, ICNY members worked the large crowds from 10 AM until 7 PM on behalf of its 2003 Night of a Thousand Gowns beneficiary, in the end selling nearly every item that had been baked and/or donated.

Emperor Mathius and Crown Princess Demi-Tasse were on hand for most of the day, lending more than an elegant and Imperial bent to the proceedings- they posed for photos with amazed out-of-towners, and Emperor Mathius did double duty by jumping in to help set up and display, running to the local paper goods outlet early in the day. When event organizer Duchess Kay Sera expressed gratitude for his energy and attitude, the Emperor simply replied "that's what I get paid the big bucks for, honey!"

The table was set with many varied offerings: Giant sized cookies in several varieties baked by Count Craven de Butz which sold briskly; Cupcake-Cafe trademark flower cupcakes donated by Countess Trai La Trash; Clover-themed cupcakes baked by Countess Clover Honey's mom; Viscount Richard de Thuin's fabulous apricot twist pastries.

Working the table most of the day were: Marchioness Fanny Fondue, charming but persistent as a salesgirl needs to be; Princess Royale Joesphine Boner-Parte, who stayed on until cleanup and breakdown were complete; Baron Mikhail (he of the imminent name-change), who baked excellent brownies which were crowd-pleasers, along with oreos and pretzels dipped in white Valrhona chocolate; former child star Daisy Eagan, who sold-out her dozens of "Former Child Star Tantrum Cookies"; and Duchess Kay, who baked Granny Smith apple pies and insanely delirious chocolate and walnut "Broadway Angels".

BC/EFA staff and volunteers were delighted to see us, and expressed hope we would return next year, laying groundwork for an ongoing relationship. Our thanks go to Tom Viola and Michael Kuomar for treating us so well. In all, our table raised \$625, a small but important part of the record total raised, \$450,000. We look forward to working with BC/EFA at Night of a Thousand Gowns, and to a bigger and better presence at 2003's Shubert Alley Flea Market!



Tea Time with Kay Sera



Dowager Grand Duchess Swana Swarovski Whatever could she have been thinking? In her eleven years with the Imperial Court of New York, the venerable D.G.D. Swana Swarovski has served as Minister of Protocol during ten reigns. It was during the reign of T.I.M.'s Emperor VIII William and Empress XII Panzi that Swana took a well-deserved break (when the Ministry was occupied by H.I.M. Emperor VI Steven, who will be serving during the reign of Ron and Demi), but surely we all expected the "Duchess of Dish" to hang in for at least another few years before retiring to her

chambers for another respite! Quelle Surprise! I was pleased to catch "Dishy", as the G.D. might be known, at a hiatus between her private dulcimer lesson and a visit from her personal groomer, high atop the city in her luxe penthouse near the jewelry district.

KAY SERA: So! Laying back again, eh toots?

SWANA: Under more formal circumstances, I would not prefer such a vulgar form of address, but since it is you...and don't tell them you saw me like this! Yes, I am feeling the need for a rest. Protocol and behavior appropriate to one's station in life have always been of concern to me, but I must say that record-keeping, which goes with the territory, has not been my strong suit. In that regard, I have relied of late on Josephine (HRH Princess Royale Josephine Boner-Parte). Now then. There are two sides to this coin, my dear. It is after all Swana who has done the work, yet I created Swana in order to be able to wear my own jewelry!

KAY SERA: So you began with jewelry before The Court, before the life of Swana?

SWANA: Oh yes! I've made jewelry since I was living at home with my parents on the upper east side, stringing beads for girlfriends, and so on. I was interested in glamour from way back as well, and like many, I was transfixed by the classic movie queens. They were all perfectly dressed and wore gorgeous jewelry. I knew it was all a creation, that they didn't get out of bed like that, and here I was creating all this jewelry inspired by what I saw, but I couldn't wear it as a man. So Swana was created as an example of how to wear jewelry with great clothes- an archetype of what a great lady in full battle gear should look like!

KAY SERA: Oh my god...what an image. Was drag so different then than it is now?

SWANA: Oh much. Much less cartoonish than in the old days, much more elegant, more regal and ladylike. It's very different now, my dear, thank goodness.

KAY SERA: And the same might be said for behavior?

SWANA: Well, some things change, and some things do not. In the early days of the Court, presentation could be a chaos of individual choices in dress and deportment. I recall one instance of someone being presented to a monarch barechested and smoking a cigar (we don't have that today). Razor (The late Empress V Razor Sharp) needed someone to deal with rank and title, so I volunteered to take it on. I've always been interested in history, and I'm fascinated with factoids concerning Royal History. The hardest part, though, was getting anyone to pay attention to protocol! In the early days, we were grateful to simply have people show up, let alone be in a position to make rules for them to follow. Now we're used to it.

KAY SERA: Some of us might be described as being grateful for it!

SWANA: Yes, things to do, things not to do. Well, a little dignity, and a dash of common sense will set the groundwork, my dear. I only wish they'd practice their Goddamned curtsies!

KAY SERA: Any final words, Swana?

SWANA: The important thing? Stand up straight and don't scratch your girdle. The rest is easy.

Foundation Principles for Men Who Dress in Drag

by Viscount Richard

Men are luckier than women are in that they shave their faces and by this daily ritual can rid themselves of dead skin cells to keep their skin smooth. Women need to exfoliate with cleansers and astringents or apply masks to achieve the same benefit. However, women have an easier time using makeup to achieve a peaches and cream complexion for they are not saddled with five o'clock shadow and large pores.

So how does a man with a prominent five o'clock shadow and large pores use makeup to achieve a complexion that is radiant and barefaced when he plans to dress up in drag? How does he surpass the gorgeous complexions on runway models during Fashion Week? Well, he starts out with that old beauty tool known as foundation. It's the most important makeup component because it goes on first and compliments everything else that comes later. When a man messes up his foundation he presents a face, undressed to the drag world

The face starts out as a blank canvas but with proper use of foundation can metamorphose into a rich palette of color or just look plain and nude. A cream-to-powder foundation such as Studio Tech manufactured by MAC Cosmetics dries to a semi matte finish and gives skin a radiance that looks spectacular in person and in photographs.

Once upon a time achieving a rosy complexion meant relying on a Pepto-Bismol range of pink colors. An alternate look involved the application of sunny colors such as medium yellow to create a yellow undertone. Well, that's history. Today's foundations constitute a whole new level of color. So Ingenious Multi-Dimension Makeup SPF 8 by Estee Lauder gives men the ability to experiment with different color palettes from among the line's sixteen shades. So Ingenious offers versatility and ease in application and that spells foundation success.

When a man has five o'clock shadow and large pores his skin undertone differs from that of a woman. Real Cosmetics, founded by former model Lubna Khalid and her partner, Anna Hernandez offer a range of foundations that consist of four-color families - golden, red/gold, red and olive. These colors can work wonders for a man whose beard shadow keeps popping through his makeup. The line is available at Nordstrom stores.

Gutsy men can check out Colorprinting by Perspectives, a service that analyzes skin with foundation sticks to find the best cosmetic colors for a customer whatever their skin tone. Visit the Perspectives counter at Bloomingdale's, Macy's or Saks Fifth Avenue for more information and request a sample of Virtual Skin Super-Natural foundation. It's SPF 10 and oil-free, an ideal makeup for a man with oily or combination skin. The best way to apply foundation is with inexpensive little makeup sponges available in drug stores such as CVS, Rite Aid and Duane Reade. Top of the line sponges are sold at Zitomer Pharmacy, 969 Madison Avenue at 76th Street, Bigelow Pharmacy at 414 Sixth Avenue, between 8th & 9th Streets, and Cosmetics Plus, Fifth Avenue and 44th Street.

The aim of foundation is to create terrific looking skin that is almost traceless. That's a tough call for a man with thick facial skin and five o'clock shadow but with the new range of makeup palettes now available in stores he can experiment here and there to find the ideal shade for his complexion. Once a man finds what works best his friends will have to bribe him to give away his beauty secrets.

Please submit articles to Patricia Harrington either on diskette or via e-mail in ASCII (text) format only. If you have a submission or questions call 718 507-1174 or send e-mail to pattiharrington@earthlink.net