



*Emperor VIII William
& Empress XII Panzi*



Founded 1986

Greetings from the fabulous
world of Drag Queens and Drag Kings, cross dressers and divas, muscle boys and lip-synchers, gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, transgendered and...you get the idea. We embrace diversity and glamour; fund-raising and cross dressing!

In 1965, Jose Sarria, the country's first openly gay political candidate (for San Francisco Supervisor) founded the Imperial Court System and set the Court standard of humor, heart and humanitarianism which today governs more than 70 royal courts and baronies in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Mexico.

The Imperial Court of New York, founded in 1986 under the aegis of Empress I Sybil and Emperor I George, is part of this proud tradition. The court is a social, fund-raising organization, (most notably through the annual Night of A Thousand Gowns) and has donated back into the community more than \$250,000 to both social service organizations and AIDS/HIV support groups.

The members of the Imperial Court are people who have chosen to make a commitment, get involved and make a difference in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community. Our membership is broad and varied. Our members are lawyers, doctors, therapists, ministers, restaurateurs, stockbrokers, hairdressers, marketers, performers, accountants, teachers, florists, antique dealers, jewelers and many other professions.

We are glamorous. We are fun.
We are everywhere.





*Empress VIII
Coco La Chine*

Have you
ever wanted
to be royalty?
How about a Countess?
Why stop there? Why not
be a Duke, or a Prince?
Ultimately, you could be-
come the Emperor or
Empress of New York.

Such are some of the perks of belonging to the most fabulous party in town! New members join the Imperial Court as a Lord or a Lady (many of our members stick to the gender given them at birth). Based on a member's dedication to the Court and its causes, one can be elevated in rank from Baron/ess, all the way to Prince/Princess Royale. Brilliantly, these titles are given for life. Those who work the hardest and help to raise the most money for the Court's charities may even be rewarded by being elected Emperor or Empress - an honor and a tremendous obligation.

The Monarchs represent the Court at dozens of events sponsored by a variety of organizations and travel, as representatives of ICNY, with their entourages to the coronations of new monarchs around the country.

We are... The Imperial

The Imperial Court of New York is a favorite attraction as part of many community fund-raising events. Members have been invited to host, perform in and co-chair events by the following organizations (among many others): *GMHC's AIDS Walk, Dance-A-Thon and Fire Island Morning Party, Empire State Pride Agenda's White Party, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, The Center's Joan Rivers Show at Town Hall, In-The-Life Auction, Julie Halston's NY and God's Love We Deliver.*

ICNY also produces annual Drag Tag Sales on Fire Island, and co-hosts the Halloween Ball at



*Empress VIII Billie Ann Miller,
Emperor VII Tomas and Empress XI Gianna at
1997's Night of A Thousand Gowns*

The Center. Of course, the Court's fabulous float is always a crowd pleaser during the Gay and Lesbian Pride parade. The Imperial Court has been at the forefront of our community since 1986.

Other than raising money and educating the community at large on diversity issues, the Imperial Court of New York is also out there entertaining PWAs at hospitals, working refreshment stations during GMHC's AIDS Walk, distributing condoms at Grand Central Station,

Court of New York

joining in the March on Washington, entertaining senior Lesbians and Gays at SAGE socials and many other fabulous events.

Some of the activities in which ICNY sponsored or participated under the reign of Their Most Imperial and Sovereign Majesties, Emperor VII Tomas and Empress XI Gianna:



Emperor V Ron

Night of a Thousand Gowns
Tough Drag Show
Lord and Ladies Show
Hetrick Martin Institute Auction
AIDS Walk
Empresses Fight AIDS Benefit
Pieces Show
The Center Garden Party
Gay Men's Chorus Concert
Drag Tag Sale
Heritage of Pride Party & Parade
Invasion of the Pines
Hollywood Party
Boys Night Out
Doctor's Fund Benefit
Bar People's Ball
The Center Halloween Party and Show
MCC Halloween Show
SAGE 25th Anniversary Show
A Bejeweled Revue
GMHC Dance-a-Thon
Body Positive Cocktail Party
New Members Dinner
ICNY's Bowling Night for World AIDS Day
12 Drags of Christmas
Holiday Caroling at St. Vincent's
Momentum Holiday Party
ICNY Holiday Party
Bingo with Coco
Bella and Friends
Prince and Princess Show



What sets us apart from
everybody else besides the big hair, bigger jewels and really big dresses is our attitude: humor, heart, and humanitarianism. These are the keystones to all 60-plus Courts in the Imperial Court System, founded by the visionary activist Jose Sarria in San Francisco over thirty years ago. Our Founder, known as Empress I Jose, the Widow Norton, is recognized around the world as one of the pioneers of the gay and transgender movement. Jose's legacy is part of the gay studies curriculum which is blossoming here in New York at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the City University of New York, as well as New York University and Columbia University.

Members of the Imperial Court must be dedicated to the causes and charities of the organization. Our two-fold mission encompasses both a social and a philanthropic design. Moreover, for as serious as we are about our mission and our role in the community, we can't deny that many of us also participate for the zany fun and creative outlet that the Court gives us.



*Emperor VI
Steven
and
Empress X
Ran-Dee*



irect Beneficiaries.

For more than a dozen years, the Imperial Court of New York has been prominent in the tri-state area as a visible presence in the Community, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars and donating thousands of hours for charities, such as:

AmFar's Treatment Registry

The Lesbian & Gay Community
Services Center

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)

People With AIDS Coalition (PWAC)

National Lesbian and Gay Task Force

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA)

Body Positive

Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE)

The Harvey Milk School

at the Hetrick-Martin Institute

Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival

In The Life Television

The NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

The Gender Identity Project

The Michael Callen-Audre Lorde

Community Health Center

Lambda Legal Defence Fund

Children's Hope Foundation

God's Love We Deliver

The Momentum Project

The Foundling Hospital



YES! I'd love to have more information on the most fabulous organization in New York City! Please send me information on how I can be a part of the Imperial Court of New York!

name

address

phone number (optional)

send to:

ICNY, Number 149, 61 E. 8th Street, NY, NY 10003





*Empress IX
Philomena*

*M*embership in the Imperial Court of New York is open during September and October of each year. Associate Memberships are available during the month of April.

For more information about how to be part of the most fabulous party in town, or to be put on the Imperial Court of New York's mailing list, please contact us at the address below. Or, visit us at our fabulous website:

<http://vicny.home.ml.org>

Imperial Court of New York

New York, NY