



Integrity

The Official Newsletter of USofA Pageants



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JULY 2015

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Oklahoma and National USofA Royalty at the Oklahoma City Pride Parade

- Keosha Simone -
Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA Classic
- Shanice Ms. Pretty Johnson -
Miss Oklahoma DIVA USofA
- Alysha Davenport Brooks -
Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA
- Papa Cherry-Matrix -
Mister USofA MI
- Roxie Hart -
Miss Gay USofA Classic
- Iysis Naomi Paige -
Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA
Newcomer
- Tanijah Ray Brooks -
Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA at Large



Miss Gay USofA Classic
Roxie Hart riding in the Okla-
homa City Gay Pride Parade

Again 5, 6, 7, 8 Again

Mokha Montrese

Miss Gay USofA 2015

mmontrese@usofa.org



Hey Everyone,

I would like to say Thank You to everyone who has reached out to me for advice on preparing for competing in a contest/pageant. It is my honor and privilege to share with you a few things that you should always keep in mind when putting your package together. The first is - stay true to yourself and brand you want to create. The second is - create a team that will work for you. An example - just because someone is known for designing great hair, gowns, choreography, etc. doesn't mean they are the right person for you. Remember this is your moment and you need all the special attention. Never be afraid to say NO - this doesn't work for me. Learn your system or the systems you wish to compete in because there are differences. You have to know who you are and where you want to go in life so find that balance. Being a National Titleholder is a JOB with a lot of responsibilities that lies beyond the spotlight and dazzling stones.

This information may not work today, tomorrow or even next week. However, allow yourself to be a sponge and absorb then filter what works for you. Once I was told "you will never get anywhere unless your life is in order" by Carmella Marcella Garcia back in 1997. The other was "when you

know better you do better" by Miss Tommie Ross back in 2005. That's two different comments with the same message and it was the best advice I ever received.

So go forth - the world is waiting for you and all you have to offer.

Forever Yours!

Mokha Montrese
Miss Gay USofA



Welcome Newest USofA Pageants Board Of Governors Members

USofA Pageants is pleased to announce the addition of two new members of the USofA Pageants Board of Governors.

Devin Dame has been involved with USofA Pageants for the past several years. Devin is co-National Promoter for Mister USofA MI, Mister USofA MI Classic, and Miss Diva USofA

in addition to being a talented entertainer.

Scott Burk, formerly known as Damion White, has been involved with USofA Pageants for the past six years. In addition to his responsibilities as the webmaster for USofA Pageants, Scott plays a role in the day to day operations for USofA Pageants.

Both Devin and Scott bring unique talents to the USofA Board of Governors that will greatly assist USofA Pageants in the future.

From the Hart

Roxie Hart

Miss Gay USofA Classic 2015

rhart@usofa.org



the Miss Gay USofA Classic preliminary season, I want to hear from you, promoters, bar owners and people interested in becoming a promoter. We are always looking for locations where we could add some preliminaries for our entertainers to spread their wings into the Miss Gay USofA Classic division.

The month of June brought severe weather across America and I hope everyone escaped with the least amount of damage.

June was also Gay Pride in Oklahoma City as in many cities across the country. Many of us just celebrate it without really knowing the history, the trials and the tribulations of what those before us have fought for so we can enjoy the rights and privilege's we have today. I happened to catch a documentary the other night called Limited Partnership on PBS. I forget how far we have come and I was glad while learning and being reminded of the history of gay rights. Like they say – “No past, No future.”



You can always reach me at rhart@usofa.org with any question, ideas or suggestions. I am here for you.

Till next month stay cool and safe,

Roxie Hart
Miss Gay USofA Classic



This year will mark my fifteen year anniversary at EOY. I met Trinity Taylor, Miss EOY at my preliminary for Miss Gay USofA Classic in Key West this past March and he's just so delightful. He asked me if I would be there for his give up and I thought to myself, why not, it's been over ten years since I have been back. So Trinity, Louisville and EOY - I'll be there!

As summer goes by and we are gearing up for



Best Set Design Award Policy

To qualify for the Best Set Design Award within the Miss Gay USofA and Miss Gay USofA Classic Divisions you must now photograph your set and submit it to the National Office to be considered for this award. You can submit it to office@usofa.org

Promoters Spotlight!

This months Spotlight Promoters are Michael Dutzer and Dr. Rob Mansman - Promoters for the Miss Gay Maryland USofA Pageant, Miss Gay Maryland USofA Classic Pageant and Mr. Gay Mid-Atlantic USofA Contest

1. What is your background in female impersonation and what or who inspired Michael and Rob to become promoters with USofA?

Michael has been a female impersonator for a number of years under the name Lucy Starr. I think of Lucy as a cartoon character, I enjoy entertaining and perform mostly comedy. I never wanted to compete, just make people smile. We have many friends in pageants that we have helped and supported, when the opportunity to be promoters for Maryland came along, our friend Sue Nami approached us about it and we jumped in and produced our first show which was very successful.

2. What do you love most about promoting and what are you most looking forward to as promoters?



We love the people most of all. We've met a lot of great people in the past year. We are looking forward to growing our pageant and reputation. We take great pride in everything we do so giving our area a great show and our contestants a great prize package to start building a strong package for the national pageant.

3. Since taking over Maryland USofA what steps are you taking to expand USofA in the Northeast area of the United States?

This year we've added the Mr. Gay Mid-Atlantic USofA which will be in Washington DC on July 17. We are also adding the Maryland USofA Classic title to our pageant this year. We continue to network and will bring other USofA

titleholders in to educate our area on the different pageants within the USofA system.



4. Since you guys have become promoters what is the most valuable lesson you have learned that you can pass on to others interested in becoming promoters?

We learned that you have to set expectations with your contestants on what support you can or will provide but emotionally and financially.

5. Outside of USofA Pageants what do you guys enjoy the most?

Unlike most couples we are together 24/7. We work together and we both enjoy traveling. Seeing the world not only as husbands but as best friends is an amazing experience.



Delightfully Danielle

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



Howdy Y'all!!!

Well here we are with three months left and I'm not ready to let it go!! I have had the time of my life!!



First off thank you to the promoters this far that have went above and beyond for myself and the contestants at the preliminaries. Second, contestants don't forget to contact Jeremy, Darryl or myself with any questions about the venue and etc. We are hoping to have a contestant handbook as soon as all details are settled and ready to go.

Hope everyone has a happy independence day. Be safe.

Much love,

Danielle
Xoxo

A man says a lot of things in summer he doesn't mean in winter.

www.gayusofaatlarge.com



Happy Gay Pride
And

Thank You

Supreme Court
of the
United States

For granting

Equal Rights
to ALL of us



June 26, 2015

USofA Pageants & Hamburger Mary's Jacksonville Present

Miss Gay
Northeast Florida
USofA
at Large
JULY 26
2015

Entry Fee \$100
Registration • 3p
(Interview to follow.)
Pageant • 7:30p
\$8 Seat Charge
Interview • Evening Gown • Talent

Danielle DeLong
Miss Gay USofA At Large 2014

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JULY USofA EVENTS

- 2 - Miss Gay Florida USofA Newcomer
- 5 - Miss Gay Southwest USofA Newcomer
- 12 - Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA at Large
- 16 - Mr. Gay Texas USofA at Large
- 17 - Mr. Gay Mid-Atlantic USofA
- 18 - 19 - Miss Gay Ohio USofA at Large
- 18 - 19 - Mr. Gay Ohio USofA
- 22 - Mr. Gay Southern States USofA
- 26 - Miss Gay Northeast Florida USofA at Large



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

2015 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Program Book Advertising Space Available programs@usofa.org

Advertising space is now available for purchase in the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Program Book. The book will be printed in full color glossy finish 8 1/2" x 11". This will give each ad the chance to shine the way it was designed. USofA Promoters will be receiving discounts depending on what system their preliminary pageant is a part of.

Contact Sheldon McMeekan at [480-516-7126](tel:480-516-7126) or Programs@USofA.org with any questions or to secure your ad space. Pages are sold on a first come first paid basis.

Should you know of any person or business that may be interested in placing an ad feel free to extend the invitation to them as well, or send us their contact information.



USofA Pageantry, Alexis Mateo & Jeffery Kelly Present

Miss Gay Florida

USofA Newcomer 2015

Hair Show Extravaganza

Thursday, July 2nd, 7:30pm
Hamburger Mary's Clearwater

Honoring: *Victoria Mateo*
Miss Gay FL USofA Newcomer 2014

Featuring: *Kate DiNardo*
Miss Gay USofA Newcomer

Featuring Performances by:
Alexis Mateo - Miss Gay USofA Central 2014
Jeffery Kelly - Mr. Gay USofA

Forbes Cavali - Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2013, Christ Carter - Miss FL USofA 2013
And Former Miss Florida USofA Newcomers
Alicia Summers - '16, Missy McElroy - '11, Kyla M. Taylor - '12, Z'Myah O. Lowinsky - '13

Categories - Presentation (Not Judged), Interview, Talent & Gown

For More Information Contact Us at:
www.thecookbook.com/floridainews.com

Hamburger Mary's Clearwater - 26910 US Hwy 19 N. Clearwater. 727-400-6996

David Bridgman and USofA Pageants Proudly Presents the

2015 Mr. Gay Southern States USofA Contest

July 22, 2015
10:30 pm \$8 Cover



Xavier Valentino *Mr. Gay Southern States USofA 2014*
Jeffrey Kelly *Mr. Gay USofA 2014*
Alexis Mateo *Miss Gay Southern States USofA 2015*
Kalil Valentino *Mr. Continental 2014*
Christopher Iman *Mr. Gay USofA 2013*
Mr. Gay Southern States USofA 2013
Keaton Zane Paige *Mr. Gay Southern States USofA 2012*

For more information contact
David Bridgman
214-815-7695
www.facebook.com/mrgaysouthernstatesusofa



Justyn Lee and USofA Pageantry Presents


The 18th Annual

Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA at Large


One Night Only

Honoring *Tanijah R. Brooks*

July 12, 2015
\$5 cover
10PM



Danielle DeLong
Miss Gay USofA at Large



SKM Enterprises and USofA Pageantry presents
A Direct Regional to Miss Gay USofA Newcomer

The Fourth Annual Miss Gay Southwest USofA Newcomer 2015

Destiny Raine Daniels
Kira Daniels

Pierce, Fabulous, and Flawless

DIVAS Live!

July 5, 2015
Presentation: All White | Registration 2PM | Interview 3PM
Showtime 9:30PM | Cover \$7

AREA 10
39 East 18th Street
Tulsa, OK 74119



Twerkin' with "Tic Toc"

Kira Daniels

Miss Gay USofA Newcomer 2014

kdaniels@usofa.org



Hey Twerkers, Soul Twerkers, Better get that doe Twerkers,

The summer is here and he isn't playing games. WHOA! ITS HOT!!

The first week of June was Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA Newcomer. It's always great going back to Oklahoma and being at Angles. It's like a big family reunion for me. My drag mother Londenn and so many people I've come to love lives there so I'm always WELL taken care of. Miss Gay Oklahoma USofA Newcomer is the second largest state prelim we have with 6 city prelims and 12 contestants. What sucks for me is that I was only there for final night but don't you cry for me cause I got my booking to come back next year to judge and perform. Yes Ma'am! It was a great pageant with some lovely entertainment including our very own Miss Gay USofA Classic Roxie Hart! (I believe that was her first official booking as Miss Gay USofA Classic).

The second week of June was Miss Gay Michigan USofA Newcomer in Lansing, MI at Spirals Nightclub. What a great time. Being at this was nothing short of amazing. Four GREAT contestants, AMAZING entertainment, PHENOMENAL host and one heck of a duo of promoters. Everything went perfect except I started the pageant a little late because the Queen wasn't ready. Sorry James and Josh. But other than that everything was perfect. It was great to have some of the girls from Arizona to come perform and to see some of the things I do at prelims (a little bit of the job of Miss Gay USofA Newcomer). The weather was gorgeous and my hotel suite was everything! Josh you sure do know how to take care of a friend and make me feel like a Queen. Thank You.

The third week I had a break. Moving to the last Sunday in June was Miss Gay Arkansas USofA Newcomer in Little Rock, AR at The Studio Theater. It was a long day for me flying. Leaving a little before 1 am and then a layover Dallas for 2 and a half hours then to Arkansas which got me there in enough



time to drop my bags at the hotel and hit it to registration. The venue was really nice. A big stage and nice dressing rooms. Five new beautiful fresh contestants and a family affair of judges. The night went by smooth and on point maybe cause we had a surprise host Miss Eartha Quake!! OMG she is just too much and I appreciate all that. I'm so happy the Newcomer Division

is back in Arkansas. It will help grow the USofA system there and get the girls fire started again! Much Love Allura, I can't wait to chit chat.

So I wrote this on the plane heading home for almost a day. I land at 7 pm then leave again at 1 pm Tuesday. I am heading to Florida until Sunday and then I go to Tulsa, OK so please keep up with me on Facebook. Watch my videos of the pageant and like my pictures/posts. This month has been such a roller coaster of emotions for me in drag and my personal life. I got SO much to take care of and worry about that sometimes I literally barely make it through the day. I got one more article left then this chapter will be closed. Let's see how that will go.

Make sure you come join us in Dallas August 4 – 7 for the 2015 Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant. Final night tickets are available at www.missgayusofanewcomer.com

Much Love,

Kira TicToc Daniels
Miss Gay USofA Newcomer



CRAIG HENDERSON & USOfA PAGEANTS PRESENT

MR. GAY TEXAS USOfA AT LARGE
GIOVANNI BROOKS MATHEWS

Mr. Gay Texas USofA at Large

HEAVEN'S GATES, HELL'S FLAMES

THURSDAY JULY 16TH 2015

LAYLA LARUE
MISS GAY TX USOfA 2014

ZELUS
MR. GAY TX USOfA AT LARGE EMERITUS 2007

SAMSON
MR. GAY TX USOfA AT LARGE 2008

BANT'EL MCKIM-ANTHONY
MR. GAY TX USOfA 2015

DAKOTA WHITNEY
MR. GAY TX USOfA AT LARGE 2010

ZAYER YORK
MR. GAY TX USOfA AT LARGE 2013

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"FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH & BLOOD BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES IN THE HEAVENLIES." EPHESIANS 6:12

LAWRENCE ONE PRODUCTIONS & USOfA PAGEANTS PRESENT

MISS GAY OHIO
USOfA AT LARGE

MR. GAY OHIO
USOfA

SAT JULY 18

DANIELLE DELONG
MISS GAY OHIO AT LARGE 2014

BETH AMPHETAMINE
MISS GAY OHIO USOfA AT LARGE 2013-2014

JEFFREY KELLY
MR. GAY OHIO 2014

EARLY REGISTRATION \$75 BEFORE JULY 1ST

CONTESTANT LUNCHEON FROM NOON - 1PM REGISTRATION TO FOLLOW

CATEGORIES INCLUDE INTERVIEW, TALENT, FASHION

CONTACT LAWRENCE AT lawrence@missgayohiousofa.org FOR MORE INFO

Double Crowning Event!

Mr. Gay Louisiana USofA
&
Mr. Gay Louisiana USofA at Large
2015

Men of Myth

August 15, 2015 @ 10PM

Pink Bar and Nightclub
1914 Roselawn Ave. Monroe, LA 71201

Special Discounted \$50 Entry Fee until
March 31st

Early Bird \$75 Entry Fee
April 1st - May 31st

\$100 June 1st - August 15th

Featuring

Jeffery Kelly
Mr. Gay USofA 2014

Zayer York
Mr. Gay USofA at Large 2014

For More Information Contact:
Renee Roberts 318.614.1756
Hunta Downe 318.308.0299

KATA KLYSMIC PRODUCTIONS
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MISS GAY IOWA USofA 2016

Featuring

MOKHA MONTRESE

Miss Gay USofA 2015

Jupiter Phuckit
Miss Gay Iowa USofA 2015

JENNESSICA JADE
Miss Gay Iowa USofA AT LARGE 2015

Prelim Nights
August 28-29 2015
10:00PM

Final Night
August 30th
7:30PM

THE GARDEN NIGHTCLUB

BRITTANY BROOKS
Miss Gay Iowa USofA Classic 2015

JACOB B. PRINCIPLE
Mr. Gay Iowa USofA 2015

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



Wow what an amazing month June has been!

I have had three preliminaries this month and they all have been amazing. It began with Mr. Gay California USofA. It was the first preliminary in the Mr. division ever held in California and it was amazing. The promoters Elijah and Freddy treated me and everyone else like a million dollars! They had 3 great contestants and will be sending all three to nationals! I went from there to Mr. Gay Texas USofA and all I can say is WOW! That contest is the same as competing for a national title. All 18 boys were amazing and Craig Henderson put on a great contest with the help of David Bridgman, of course. Congratulations to everyone who participated. It was so amazing to finally get to talk to everyone including the "Forever" Mr. Gay Texas USofA formers. Michael La-Masters - you had an amazing step down and you should be proud! The last preliminary of June was Mr. Gay Atlantic Coast USofA in Jacksonville, FL. This was the first time it was held and the promoter Shawn Simmons put on a great contest. There were 5 contestants! I was very happy this preliminary was held giving the boys of North Florida a chance to achieve what I did last November!

Other than the contests, I am so happy that the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in favor of

Gay Marriage equality! I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Pride!

The month of July is going to be great! Besides the three preliminaries in July we have many more preliminaries to come! Mr. Gay Ohio USofA, Mr. Gay Mid-Atlantic USofA and Mr. Gay Southern States USofA. If you would like more information for those preliminaries or others coming up please contact me or any of the promoters. You can find the promoters contact information at

www.mrgayusofa.com

Remember my opening theme for the Mr. Gay USofA Contest in November is "Tomorrow Land Futuristic". If you have any questions please contact me via

Facebook or e-mail me at jkelly@usofa.org

Jeffrey Kelly
 Mr. Gay USofA

www.mrgayusofa.com



USofA Pageants and Lucy Starr Productions Presents:

2015 Mr. Gay Mid-Atlantic USofA



Hosted by: Alexis Mateo
 Info: www.mrmidatlanticusofa.org
 Friday, July 17, 2015

Over \$3500 in cash and prizes

Ziegfeld's
 1824 Half Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20024

Featuring:
 Jeffrey Kelly
 Mr. Gay USofA 2014



Here and There with Zayer

Zayer York

Mr. Gay USofA at Large 2014

zayer@usofa.org



Hello everyone. June sure proved to bring continued blessing in this incredible reign as Mr. Gay USofA at Large.

I was fortunate to have stayed busy as always and got to attend, be a part of, judge and perform at some great events in June. I focused on a lot and I continued to push the growth of the at Large division inspiring others to do the same and helped do anything needed for them to achieve their dreams. I traveled to several places and realized the love and support I've been receiving is truly unreal and definitely appreciated. Thank You!

We welcomed another two gentlemen on June 14th to the list of those wanting to become the next Mr. Gay USofA at Large as we had our 1st ever Mr. Gay California USofA at Large. This event was amazing and I truly thank the promoters Elijah Delavega and Majesty Moore for putting on this event and investing your time into this prelim. California was everything as always and we congratulate Robert Elektra and Alexx Moore on their placements and wish them the best of luck at nationals.

I was a part of Mr. Gay Texas USofA in June and I thank Craig Henderson for giving me the opportunity to sit on the judges panel. This contest was like a mini national and these gentlemen really showcased true talent, drive and passion to succeed. Congrats to Dantel McKim-Anthony and his runner ups. We will see you all in November.

It's clear that everyone is always watching you and

at any given time you can be given an opportunity anywhere in the US. That's exactly what happened in Lubbock, TX. Two incredible promoters Aiden and Chris put on a HUGE never before seen show called the

ROYALTY BASH. I got to take stage with some of the best former and current national titleholders in the business from across the US including my USofA brother Jeffrey Kelly and a couple of Texas boys. This show really showcased male entertainment at it's finest. Thank you Lubbock for being very receptive and showing us the love. We can't wait to be back!



XREVISION PHOTOGRAPHY

I will be on the road again and I hope to see you all soon. July brings us the Mr. Gay Texas USofA at Large in San Antonio. Gentlemen that are interested in competing for Mr. Gay USofA at Large please follow me on social media, reach out to me and or Craig Henderson and for any up-

dates and prelim info visit www.mrgayusofaatlarge.com There is many opportunities for you to qualify.

Zayer York
Mr. Gay USofA at Large

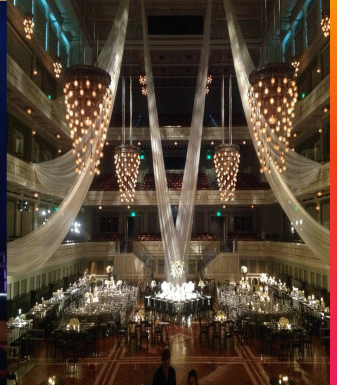
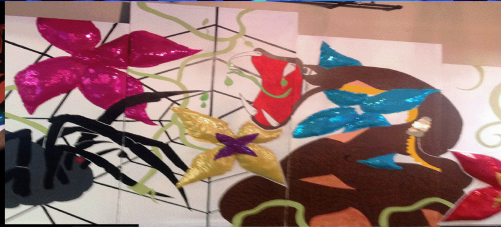
Below - Jeffrey Kelly Mr. Gay USofA And Zayer York Mr. Gay USofA at Large in California



Above - Nathan Paris, Jeffrey Kelly, Mykul Jay Valentine, Zayer York, Joey Taylor and King B at the Royalty Bash in Lubbock, Texas

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www.ronsanfordproductions.com

Dancin' with D.C.

D.C.

Mister USofA MI Classic 2015

DC @usofa.org



Hope everyone is doing well.

Another month has passed and that means we are one month closer to preliminary season!! I would like to take a moment to thank all the promoters in all the divisions for all the hard work they put into the preliminaries and throughout the year. Without you all we would not have the amazing system that we have today!

But, before all of the prelims begin it is back to Dallas for the Miss Gay USofA Newcomer Pageant the first week in August! I am very much looking forward to hanging out with the Newcomer promoter helping in any way I can and see what these amazing contestants are bringing. I also have the opportunity to perform on a National stage again. It is such an honor!

I am very excited to get these preliminaries underway because I for one LOVE a good pageant! I can't wait to see my brother Papa Cherry-Matrix and sister DIVA Bella Nicole Harlow and visit with all of the promoters and get to work with the contestants!! I also get so excited about the pageant themes, crown displays etc. That's the retired promoter in me!!

As we approach prelims I want to let all the promoters and contestants know that I am here for whatever you may need. I am just a phone call or email away!

The USofA Brotherhood/Sisterhood is strong and

we all work together so please don't be afraid to ask questions. No question is a stupid question! Believe in yourself and you will reach your goal.

Bring the package you are comfortable with and make it yours. Stay true to YOU and don't let anyone change that! If you are confident in your package leave it on the stage and whether the crown ends up on your head or not you are still a winner! You will have won the love and respect of your MI/MI Classic brothers, your DIVA sisters and you are a very important member of the USofA Family.



See you in my travels!

Classic Love,

DC

Mister USofA MI Classic

www.misterusofami.com

*"I was Classic,
when Classic
wasn't cool!"*



Playin' with Papa

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



Well you can tell Pride is in the air!

From all the rainbows on Facebook to all the twinks in nothing but rainbow speedos! This is actually the first year I have performed at Oklahoma City Pride and it was a blast! The only really downside was not having transportation to the beginning of the parade route. Yeah I walked almost all the way to the start of the parade but luckily I was rescued by an angel on a golf cart! Once we got started and I saw everyone lined up to watch the parade go by it made it worth every step. It was great to share the USofA float with my fellow Oklahoma USofA title-

holders but it was wonderful to see my Miss Gay USofA Classic Roxie Hart who I must say was absolutely stunning perched so eloquently and waiving to all her fans.



And then not even a week later the Supreme Court announces their decision on marriage. I never thought I would see the day that same sex marriage would be legal in Oklahoma and then

it happened. I said I really hope this means the rest of the country isn't far behind and Friday June the 26th it did. I have never been more proud to be an American! I know the fight for equality isn't over but the fact my brothers and sisters across the country can get married equality in every way it IS NOT far away! #LoveWinsAll

Now I'm ready for my children to be home from visiting their "grammy" so we can blow some stuff up and celebrate Independence Day like never before! I want to say HAPPY PRIDE to all of you and HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!! Be safe and smart with your fireworks!

Until next time,

Papa Cherry-Matrix
 Mister USofA MI

Blurring the Lines with Bella

Bella Nicole Harlow
Miss DIVA USofA
bharlow@usofa.org

Greetings everyone!

Its summer and pageant preparations are in full swing for upcoming prelims in the USofA system, and the DIVA Division is going full steam ahead! We have so many prelims being added, it is incredibly exciting to see how the division is growing in such a short time! With the first DIVA prelim coming up on August 29th for Miss Indiana DIVA USofA, I thought I would dedicate this month's article to a bit of advice on how to get prepared, especially if you have never done a pageant before!



Preparation and planning are key to a smooth, clean pageant package. You will change your mind a LOT during your preparation time, and that is very natural. You might also go through periods of self-doubt and even decide to quit a time or two! This is also natural. Questioning yourself is an essential part of the creative process. Mary Lou Cook says, "Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun." Part of the process is trying new things, thinking outside of the box and questioning everything, from your talent to your gown choices to even whether or not you should even attempt this seemingly huge project called pageantry! Know that this self-doubt is natural and part of the crea-



tive process, and by creating a plan and continuing to move through it, one can definitely achieve the results desired. So here are some of my best tips to preparing your pageant package!

- Learn your system! Get very familiar with each category. The handbook for the pageant you have chosen is generally readily accessible through their websites. The official USofA website is www.usofa.org and is a hub of information where you can find the official rules and regulations, as well as a list of upcoming prelims. Make sure you check there to get all the official updates! By learning your system inside and out, it will keep you from being surprised by any rules and will help guide you to decide what system is

Continued on Page

Continued from Page

best for you and your aesthetic of performance!

- Utilize your titleholders! Your reigning titleholder is a fantastic resource for you to get questions answered and to get advice. That's what we are here for! Part of our job as a titleholder is to help guide contestants to achieve the highest of their ability as competitors. We want to build the system, and the best way to do so is to help YOU! I am always here to help you, whether it's explaining the rules, advice on different categories, bouncing around ideas, or just being a shoulder to cry on, PLEASE reach out! That's what we are here for! My contact information is at the bottom of each article, so please contact me early and often! I will tell you that it makes my whole day to hear from contestants!
- Create a timeline. So you've decided to run. That's fantastic! You've chosen your preliminary competition. Wonderful! You now have a definite date to have everything done by. I recommend creating a time line, starting with creating your "due date" one week prior to the competition itself. You will then work backwards to the present date, creating deadlines to have your evening wear created, talent planned, interview outfit purchased, even benefit dates put on the calendar (if you decide you want to raise money to defray your costs). This timeline will save you a LOT of stress and money, because you won't have to rush order anything and by making your final due date a week before the competition, you



won't be working on major items the night before you have to compete! (Believe me, I've seen it happen!) Save yourself major stress, and grab that calendar! You have plenty of time right now, so just go ahead and do it! You can thank me later!

- Create a budget. This goes right along with creating a timeline. Know how much you ultimately want to spend on your pageant package, and then break it down into your categories. If you space it out enough, it won't be financially crippling. Stick to it and shop around, you can put together a fantastic pageant package and not spend a fortune if you plan smart.
- Learn from the past! Make sure you check out past competitions to get a sense of the style and format of the pageant you have selected. This way you will be able to go into each prelim situation knowing what is ahead of you! DVDs are often available on the system sites, and Youtube is certainly your friend in this case.

These are just a few tidbits of advice for you! I certainly hope this is helpful for your planning process. I am so excited about the growth of the USofA system, particularly in the DIVA division! I hope to see you at an upcoming prelim soon! As always,

Dare to DIVA!

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THE USOFA NATIONAL COURT AND
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AUGUST 4-7, 2015

PRELIM NIGHTS

AUGUST 4, 5, & 6

ROUND-UP SALOON

3912 CEDAR SPRINGS

START TIME: 9PM

DOORS OPEN: 8PM



FINAL NIGHT AUGUST 7

CHAMPAGNE BALLROOM,

PARK INN BY RADISSON

1241 W MOCKINGBIRD

BY DALLAS LOVE FIELD

START TIME: 8PM

DOORS OPEN: 7PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION &
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