

Next IQKNY Meeting: Friday, February 7, 1997 @ 8:00 p.m. @ THE "G" CENTER!

"IMPERIALLY YOURS"

Newzy
Letta of
I.Q.K.

Imperial Queens & Kings

Vol. 29, No. 02
of NY, LI, NJ, CT and PA

VALENTINE'S Issue

Manhattan, NY 10011

(day)

(LI)

(eve)

(NJ)



“Cross-Atlantic Queendoms”

British Queen Quentin Crisp & Imperial Queen Allyson Ann
reviewed their “Gaye Living Legends INTERVIEW SERIES”.

This occasion was the legendary “BEAUX ARTS SOCIETY BALL”.
(Royal Riddle: guess what known interviewer’s microphoned hand that is?)

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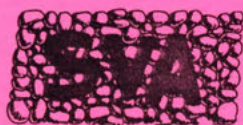
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"Beaux Arts BALL"

IQKNY was royally received (L-2-R) Lord IRA JEFFRIES, Imp. Queen ALLYSON, Kontessa KITT HOLIDAY (performer), Marquessa MICHELLE

More Royalty!

(L-2-R) Princess BONNIE DUNN, Prince ROHN RON SEYKELL, BARON GEISTMEISTER TRS (the grand host and IQK Boarder), legendary t.v. host JOE FRANKLIN and Ballroom Queen Dowager BELLE M. WHEAT



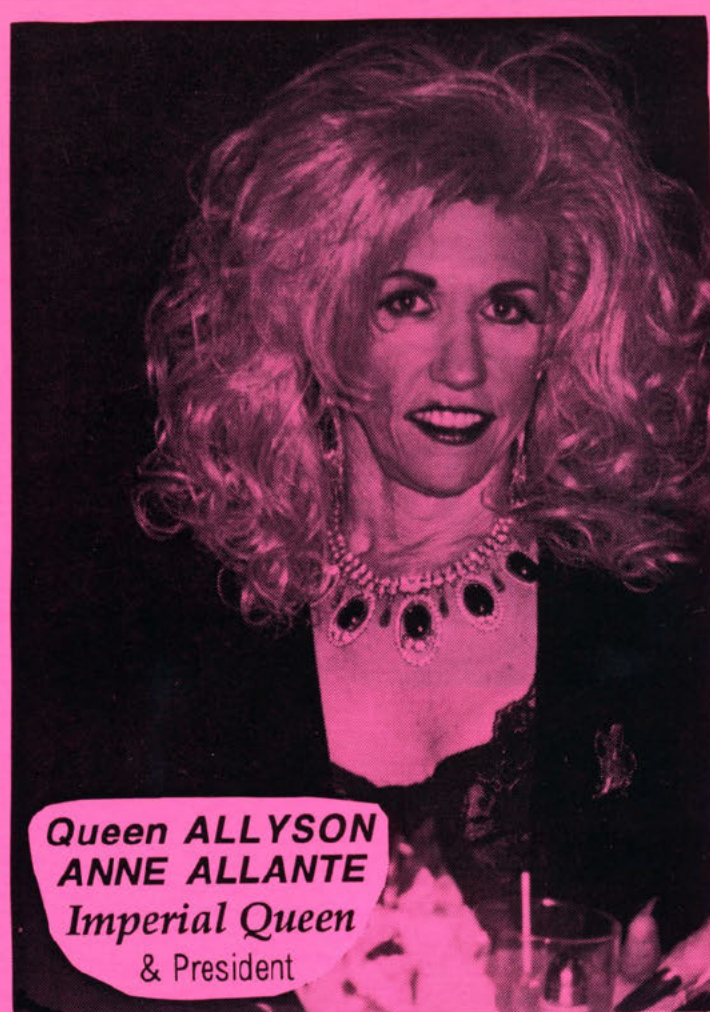
"The Hand of Barry Zee"
(riddle from cover) royally I/V's the legendary British Queen QUENTIN CRISP and Imp. Queen ALLYSON as shown on two special cable t.v. editions of "BARRY Z. SHOW"

1997
ELECTED
Imperial
QUEENS

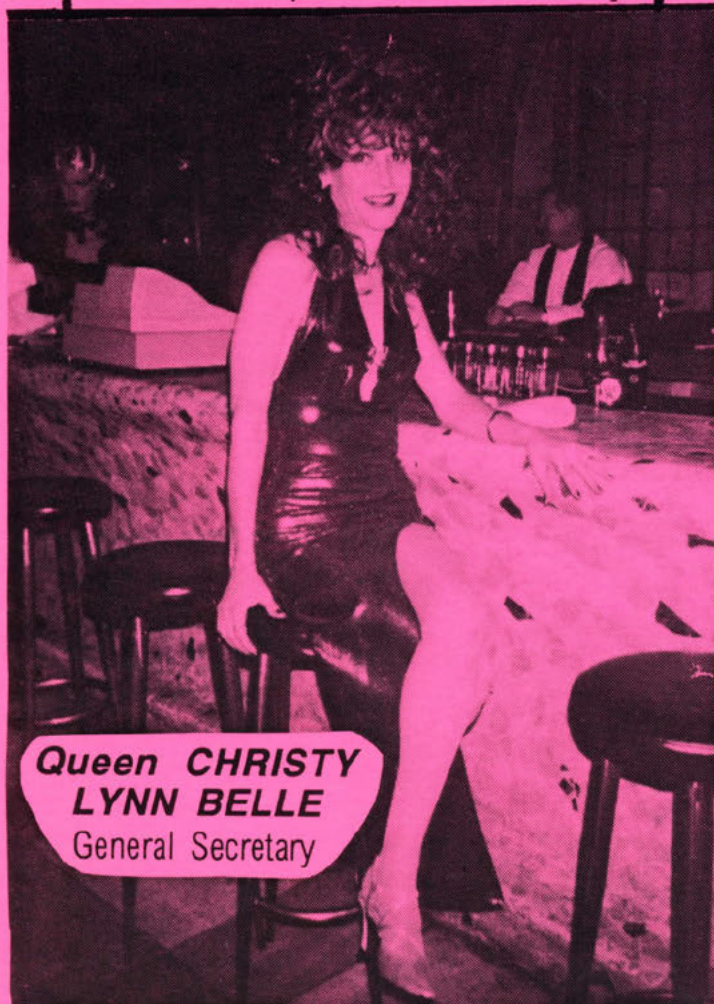
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NY, LI, NJ & CT

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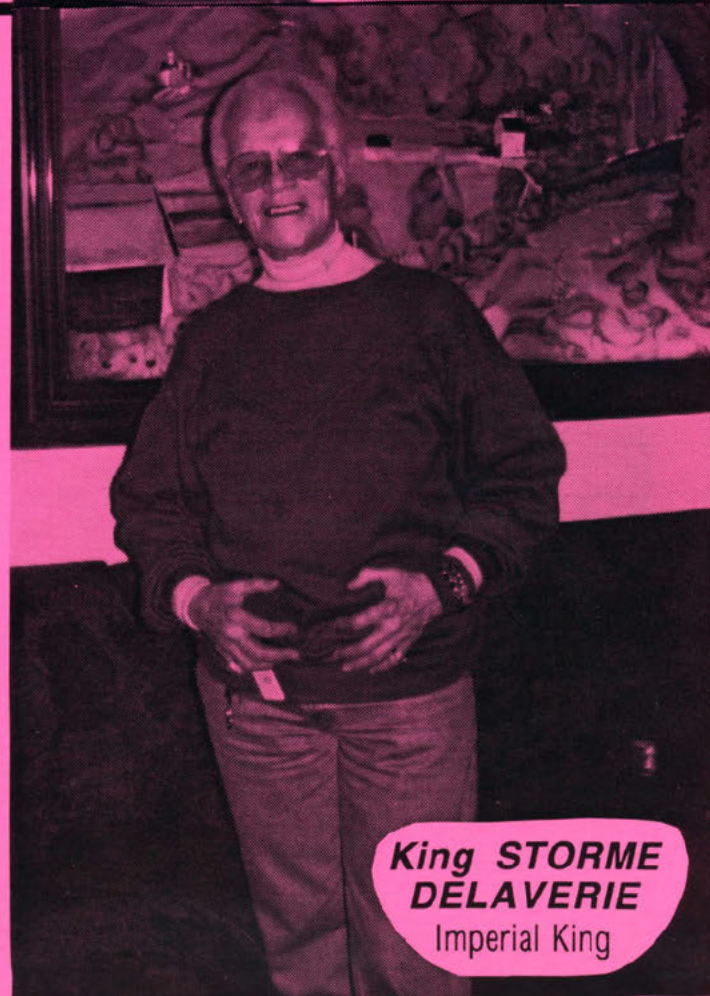
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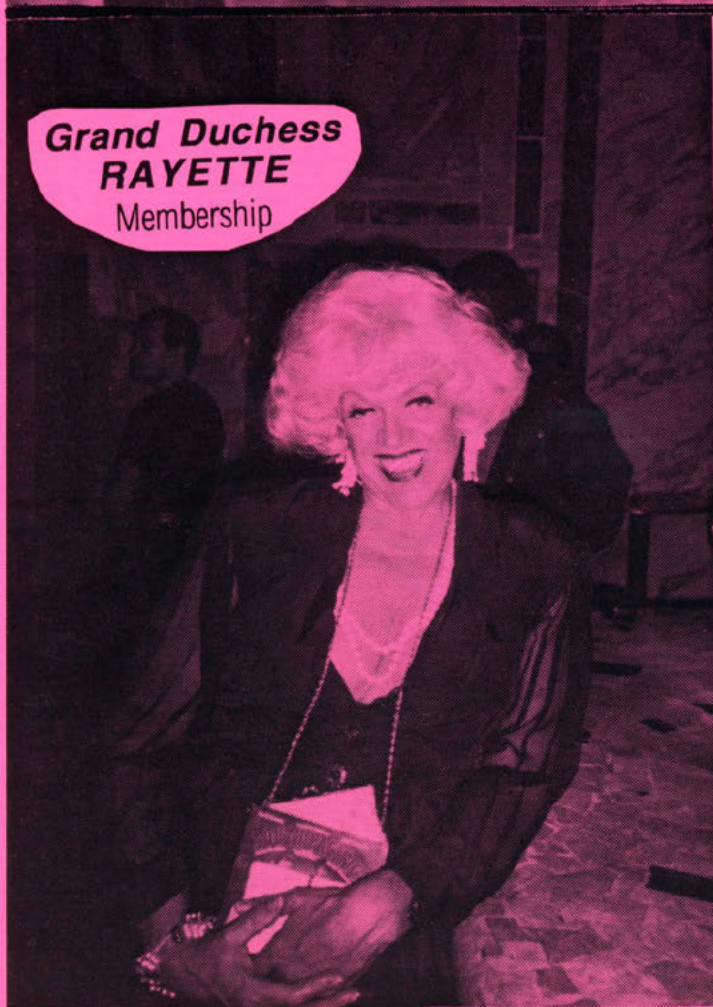
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**Kontessa KITT
HOLIDAY**
Entertainment



I.Q.K.N.Y.

had royalty at this D/Q event including (L-2-R) Queen ALLYSON, Queenette CINDY CHAN, Princess BRENDA BERGMAN and Countess CHRISTIANNE O. Many arrived in "STONEWALL" Car.

The V.V. writer and "E - T.V." gossip columnist MICHAEL MUSTO (who we call Mona), Queen ALLYSON and their street-wise bodyguard, Amir QAHARR. The event filmed by H.B.O.-T.V.



"DRAG WALK-of-FAME"

To the left are Queenette CINDY CHAN, Imperial Queen ALLYSON ANNE and Wigstocker Lady BUNNY

THE BIRDCAGE

TG Acceptance and You!

Commentary By
Allyson Ann Allante



Queen Allante in 1996
Stonewall Parade.

One of the top-grossing (over 100 million and counting) films this year is..... (drumroll)...a mainstream, highly entertaining, political satire, *The Birdcage*. It's about a star TG (notice the capital "T"), Nathan Lane, as Albert/Starina, the boa-clad, drag headliner/heroine. Along with Robin (Mrs. Doubtfire) Williams, they portray an overboard (but never bored), happy, loving, humorous, wholesome, long-lasting gay couple. TGs have once again advanced their status and cause as this *Birdcage* couple are viewed as likable and sympathetic, and especially as acceptable.

Birds of a Feather was, understandably, the original working title of the film. Set in South Miami Beach, the plot (is there anyone out there who doesn't know by now) centers around two, mature gay men — one of whom has a 21-year old son from a prior marriage, who is "...going to the chapel and

gonna get married..." to an "actual" girl! The other partner is an out-going, sensitive, somewhat campy and dramatic, drag queen.

In order to present the image of a normal man-woman couple for their son's pending and very conservative in-laws (Gene Hackman and Diane Wiest), Albert/Starina pretends to be his partner's wife, "Mrs. Coleman." The farce that follows is dee-lite-full. Positively everything works out wonderfully *a la* Joe E. Brown and Jack Lemon in *Some Like It Hot*. And, yes, Albert and Armand actually do kiss. It is that R-E-A-L.

Birdcage is a remake of the



Birdcage makes the case for same-gender marriage and is proof-positive that any relationship with a TG can work. Photo courtesy: United Artists

1978 French film, *La Cage Aux Folles*, which proved an enormous hit in its native country, around the world and in the U.S. *La Cage* was so successful it even had a sequel. Later still (1984), for its third incarnation, it was transformed into a fabulous Broadway Tony Award-winning musical. The fact that audiences were ripe for a remake is a tribute to the growing acceptance of TGs all over the world. Also, the current generation of movie-goers are more

open, more educated, less bigoted. They've also seen, and many have learned to love, Ru Paul, Dennis Rodman, and other TG celebrities.

The main point and the bottom line is that audiences will shell out multi-millions of dollars to see quality films about positive TG characters (*Birdcage*, *To Wong Foo*, *Priscilla*), stories (*Stonewall*, *Ed Wood*) and events (*Wigstock*). The silver lining to this beautiful mosaic is that typically the following formula prevails: awareness + understanding = tolerance.

Politically speaking, and TG issues, as Riki Anne Wilchins says, are frequently political, *Birdcage* is *prima facie* evidence for the case of same-gender marriages. It is equally proof positive that any relationship with a TG person, CD, TS, DQ, DK or whatever, can succeed if it is treated honestly, respectfully and lovingly by both parties, whether the partners are of the same or the opposite sex works.

If *Birdcage* has any deeper meaning, perhaps it is that the time has come to clean out the cage and give the bird (British for girl) some fresh water and a fresh breath of air. Does this mean come out and be proud? Of course, it does! So, if you haven't seen *Birdcage*, check it out on video, or better yet, get

gussied up and see it in a theater. Either way, realize and appreciate the very symbolic general public acceptance of the transgender phenomenon (and YOU) this film represents.

(Allyson Ann Allante is President of the Imperial Queens & Kings of New York. She can be reached via this publication or c/o IQ&KNY, 70-A Greenwich Village Av., #120, New York NY 10011; (212) 229-1 968/627-1969.)

Please attend the next
Social & Business
Meeting
of the
**Imperial Queens
& Kings of NY**

on
Friday, Feb. 7th, 1997

@ 8:15 p.m.

Gay & Transgender
Community Services Center
208 West 13 St.
(btw. 7th & 8th Aves.)
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Admission: \$3. for The Center



Meeting Dinner"
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I. Q.K.N.Y.'s

**Revision
of
Bi-Laws**

(Votingonly Paid Members)

Our newly-elected Vice-President &
Presiding Officer at this month's
Meeting: Queenette TINA RAPPORT

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL regarding the
"DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP LAW" (Intro No.
884) introduced by NYC Councilmember
ANTONIO PAGAN, Et Al. Said hearing
shall be held on Thursday, Jan. 23
@ 11:30 am at CITY HALL Chambers.

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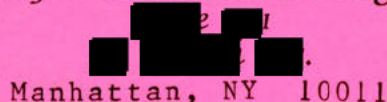
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