

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK, NY 10003

**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS SET FOR MARCH 19, 1994**

NEW YORK - The Imperial Court of New York recently announced that the NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS Charity/Coronation Ball has been set for March 19th at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. 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. One of the highlights of the evening will be the presentation of the Imperial Diamond Award to New York City Councilperson Tom Duane, an openly gay official who is very well respected in the gay and lesbian community.

The Night of a Thousand gowns will culminate and celebrate the successful reign of reigning Empress Coco LaChine. Coco has brought very high visibility to the Court this year with her numerous appearances at community events. Most notably this summer, Coco was one of the people featured in the Images Campaign of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. The campaign featured six members of the gay & lesbian community in 5,000 subway posters. Coco currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Lesbian & Gay Community Center and of Gay Games IV.

The Night of a Thousand Gowns is the most glamorous drag fundraising event in 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