

The Court Circular

"As far as I'm concerned, being any gender is a drag."

Patti Smith
Rock Singer

CNY

SAGE HOLIDAY SOCIAL

by Baroness Zondra Foxx

Binsky's – not Minsky's, that's burlesque! – at The David Dubinsky Student Center at FIT on December 14, was the venue for the annual SAGE Holiday Social, complete with a turkey buffet and all the fixins'. The Imperial Court of New York got to strut their stuff, thanks to the organizing efforts of Dom Tolipani. The appreciative SAGE members filled the place in rapt anticipation of our performance.

Emperor Steven was the Master of Ceremonies and kept things moving right along for the seven eclectic performers. Tami Wynotte's secret wish was to be "Rich, Famous & Powerful"; your authoress did a nightclub version of "White Christmas" (for those who have never heard of Betty Ford or the Felony Squad); Rose Levine tried to sing everyone's holiday favorite, "New York, New York"; Leeza Monet did Lena Horne's "A Lady Must Live"; Imperial Crown Princess Royale Gianna did

"Happy New Year Blues"; and Billy Little disco boogied, boy-style in a jingle bell g-string!

The extravaganza ended with Empress Rande "Leaving

Her Door Open" and showing some great legs – let's see more of those! At the encore, all the performers, including Josephine Boner Parte who forgot her tape, gathered onstage with presentation bouquets for a photo op. The raffle followed, smoothly handled by Dom. This was not your typical Pieces or Pyramid crowd, but the audience loved it and had a great time. Those members who missed it should try and be a part of the SAGE Holiday Social next year, or participate in any other Court related activities for SAGE.



The Court Circular

The Official Newsletter
of the Imperial Court of New York



New York, NY 10003

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for Gay & Lesbian
Community and social service
organizations; to provide a safe, social
environment for people with the same
interest as those of the corporation; to
create and promote positive Community
awareness of the ideals of the
Imperial Court System.

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

by *Tori Adore*

The Night of A Thousand Gowns Ball Co-Chairs have met twice and are working hard to insure the success of this gala event on Saturday, March 22nd. An "In-town Packet", the counterpart of our "Out-of-Town Packet" which is sent to other courts, is being developed and a flier for ease in ordering tickets to Coronation Week events is in the works for our Court Members. If you have signed-up for one of these committees already, don't wait to be asked - call one of the co-chairs and find out what's going on and what you can do to help make our Coronation/Charity Ball the most successful to date! The various Ball Committees are:

I) **The Program Committee:** *Charles Ching, Randy Riggs, Steven Frear, John Cella, & Tom DeConza.* Randy Riggs reported that there would be about 3 rehearsals for the opening number, which is approximately 9 minutes long. The Monarchs and a small core would be featured, and many of the Court Members would be in a 4 minute segment wearing masks a la "Phantom of the Opera". The Program itself would be split in to 3 acts as was done last year. Act I: Doors open at 6:30, Dinner at 8, Presentation of Monarchs and Awards. Act II: Presentation of Titled Guests, Out-of-Town Courts, Dowager Empress, and New York Court. Act III: Raffle, Introduction of Our Founder, Reigning Monarchs Final Walks, Coronation Ceremony followed by Dessert Buffet.

II) **The Ball Journal:** *Randy Riggs, Steven Frear, Brian Crede & Tom McNamara.* A bid from Greenlight Communications was accepted for the printing & "perfect" binding of the Journal. We can go 8 pages over at no extra cost then add on by 8 to 16 pages for more money if needed. Press date is 2/21/97. The format will be that of a Playbill in honor of the Broadway and LaScala Monarchs. Brian Crede is in charge of Production; Tom McNamara is in charge of Journal Ads; and the Monarchs are doing the editorial work.

III) **Tickets:** *Victor Grossetti & Tom McNamara.* CircuitTix, 1-800-429-3433 has been engaged to sell tickets for NOATG for those people wishing to charge their orders. Gold Tickets are \$125, Silver are \$75. Tom McNamara has a dedicated line 212-807-8767 for NOATG information and non-charge ticket orders. 1200 invitations have been sent out; 1000 gold and 500 silver tickets will be printed. In order to qualify for a free ticket, a member in good standing must sell nine or more tickets by check or cash only, and present the entire

amount collected at one time to Victor or Tom to insure the placement at one table and receive the free ticket. Volunteers will be needed to help at the door with tickets.

IV) **Advertising & P.R.:** *Philip Stoehr & Thom Hansen.* A press release has gone out, and ads are being placed in gay monthlies and weeklies such as HX. Window displays at Greetings, The Leatherman, The Loft, A Different Light Bookstore and B. Daltons in the Village are planned, and posters are being printed.

V) **Bar Run:** *Joe Conigliaro & David Davis.* To advertise at bars and clubs not included in the "Go-Card" Promotion. Stickers will be affixed to the back of 3 to 5 thousand Go-Cards with information on all the Coronation Week activities. A limo with a banner advertising NOATG will be used for the Bar Runs, broken down by three regions, which will occur three successive weekends prior to the Ball. Posters will also be used.

VI) **Decorations:** *Fred Frick & Robert Tabor.* Concepts for the stage and table design have been discussed and rentals pursued. 21 volunteers have signed up; breakdown is always the hardest part. A timetable for setup and breakdown will be presented.

VII) **Venue:** *Johnny Cella & Charles Ching.* The band Hot Lavender will perform, and the DJ will be Mark Cicero. Johnny is handling requests and questions for services or necessities from the hotel for the various committees (tables for the auction, tickets, etc.).

VIII) **Out-of-Town Show:** *Garret Malter & Robert Van Glahn.* Invitations have been extended to all Out-of-Town Monarchs; the show will be Friday 3/21/97 at the Web at 40 East 58th Street. Doors open at 7, the show starts at 8. This event is a food drive for the Momentum Project; suggested donation of \$5 with a box of Carnation Instant Breakfast (Momentum's food of choice), \$8 without it for admission. *Please note: this event is for Out-of-Town performers.*

IX) **Raffle/Auction:** *Gene Rogers & Tom DeConza.* Letters have been sent out to various vendors in NYC requesting donations for the Raffle and Silent Auction. The theme is Broadway and Opera, with about 10 groups of goods to be auctioned. Volunteers will be needed throughout the evening to help sell raffle tickets and assist with distribution of the prizes.

X) **Victory Brunch:** *Dom Tolipani.* \$25 in the Hilton's Rendezvous Room - 3rd floor on Sunday March 23, 1997 - 11:30 AM. Salute the outgoing Monarchs and welcome the reign of our new Monarchs at this celebratory brunch.

XI) **State Dinner:** *Johnny Cella & Bobsie Colon.* \$25 includes 1 drink, dinner, tax and tip at (lower) Lips on Thursday, March 20, at 7:30

The Executive Board of the Imperial
Court of New York meets on the third
Thursday of each month.

The General Membership meets on the
first Wednesday of each month at
The Center, 208 West 13th St. at 8:00pm.

THE HOLIDAY PARTY

by Duchess Tori Adore

The Holiday Party at 24 Fifth Avenue on Friday evening, January 17 was warm and lovely, unlike the cold and blustery winds blowing down Fifth Avenue. Their Most Sovereign Imperial Majesties greeted the 90 guests as they entered the restaurant, which provided three separate rooms for the Imperial Court's annual event. Imperial Crown Prince Royal Tomas successfully coordinated the event and the raffle, the proceeds of which were donated to the Court. The marvelous staff of waiters and waitresses circulated for the first half of the evening with platters of hot appetizers (I always figure that when the portions are small, you're standing up, and you don't use a fork, it simply can't have any calories! Did I mention I'm a size 16?) Shrimp, pork, spring rolls, spicy garlic sausage rolls, I tried 'em all. A cold buffet also provided cheeses, meats, fish and salads, and an open bar was very popular.

Gorgeously attired guests mingled in the glass enclosed dining area and the bar, then moved to the dining area where Emperor Steven in full



regalia and Empress Ran-Dee, majestically attired in black chiffon and diamonds, conferred elevations on 16 of those present. Those elevated and their new titles are: Viscountess Delta La Manns, Viscountess Fanny Fondue, Viscountess Rose Levine, Viscountess Josephine Bonerparte, Countess La Diva, Countess Bella, Duchess Tori Adore, Duchess Ann Tique, Duchess Leeza Monet, Duke Gabriel Fratelli, Princess Tedi DeBare, Princess Brenda Starr, Princess Blaise Patrice, Prince William Patterson, Princess Royale Tromphé L'Oeil, and Princess Royale Lita Austin. Two people were absent who received elevations which will be conferred at the February Membership Meeting. Emperor Steven named Lord Eric Andruszkow as his Aide-de-Camp. Congratulations to all!

After the raffle of an array of nifty prizes, the 1996 Imperial Diamond Award was belatedly presented by Empress IX Philomena (wearing fabulous jewels by David Mandel and sporting a full length burgundy and black evening coat over a black sequin sheath gown) to Lypsinka a/k/a/




John Epperson, who made a funny and touching speech. Also in attendance were Empress II Champagne, fetching in sheer palazzo pants; Empress VII Coco LaChine, resplendent in sequins; Empress VIII Billie Ann Miller, enchanting in a party frock with a full skirt; and Imperial Crown Princess Royale Gianna in a plum sequin gown with matching jewels. Robert Sorrell was in military drag and jewels of his creation, and Dina Dynell sported a tiara spelling her name in rhinestones!

It was great to see many new members dancing the night away: Lady Josie in black velvet bustier and slacks; Freeta



Chews a vision in red; the statuesque Angela Mercy; the elegant couple Lord Oliver and Lady Maria Alexandra von Birkenwaldau; Lord Bobsie Colon; Lord Faux Bois, and numerous others. The venue was elegant

and the company fun and friendly. Cheers to our Imperial Crown Prince Royal Tom DeConza for organizing a splendid event. 


PM. Casual dress, reservations a must, as the space accommodates 65 people tops. Salute our founder, Empress I Jose.

XII) Hospitality: *Bill LaMonica & Bill Patterson.* The Hospitality Suite will be open Friday 3/21 from 3 PM-7 PM and Sat. 3/22 from 11 AM-3 PM. Thirty volunteers are signed up for this committee. Plans for a "Guest Book" to know where everyone is in the hotel, a "Visitors Guide" packet; hair, shopping and car services to be provided by volunteers; and all food and beverages to be donated by volunteers. Display of ICNY Awards in the Suite, Court Jewelers vending their gorgeous jewels, and ICNY T-Shirts sold. This committee will help collect tapes for Out-of-Town Show and work with the Protocol Committee.

XIII) Protocol: *Steven Frear, Grant Anderson & Robert Sorrell.* This Committee will register Out-of-Town Courts, and prepare a listing for the Ball Program onstage. Also sell titles, and coordinate presentation of the New York Court. Billy Little, Lynn Walker and La Diva who have helped in the past, as well as some volunteers from Hospitality Committee will be needed to assist Protocol Minister Swana Swarovski at NOATG. A Title Desk for *all* to check in will be set-up outside the Ballroom.


XIV) Prince & Princess Show: *Johnny Cella & Tom DeConza, co-chairs, Joe Conigliaro, producer.* Wednesday March 19; time and venue t.b.d. Lifebeat/Hearts & Voices beneficiary of tips and suggested donation of \$3. A meeting of all Princes and Princesses in February to deter-

mine running order and the acts presented.

XV) Tough Drag Show: *Steven Frear & Tom DeConza, co-chairs Wolfgang Busch and Gary Cosgrove, co-producers.* At Rome, 290 Eighth Avenue between 24th & 25th Streets, on Sunday March 23. Doors opens at 8, show starts at 9PM. Suggested donation will be \$3. The male title holders will be arrayed in feminine finery and launch the first Tough Drag Show in NYC, a popular way Out-of-Town Courts conclude Coronation Week. 

"JERRY'S BOYS" AT CARNEGIE HALL


Tickets will be on sale at the next Membership Meeting for the New York City Gay Men's

Chorus concert on Sunday March 16 at 8PM at Carnegie Hall. Entitled "Jerry's Boys", this show is a salute to legendary Broadway composer and lyricist Jerry Herman, and will feature many exciting guest stars, including Monarch past, present and future of the Imperial Court of New York! Box seat tickets are \$50. Please make checks payable to the Imperial Court of NY and join us for a musical festive kickoff to Coronation Week! 

NEWSLETTER POSITION OPEN

by Victor Grossetti

The position of Editor-In-Chief of the Court Circular is being open to all member of the Imperial Court of New York. I am filling in for the next few months, with the tremendous assistance of Newsletter Chair Steven Frear, Art Director (and Production Chief) Brian Crede, Calender Editor Bill Patterson, Circulation Manager Tom McNamara and fellow Board Member Dom Tolipani. Clearly, the position of Editor requires the assistance and ability to work with many people and meet deadlines, as well as present a positive image

of our Court. An application form is in the works and will be presented at a subsequent meeting, with a timeframe detailing the selection process and the naming of the new Editor. Stay tuned! 

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Third Page Horizontal: \$30.
(5 w / 3 3/16 h)

Third Page Vertical: \$30.
(2 3/8 w / 10 h)

Column Inch: \$5.
(6 lines about 40 words)

Contact Kitty Fouché at 201-759-3845
for ad placement or additional
information.

Display ads must be camera ready or on Mac compatible disks. Design services are available for an additional fee. Advance payment required for all advertisements. Ad deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to publication.

F E B R U A R Y C A L E N D A R

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	Minneapolis/St. Paul Coronation Victor Grossetti
2	3	4	8:00 PM - General Membership Meeting @ the Center.	6	Benefit for PWAC 10:30 @ Triad, 158 W. 72 St. \$10. cover/\$10. min. Reservations: 799-4599	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	Seattle Coronation Victor Grossetti
Empress Ran-Dee's Imperial Birthday Dinner 6:30 @ Il Torino, 139 W. 10 St. - \$32. Dom Tolipani	17	18	19	20	21	San Francisco Coronation Victor Grossetti
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

UP-COMING EVENTS:

Night of a Thousand Gowns
March 22 - Emperor Steven or Empress Ran-Dee