



Integrity

The official newsletter of USofA Pageants



Volume 2015 - Issue 4

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Inside This Issue

- The Skyy's the Limit
- Classically Yours
- 30th Anniversary Program
- Twerkin' with Tic Toc
- April Events
- Preliminary Photos
- Delightfully Danielle
- Jettin' Around with Jeffrey
- Here & There with Zayer
- Dancin' with D.C.
- Playin' with Papa
- Blurring the Lines with Bella



Miss Gay USofA Week 2015

Miss Gay USofA Classic
May 17-18 Round-Up Saloon

Miss Gay USofA
Prelim Nights May 19-21
Round-Up Saloon
Final Night May 22
South Side Ballroom



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The Skyy's the Limit

Jenna Skyy

Miss Gay USofA 2014

jskyy@usofa.org

<Checks microphone handle to see which city I'm in> Oh yes, I'm home at the moment. I'm in the height of the season everyone has been preparing me for all year and while I'm mentally prepared, have managed to pack everything (well except a tipping dress in Louisiana), am keeping up with the schedule but emotionally this is proving to be more challenging than I had anticipated! I'm trying to savor these last weeks but ten minutes ago it was October. There's so much to be planning ahead for prelim to prelim and so much to be paying attention to while at those prelims that the good, the bad, the exciting are all sailing by and I'm realizing now that I'm missing those moments when I can smile and appreciate once again - I'm Miss Gay USofA! It makes me sad the time just moves quicker and quicker with each day. So looking ahead to the next Miss Gay USofA be sure to make time in your schedule to think about the things you want to cherish forever, those special moments, and also don't forget to keep those in mind that helped you get to this place that you can't necessarily take with you on the road. We compete with our teams but most of the time we are on the road by ourselves. Fortunately, the moments I have been able to embrace are those moments when my friends are there on the road or in the city to which I'm blessed to visit!!

So here we go - we had four preliminaries take place in March. Congratulations go out to Miss Gay Florida USofA Chanel Cartie and 1st alternate



Angelique Young, to Miss Gay Georgia USofA Farrah Fendi Frantz and 1st alternate Mokha Montrese, to Miss Gay Louisiana USofa Maya McNeil, 1st alternate Aariyah Sinclair, 2nd alternate Violet Ray and 3rd alternate Amaya Monroe (all going), to Miss Gay Southern States USofA Alexis Mateo, 1st alternate Mahajanay De Mornay, and 2nd alternate



Liyah Alize Iman Dupree, and to Miss Gay Southernmost USofA Nina DiAngelo and 1st alternate Jessica Devoreaux.

I also would like to thank all of our promoters and their teams. Amy Demilo for pulling double duty this year not only as a qualified contestant heading to compete at Miss Gay USofA this year, but for also promoting Miss Gay Florida USofA. The 5 star hotel was beautiful and makes up for the fact that you set me on fire! Literally on

fire. My feather coat still smells like "perm" and I tell everyone how security said if it bursts into flames again not to run it all the way outside..."just to shove it in one of those toilets over there." Good times! Love you, sister!

Jeremy Burnette and Darryl Kent ran a smooth event in Georgia and I want to make note, this was the first prelim that had all contestants accounted for AT the time of registration!! And was that ever a pageant?! Great talents, gowns, hair, mugs were beat, superstar entertainment...really a stellar competition that included at Large and Classic as well. Much fun!

Clarence Denenea, you aligned a great team which left me with very little to do but enjoy the night, enjoy your formers (and all the transvaginal mesh implants), enjoy some cocktails, your contestants, and

Continued on page three

Continued from page two

my name on the marquee and the night in New Orleans as well!

David Bridgman, I have lots to thank you for, not only for being a great promoter and running a great competition but for being a great friend to me throughout this entire year.

Les Steele, you have exceeded every expectation anyone could have imagined. The venue - stunning. The community coming out in droves (and many having to be turned away because you sold out)...stunning. The extras you programmed for us...stunning. And it was all in the setting of KEY WEST! To the next Miss Gay USofA...this will be a weekend you will most definitely look forward to. Not to diminish any of the other prelims, but there is a magic in the community at Key West that just made this weekend so very special.

In the middle of all this we had our first national "changing of the guards" so to speak. Oklahoma City was host to the 2015 Mister USofA M.I., Mister USofA M.I. Classic and Miss Diva USofA crowning Papa Cherry Matrix, DC and Bella Harlow. Congratulations on capturing the national crowns and welcome to the USofA Royal Court! I also want to say how much I've enjoyed reigning with our outgoing titleholders: Eazy Love, Brandon Packer and of course, Brandi Amara Skyy. Bravo on your year! Devin Dame and Gage Gatlyn, thank you for having the entire court come and represent all divisions of the USofA Pageantry System. It was truly a special experience to share the stage all at once and I know I speak for us all when I say thank you for making that possible. It's no easy task leading a national title, let alone three in one week long event, but congratulations on the success of your competitions and your crowds every night! I wish you continued success!

The year is flying by and I'm trying to get myself organized for May. To the girls that have or hope to qualify, don't waste a minute! To the promoters, thank you for all you have done and all you do

and renew for next year! I'm sure Jerry will have paperwork ready for you in May so you can set your dates. Add a classic prelim to your night or hell, add a second prelim! I'd be happy to come back and help out next year with your event!

With this year nearly behind me, my perspective has changed somewhat. Turns out, the sky is not the limit because there are now footprints on the moon - size 10 stiletto footprints! I can't help but look back on this experience and smile - grateful for this opportunity and cherishing this rare moment in the journey to pause, look around and savor. This is proving to be a much bigger life changing experience than I had expected and in the words of my cousin, "my heart spirals up, in a limitless Skyy."

The Skyy's the Limit...

And I'm Jenna Skyy

Miss Gay USofA

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&
Miss Gay New England Classic USofA

Jenna Skyy
Miss Gay
USofA 2014

Kira Stone
Miss Gay
Massachusetts
USofA 2014

Sunday
April 19th
8 pm

Chevelle Brooks
Miss Gay Classic
USofA 2014

Joanna James
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Classically Yours

Chevelle Brooks

Miss Gay USofA Classic 2014

cbrooks@usofa.org



From the boudoir of Miss Gay USofA Classic.

As another month passes it reminds me that it is getting closer to the end of my reign. This past month has been amazing. I have been so busy trying to pull everything together for nationals. I think this years competition is going to be fabulous. The quality of contestants is nothing short of great. SO GET READY!

My month I starting at a new club in Orlando, FL so if you are ever in Orlando come see me at Southern Nights every Friday and Saturday. I flew to Ft. Wayne, IN for the Miss Gay North USofA Classic Pageant. I was there with my two Classic sisters Ginger and Tina. We celebrated Sierra Nicole winning and Indigo Diamond 1st alternate. It was a very quick trip and I wasn't even there 24 hours before I headed off to Atlanta, GA for the Miss Gay Georgia USofA Classic Pageant. This preliminary meant a lot to me because I really campaigned for it. Thank you to Jeremy Burnett and Darryl Kent for coming aboard. I have not been to Atlanta in maybe 7 years and it was good to go back and see all my friends I haven't seen in years i.e. Shawna Brooks. The pageant was great and the crowd was phenomenal. Daesha Richards was crowned and Paula Sinclair was 1st alternate.

I was only home for a few days before I jetted off to Springfield, MO for the Miss Gay Missouri USofA Classic Pageant. I got a chance to spend time with my mother Kelexis Davenport. It's always a good

time with that one. It was my last preliminary with my little sis/niece Kira Daniels and I'm going. miss being with her. Myah Ross Monroe was celebrated as the winner and Casandra Love was first alternate and Tammi Tarmac was 2nd alternate.



Then I was only home a day before I went back to Atlanta to work on things for my give up in May. While I was there I celebrated my birthday and I had an awesome time. My friends really rolled out the red carpet. It's always a good feeling to know that your friends have your back and want to celebrate you even when you don't have ANY plans to (LOL). This was one birthday I'll always remember.

As usual I was again only home for one day before I was off to the beautiful island of Key West, FL. It was a big USofA affair. I was accompanied by more USofA royalty. Leslie did an amazing job hosting us and the lodging was amazing as well as the people were so friendly. The pageant was one of the most talked about prelims this year. At the end of the night Roxy Hart reigned supreme as Miss Gay Southernmost USofA Classic and Dina Jacobs was first alternate.

Now I'm sitting in the airport in Key West writing this letter because I'm LATE (LOL). I just want to say "GOD IM GOING TO MISS THIS". This has been an AWESOME YEAR.

Until next month - Classically yours,

Chevelle Brooks
Miss Gay USofA Classic

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/////////4/5/2015/////////

PAST PRESENT FUTURE




THURSDAY - APRIL 23, 2015

LEGENDS OF HOLLYWOOD

and USofA Pageantry

Miss GAY TRI - STATES USOFA NEWCOMER 2015

Vegas Van Cartier
 Miss Gay Tri - States 2014

Armani Davenport
 Miss Black Universe

Miss Texas Continental Elite Michelle Marco
 Miss Austin America Elizabeth S Selmiro

EMCEE
 Vanessa Gordon
 Former Miss Gay USofA Sweet Savage
 Miss Austin FFI at Large

Kira Daniels
 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer

Miss Austin FFI Jame Perry
 Anyzsha St James

BOUT TIME II
 6607 IH 35 AUSTIN, TEX 78752

REGISTRATION: 1:00PM
 ENTRY FEE: \$100.00

CATEGORIES
 INTERVIEW - EVENING GOWN - TALENT

\$1500.00 IN CASH AND PRIZES

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Twerkin' with "Tic Toc"

Kira Daniels

Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2014

kdaniels@usofa.org



Hey Twerkers, Whoooa..March came and went by so fast. I did enjoy my two weeks at home catching up with Jonathan Arnett and Cisco. They always know how to make me relax and laugh for hours.

My first trip this month was to Mister USofA MI, Mister USofA MI Classic and Miss DIVA USofA. I arrive Thursday night just in time to catch the ending part of prelim night. It felt so surreal to be back in Oklahoma at Angles where I first started competing for Miss Gay USofA Newcomer. So many memories came back to my mind, it gave me goosebumps lol..it was a great night of competition laughter and comradery. The next day I got to spend the majority of the day with my drag mother Londenn D. Raine. It's so great to see her and catch up on life, I can sit with her for hours and hours days upon days and still never wanna leave her side. That night I got to perform for final night of Mister USofA MI Classic, which was amazing! It felt great to be surrounded by my USofA Royal Family, for the first time all of us together, it was a moment I won't ever forget.

Then that Saturday morning I headed to the airport to fly to Houston TX. Kayla Monroe the promoter for Miss Gay Shining Star USofA Newcomer picked me up and we heading to lunch. I got to rest for about 2 hours then time to paint and get ready for the Gigs. 1st of the night was in Galveston at Splash Bar with the awesome Kiki Van Whales. Then we headed back to Houston to perform at 20/20! I had such a phenomenal time of both shows. Now time to hit the sheets. The next day we headed to Vivians to get ready for registration an interview for the pageant. It was a great night and a great contest. Congratulations to all three girls heading to nationals!



Then that Saturday morning I headed to the airport to fly to Houston TX. Kayla Monroe the promoter for Miss Gay Shining Star USofA Newcomer picked me up and we heading to lunch. I got to rest for about 2 hours then time to paint and get ready for the Gigs. 1st of the night was in Galveston at Splash Bar with the awesome Kiki Van Whales. Then we headed back to Houston to perform at 20/20! I had such a phenomenal time of both shows. Now time to hit the sheets.

The next day we headed to Vivians to get ready for registration an interview for the pageant. It was a great night and a great contest. Congratulations to all three girls heading to nationals!

The next day I got to relax go out to lunch and do a little shopping. Same time to head back to the hotel shower shave and get ready for that Monday night gig. I got to co-host with a good friend Aria Crawford for Drag Bingo! We had too much fun. Plus I got to met Michael Andrews Voiet and set up a photo shoot for the next day. So I wake up at 10am Tuesday morning shower and shave again then head to his house, I was there from 12 PM to 8 PM doing six different looks having pizza and making memories. On Wednesday my face got a chance to rest and we drove to Waco, TX to spend the night at Darryl's house. From there we boarded a plane to Springfield, MO to get ready for Miss Gay Missouri USofA Newcomer and Miss Gay Missouri USofA Classic.

On Friday I performed in the Missouri USofA review show with my friends and sisters Boom Boom, Alyssa Nicole Whitney, KBootz, Alaysia Adonis, Alexis Principle and more. I ALWAYS

Continued on page seven

have a blast from Chevelle. I have learned a great deal from her on everything make up, drag, costumes, life, friends, knowing your worth. I hope to see her as much as possible in my life.

Next day ,Saturday, Starbucks registration & interview in the early MornTing. There were nine contestants for the title of Miss Gay Missouri USofA Newcomer from all over the place. It was a pleasure to witness all of these girls competing, man did they fight for it!! Mark Templeton is sending his top 3 girls to nationals! Congrats ladies!! This year looks like it's going to be the biggest one yet!!

On Sunday I got to head home back to the desert and the sun. That next weekend I got booked to perform at another national newcomer pageant in Nashville, TN. Miss Glamour City Newcomer under new ownership with Akayla Andrews Cartier. It was my first time in Nashville and I loved it even though it was freezing cold Lol - everyone was very sweet and accommodating. Plus I got to see one of my USofA Newcomer sis just compete and win. Congrats Nykema Chiles on making a dream of yours become reality!

April is going to be an even busier month with six prelims a workshop in Albuquerque, NM and my step down the day before! But I'm up for the no sleep challenge lol. That's what the plane rides are for.

Till Next Month

Kira "TicToc" Daniels
Miss Gay USofA Newcomer

APRIL Events

- 4 - Miss Gay Tennessee USofA
- 5 - Miss Gay North Carolina USofA
- 9 - 11 - Miss Gay Missouri USofA
- 10 - Miss Gay Minnesota USofA Newcomer
- 11 - Miss Gay New Mexico USofA Newcomer
- 12 - Miss Gay Texas USofA Classic
- 15 - Miss Gay Lonestar USofA Newcomer
- 18 - 19 - Miss Gay Massachusetts USofA
- 18 - 19 - Miss Gay New England USofA Classic
- 23 - Miss Gay Tri-States USofA Newcomer
- 24 - Miss Gay Louisiana USofA at Large
- 25 - Miss Gay Volunteer State USofA Newcomer
- 29 - Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA Classic
- 30 - May 1 - Miss Gay Texas USofA Newcomer



Make sure you get your preliminary pageant/contest listed here. E-mail your event information to integrity@usofa.org

JOSH HORTON, JAMES GARDEN & USofA PAGEANTS PRESENT

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USofA NEWCOMER

Yara SOPHIA Kira DANIELS
Coco MONTRESE Sasha COLBY

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WITH PERFORMANCES BY

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OLIVIA GARDENS G. DEJA D. DELLATARIO

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MR GAY USofA 2014
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SATURDAY MAY 16TH 2015
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March Preliminary Photos



1: Asia O'hara, Tommie Ross, ShaeShae LaReese and Chevelle Brooks at Southernmost USofA; **2:** Formers, reigning, contestants and Promoter Les Steele on the boat at Southernmost USofA; **3:** Roni, ShaeShae, Jenna, Les & Chevelle at Southernmost USofA; **4:** Photo from the Miss Gay Louisiana USofA Pageant



Above :
Lawanda Jackson

Left : ALL reigning USofA National Titleholders together in March at the Mister USofA MI, Mister USofA MI Classic and Miss DIVA USofA event
Jenna Skyy
Jeffrey Kelly
Kira Daniels
Brandi Amara Skyy
Brandon Packer
Eazy Love
Zayer York
Danielle DeLong
Chevelle Brooks

Delightfully Danielle

Danielle H. DeLong
Miss Gay USofA at Large 2014
ddelong@usofa.org

Sometimes we are asked in interview what's more important the reign or the winning? That question is probably one of the hardest questions I think I have encountered. It's basically a contradiction in itself. Winning is important because it shows your dedication and your hard work. It shows that obviously you care enough to want the title very badly and nothing is going to stop you to win. Winning doesn't classify you as the "winner" is classifies you as the best that evening and you were good enough in the judges eyes to hold the title for 365 days.

When you reign there are several things that you have to remember. One, being "the reigning" is a privilege. Taking that privilege for granted will only show arrogance and the inability to be personable. Two, when encountering other individuals it's the most important to be the listener. Always remembering that you've had your spot light and it's someone else's turn. The reign is about being the advocacy for the organization staying within boundaries and always remain tactful not tacky.

Now, with that being said I would like to send a huge congratulations to all four of the winners and 1st alternates from the preliminaries that took place in March. Georgia was a sensational hit. I would honestly have to say that my favorite part was performing a duet with my Georgia USofA sister and idol Victoria Lepage. It was a magical moment!

Then there was IOWA (LOL). I don't believe I have ever been so welcomed in all my life. This



group of individuals were not only hospitable but were so loving!! I have to say Iowa definitely has a gem in it and it's De Moines!!! Thank you all again for a beautiful time!!



Danielle H. DeLong
 Miss Gay USofA at Large

Xoxo

Winners embrace hard work. They love the discipline of it, the trade-off they're making to win. Losers, on the other hand, see it as punishment. And that's the difference. - Lou Holtz

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Jettin' Around with Jeffrey
Jeffrey Kelly
Mr. Gay USofA 2014
jkelly@usofa.org



What an amazing month it has been!!

I would first like to welcome all three of the new family members to the USofA Family! Bella Nicole Harlow - Miss DIVA USofA, D.C. – Mister USofA MI Classic and Papa Cherry-Matrix – Mister USofA MI. Welcome to the family!! That was a very interesting week but it was so great to see all of my family! I have to also say congrats to Brandi Amara Skyy on a amazing give up!

This month has been very busy but very fun! I have to also congratulate my husband Alexis Mateo for winning Miss Gay Southern States USofA. He is going to be a amazing representative for David Bridgman at Miss Gay USofA in May!

I have been working on getting all of the flyers out for upcoming Mr. preliminaries and having all of the promoters set a date. Make sure you check out my Facebook for more updates and where I will be! This month I will be at the USofA workshop along with Lawanda Jackson and many others from the USofA family. This will be a amazing workshop so if you are have qualified to attend please come! Those of you that follow me on Facebook be sure to check out all the info for my upcoming Florida USofA Newcomer Preliminary. It is going to be held at Hamburger Mary's in Clearwater Florida on July 2, 2015. Last year 3 out of my 4 girls made the top 12 so if you are looking for some extra help and good guidance contact me for a contestant packet. This is an open preliminary so everyone is welcome



to compete.

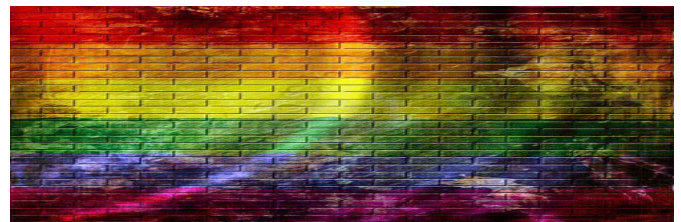
The start of the Mr. Gay USofA preliminaries start next month so any male competitors who are thinking about competing has any questions please inbox me! As of right now we have preliminaries from coast to coast so there is no reason not to qualify.

Until next month!

Jeffrey Kelly
 Mr. Gay USofA

www.mrgayusofa.com

www.mrgayusofaatlarge.com



SOUTHERN ELITE ENTERTAINMENT & USOFA PAGEANTS PRESENTS
MISS GAY LONESTAR
USOFA NEWCOMER
SAFARI JUNGLE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2015
 HOSTED BY JENNA SKY & MISS WANDA
 FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY
 NICOLE LANCASTERS, CHEVELLE BROOKS, BARBARA LORD, KIRA BURNHILLS, MISS GAY USOFA NEWCOMER, LUCY ARWATI ROCK, LINDSEY EDWARDS
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 3912 CEDAR SPRINGS RD DALLAS TX
 REGISTRATION @11AM
 PAGEANT STARTS @9PM
 FOR MORE INFO EMAIL US AT: SKYBLUEICE04@YAHOO.COM

Here and There with Zayer

Zayer York

Mr. Gay USofA at Large 2014

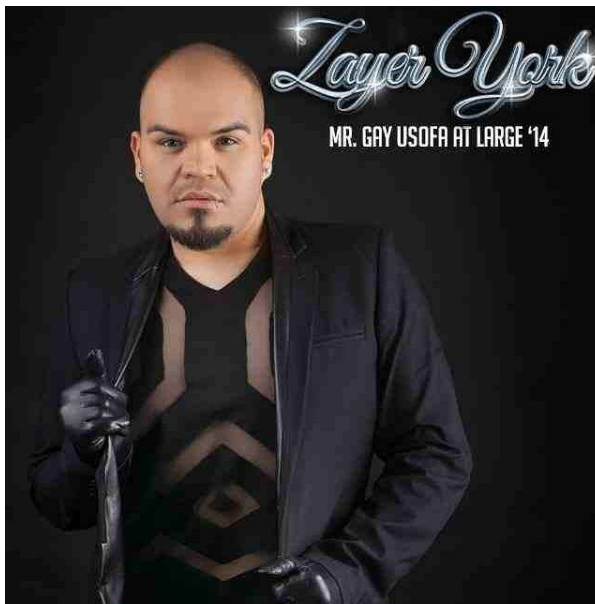
zayer@usofa.org



Hello to all and hope that everyone who is following us, your national court, this month is doing great.

It is clear that pageant season is in full swing as many are preparing or have been preparing for some time in hopes of achieving their dreams as many before them have. This month has been another busy one and I'm very excited and ready to see what everyone has worked on for their upcoming preliminary or contests.

I had the pleasure last month to be a part of the MI, MI Classic, and Miss DIVA contests/pageant and was there to welcome our newest members of the USofA court. All the contestants were amazing and gave it their all. I truly have a new respect and admiration towards the divisions that I knew so little about before and it has made me such a fan. The experience was something else and I really got to learn about so many people and see the passion that they had for their art form and let me tell you the work that was put in was everything. I would like to give a big CONGRATS to and welcome our newest National Titleholders. They are well deserving of the titles they captured. In the MI Classic division D.C. slayed us with his military themed talent and really put his heart and soul into it all week. In the DIVA division Bella Nicole Harlow was stunning and blew us out of the building with her live singing abilities, WOW! In the MI division Papa Cherry-Matrix was consistent all week long and truly had that passion behind him every time he hit the stage. I am looking forward to working with all 3 of you. You all have the determination and drive to make your reigns



very successful. Thank you to Devin and Gage for reaching out to us and having the entire court in the building together for the 1st time ever at an MI National. You both really worked hard and learned a lot but never gave up and made it a memorable week.

I am truly excited to see all that is coming up in the next couple of months for us all in each of our own respective divisions. We are under way and kicking into high gear and 2015 has a lot of exciting events coming up. I will begin my at Large prelims on May 3rd in Oklahoma City, OK for the Mr. Gay Oklahoma USofA at Large Contest. Then on June 14th the Mr. Gay California USofA at Large Contest will be held in Bakersfield, CA. Several other at Large contests will take

place before November 4th. Any gentlemen interested in competing please follow me on Facebook or contact me at zayer@usofa.org. Please continue to reach out to me so I can help you do what is needed to make sure that each and every one of you have your opportunity to achieve your dream as well in the USofA family. If anyone is interested in promoting as a state or regional promoter please contact myself or Craig Henderson at chenderson@usofa.org.

I look forward to meeting everyone of you at an upcoming preliminary soon!

Remember to stay Dedicated, Determined, and Driven to making everything count and reaching your dreams!

Yours Truly,

Zayer York
Mr. Gay USofA at Large

Dancin' with D.C.

D.C.

Mister USofA MI Classic 2015

DC @usofa.org



Hi Everyone!

Let me start by introducing myself! I go by the stage name D.C. which really isn't a creative stage name, but at that time, I didn't think I would be doing drag very long. (LOL)

Florida is my home of 14 years with my partner, Robin, but I am a Tennessee native, born and raised!

I started my journey in Male Illusion in 2002, entering a bar pageant and capturing the crown. I performed off and on for years. I heard that the USofA Pageant System was adding an MI division in 2008 and knew I had to be involved in some way. So, since the first year, we have been involved and loved every second of it! We became Florida Promoters for several years and then passed the torch to new promoters while still remaining actively involved with the education and coming up of new MI's.

Last year I decided to enter the Florida Classic prelim and was honored to be crowned. I was extremely excited to be traveling back to OKC, but very nervous this time as I was going in as a Classic contestant! (talk about full circle!) It was a whole new experience on this side and to be honest, I wouldn't trade it for the world! I believe I am still in shock that I was crowned



Mister USofA MI Classic 2015!!

National's week in OKC was nothing short of amazing! There were 27 MI, 9 MI Classic and 17 DIVA contestants all sharing in this wonderful opportunity! I reconnected with a lot of old friends, brothers and sisters, as well as meeting many more brothers and sisters! This is what I love about USofA ... the Brotherhood/Sisterhood is everything! To see every one in each division, competing for 1 crown, yet helping each other out on stage and off and cheering each other is such an inspiring thing to witness!! The creativity and talent brought to that stage was mind blowing!

As I start this new chapter in my life, I am very excited to be working with Devin & Gage as well as the very talented formers before me! I am dedicated to making the MI Classic division explode this year!! I am always here to help in any way possible, so if there is an MI or an MI Classic that you know of that needs a hand, please send them my way!! I can be reached at DC@usofa.org.

Yes, I am Classic for real because "I was Classic, when Classic wasn't cool!!" Yes, it's going to be a great year!!

Until next month,

Much Love,

D.C.

Mister USofA MI Classic



Playin' with Papa

Papa Cherry-Matrix
 Mister USofA MI 2015
 pcherry@usofa.org



Wow, this is all still a bit surreal for me but I am so happy and honored to have won the title as your new Mister USofA MI 2015! First off I would like to congratulate my 1st alternate - Abs Hart and 2nd Alternate - Spacee Kadette. You both are absolutely amazing! To the rest of the contestants, you are all phenomenal and I look forward to working with all of you this year. I can't wait to start helping each of you prepare for next year.



I would like to thank our awesome new National Promoters Devin Dame and Gage Gatlyn for believing in us all and stepping in to put this on. You both are amazing and it's going to be great working with you throughout this year. Thank you David Bridgman for helping to make sure things ran smooth. To Jerry Bird, thank you so much for welcoming me into the USofA family. To all of our current state promoters, thank you for all of your support for your contestants and this brotherhood. This is not just a system for us to compete in, this a family for us to help each other grow. I will carry this title with honor and intend to work very hard to make you all proud.

Sincerely,

Papa Cherry-Matrix

Mister USofA MI

Blurring the Lines with Bella

Bella Nicole Harlow
 Miss DIVA USofA
 bharlow@usofa.org

Hello there! My name is Bella Nicole Harlow and I am so honored and happy to be your newly crowned Miss DIVA USofA! Before I get started with the multitude of thank you's and descriptions of how this came to pass, let me tell you a little bit about myself.

I hail from the mysterious land of Monroe, Ohio, which is between Cincinnati and Dayton. No one is quite sure where it is, but we have a great little drag bar, an outlet mall and a casino, so a good time can be had by all, no matter what your age or orientation! I began my drag life within the Inter-

Continued on page fifteen

Southern Comfort Productions, Rob Mallo, Chris Waugh
 In Association with USofA Pageantry

PRESENTS...

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 USOFA NEWCOMER 2015

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 Your National Reigning...
 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2014

Dru's Place
 Memphis TN 04 25 2015 8PM

Continued from page fourteen

national Court System, doing charity shows. I like to say that I was raised by a pack of wild drag queens, and it is pretty true! The community here has been so supportive of my style of entertainment, I cannot thank them enough. They saw the value in developing a DIVA and gave me so much love, support, sponsorship, and advice and I literally wouldn't be the DIVA I am today without them! It was through a friend, Mystique Summers who first taught me how to paint, that I learned about the world of pageantry.

I had started branching out from charity shows into developing a regular booking schedule through the kindness of amazing local area clubs, such as Old Street Saloon, The Cabaret, Main Event, and Masque Nightclub. I found joy in bringing music to life on stage, plus I got to hang out with my very favorite people! I had been an avid fan of drag of all kinds for years prior, and constantly followed Queens around to learn how to paint, build costumes, sew wigs, etc. If it was drag, I was obsessed! So naturally, when I started performing regularly, I did it the only way I knew how: as a drag Queen! I started to develop my own style of performing and found out about the baby world of DIVA!

Mystique suggested that I get in touch with Brandi Amara Skyy about this new branch of the USofA system, and from that I was one of the first 8 contestants in the newest division, DIVA! I had no idea what I was doing, to be honest. I had a wonderful time, laid it out for the world to see, and came home with the second alternate prize. That night of competition lit a fire in me that wouldn't be quenched. I sought after just about every person I knew who had



been involved with pageantry of any kind and picked their brains until they couldn't stand me anymore.

I started upping the standards of my drag, pushing myself even more. I auditioned and won a spot to be on cast for the Thursday night cast at Play Dance Bar in Louisville, Kentucky. I



began networking with show directors and working outside of my city as well as within it to promote the art of DIVA drag. People started to understand and enjoy it. I prepared and ran in several regional and bar pageants to prepare and learn how to make a sickening National package. Along the way, I became Miss Platinum Gem City Femme, Miss Play Diva, and Miss Missouri DIVA USofA! I opened myself up to critiques and advice, but also stayed true to my vision of what a DIVA is: a combination of transformation, art, and the craft of Drag! And here I am, your newly

crowned Miss DIVA USofA!

The week of the pageant was incredible! 18, yes, 18 sickening contestants from all walks of performing life battled it out. There was so much love and hard work put into each one of the packages, it was obvious that DIVA is here to not only stay, but take off like a rocket! I felt sorry for the judges because we put them through it, for sure! At the end of the day, I had taken the crown, and my beautiful first alternate Raven Thorn, and gorgeous second alternate, Anastasia Rouge stood alongside me, each representing different styles of DIVA entertainment. To the contestants, I just want to say thank you. You each pushed me to new heights of personal best and I learned from

Continued on page sixteen



Continued from page fifteen

each and every one of you. The crown is beautiful, but heavy. Though one person will wear it at a time, it takes a community to share in its glory. It will take all of us working and expanding our brand of entertainment to make it light. And I know that each of you ladies gave it your all and I know you will continue to do so! I can't wait to see what you bring next year!

Here goes the thank you's! To my new reigning MI - Papa Cherry-Matrix and MI Classic D.C., I absolutely cannot wait to get to know you both better. We are going to make an incredible team. Together, we are going to make this a year that will go down in history!

To my wonderful Missouri promoters, Missy and Tawny Choate, your confidence in my decisions made me feel so loved and supported. You are a fantastic asset to the system and I am so grateful that I get to call you family! To Team Missouri, y'all kept me laughing through the multitudes of messages and Facebook posts. Thank you for keeping things light and fun, even in stressful situations.

To my National Promoters, Devin Dame and Gage Gatlyn, you two are amazing! Thank you for believing in DIVA and for pushing all of us to do our very best and beyond. I have only been a title holder for just about a month now and am already loving working with you! You both give your heart and souls to this system and it really shows. Thank you. I am always here for you, whatever you need!

To my incredible team at Nationals: Akasha O'Hara Lords and Christina Harrison, words cannot express how delighted I am with you. Akasha, you really went above and beyond for me as an advisor, dresser, makeup artist and friend. I am always going to call you sister, no matter how much you protest! Christina, you are my ride or die. You kept me together, even when things tried to fall apart. I literally couldn't have achieved this without your love and support.

To my drag mother, Bianca Nicole, you pushed me

harder and inspired me to greater levels of the craft than I even imagined. You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness, generosity and love. I love you!

To my Play Louisville family, thank you so much for the support and kindness. I couldn't have done this without you to call my home! To Main Event and Misty Phoenix, you put on one heck of a benefit for me and I literally wouldn't have won Creative Evening Wear without you! You, along with Old Street Saloon, Main Event, Shooters, and The Cabaret have backed me from the very beginning. Thank you for allowing me to be on your stage. I won't let you down!

To my ICS family, my Old Street Family, my whole dang shebang of a fantastic drag community: We did it! I say we because it takes a village to raise a DIVA! I love you all!

To Cass, all the MI Formers, Brandi, the promoters and everyone who has worked to make this vision happen: there are not enough words to thank you. You made this happen and continue to do so!

To my new US of A family: I am so excited to get to work with my idols! You have already made me feel so loved and appreciated. I am here for anything you need, from bobby pins to nail glue!

In a very happy announcement, we now have 10 (!!!) yes! 10 prelims set! We are currently in Florida, Missouri (with 2!!), Tennessee, Arizona, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Illinois, and the Tri States! DIVA is booming and I can't wait to see who joins us on this crazy adventure! I am here to assist, talk to, encourage, and bounce ideas off of! So let's get this party started!

Dare to DIVA!

Bella Nicole Harlow

Miss DIVA USofA

(708) 998-DIVA

bharlow@usofa.org

www.facebook.com/bella.harlow.1

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