

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK, NY 10003

PRESS RELEASE

**CONTACT PERSON: CHARLES CHING [REDACTED]
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TOM DUANE TO RECEIVE AWARD AT ANNUAL DRAG BALL

NEW YORK - The Imperial Court of New York, producers of the annual NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS Charity/Coronation Ball, announced recently that Councilperson Tom Duane will be the recipient of this year's Imperial Diamond Award. Mr. Duane is the openly gay Councilperson of New York City who has been on the forefront of gay and lesbian rights. This annual drag Ball, which celebrates the high style of the transgender community, has been set for March 19th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The beneficiaries of this much awaited event will include The People with AIDS Coalition (PWAC), Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), and the Gender Identity Project (GIP) of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center of New York. Mr. Duane will be the fourth recipient of this prestigious award given every year for outstanding service to the lesbian and gay community.

The Night of a Thousand gowns will also culminate and celebrate the successful reign of reigning Empress Coco LaChine. Coco currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center and of Gay Games IV. She has traveled extensively and performed all over the United States and Canada representing the New York Court at regal functions. She has also graced numerous fundraising events in the city.

The Night of a Thousand Gowns is the most glamorous drag fundraising event on the New York gay scene. Over the years, the Imperial Court of New York has raised over \$100,000 for various organizations including the Gay Men's Health Crises, The Anti-Violence Project, Body Positive, the PWA Health Group, and the Community Center of New York. "This year's Ball will be the most fabulous ever. There will be dancing to big band music, a very grand coronation and lots of beautiful gowns, boas, rhinestones and big hair. And of course, a lot of beautiful ladies sashaying," remarked Randy Riggs, president of the Court.

The Imperial Court is well loved in the gay community. They participate in many community fundraising events throughout the year: Whether it is entertaining PWAs at hospitals, passing out condoms at Grand Central Station, entertaining seniors at social events, or performing at fundraising shows. They are glamorous. They are fun. They are everywhere.

This is one Ball you do not want to miss. For ticket information, call [REDACTED]

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**EMPRESS COCO LACHINE TO CROWN SUCCESSOR AT
NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS**

NEW YORK - Empress VII Coco LaChine of the Imperial Court of New York will take her final walk on Saturday, March 19 at the 8th Annual Night Of A Thousand Gowns. This annual drag Charity/Coronation Ball, produced by the Imperial Court of New York, is expected to draw over 800 of New York's most glamorous drag queens, performers and their friends from the gay and lesbian community, to the Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

The formal evening will include dinner and dancing to big band music by the Hot Lavender Swing Band. At the stroke of midnight, Empress Coco will relinquish her crown to the newly elected monarchs of the Imperial Court. Ms. Billie Ann, a well loved figure of Cherry Grove, Fire Island and Mr. Ron Cohn, the new development director of SAGE, will be crowned Empress VIII and Emperor V, respectively, at a glittering ceremony to be attended by out-of-town royalty from all over the United States and Canada. Ms. Billie Ann is a performer who is known for her impersonations of Ann Miller and Marlene Dietrich. A photo of her as Marlene appeared in The New York Times magazine this summer. Mr. Cohn produces cabaret shows all over the city and sits on Community Board 2. He was the development director of The Community Center and worked with AARP prior to joining SAGE.

The beneficiaries of this much awaited Ball will include The People with AIDS Coalition (PWAC), Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), and the Gender Identity Project (GIP) of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center of New York. Tom Duane, New York City Councilperson, will be the fourth recipient of the Court's Imperial Diamond Award. This prestigious award is given every year for outstanding service to the lesbian and gay community.

The Night of a Thousand gowns will also culminate and celebrate the successful reign of reigning Empress Coco LaChine. Coco currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center and of Gay Games IV. She has traveled extensively and performed all over the United States and Canada representing the New York Court at regal functions. She has also graced numerous fundraising events in the city.

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