

# The Court Circular

*"I have bursts of being a lady,  
but it doesn't last long."*

Shelly Winters

C N Y

Greetings to all Royal Subjects from the Imperial Castle,

Although we find ourselves at a new level of obligation and participation, our journey was made easy due to the dedication and supportive service of you, our members.

This year's Night of A Thousand Gowns was the most memorable one (for us, anyway) and positively the most glamorous. From Lord and Lady to Prince and Princess, from white tails to period pageantry, you made us so very proud. Although we come from a melting pot of backgrounds, we are united. We proudly show our dedication and commitment to our community and our mission, not only to our great city of New York, but also to the Imperial Court System at large. Each year we grow in number, in commitment, and in support of the Monarchs, and for this we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Please remember that we are always here for you, only a phone call away. Although we frown on vicious gossip, we will always listen, evaluate, counter and then dispose fair, and ever-so-proper advice. "Off with their heads!".....will be used only in the rarest of cases!!

We will need your support in many different ways this year: attendance at events, financial support, organizational abilities plus behind the scenes. We welcome assistance at any and all levels. Success comes in many different forms, and your support can make every event a success. Your efforts will not go unnoticed.

Always remember, we can't have success without you. We need you!

We love and thank you,

*Tomas*

Emperor VII Tomas  
*The Emperor of Courage & Survival*

*Gianna*

Empress XI Gianna  
*The Sapphire Heart Empress*





New York, N.Y. 10003

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for the 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.

## Board of Directors

### John Celli

Reigning Empress & Executive Board

### Tom DeConza

Reigning Emperor & Executive Board

### Charles Ching

President

Original Incorporator

### Fred Frick

Vice President & Membership Chairman

### Bill LaMonica

Treasurer

### Victor Grosetti

Secretary

### Garret Malter \* Philip Stoehr

### Domenico Tolipani

Executive Board Members

## CIRCULAR STAFF

### Victor Grosetti

Acting Editor-in-Chief

### Brian Crede

Art Director

### Bill Patterson

Calendar Editor

### Fabu La Rue \* Zondra Foxx

### Angela Mercy \* Freeta Chews

### Bill LaMonica

Contributing Journalists

## NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS

By Viscountess Angela Mercy & Viscountess Freeta Chews

Cross-country cross-dressers and trans-continental transgenders converged on Manhattan to witness the spectacle. There were lights and laughter, cameras and costumes, dancing and drama, even opera and intrigue - and make-up...lots of make-up! Was it the opening of Broadway's newest smash musical? No, it was the Night of a Thousand Gowns, ICNY's yearly charity and coronation ball. It was a sparkling evening of glamour and glitz, featuring a lavish stage production for the opening number and culminating with the crowning of our new Monarchs. It was a critical and financial success. This year, the beneficiaries were the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center Capital Campaign Fund and the AmFAR AIDS/HIV Treatment Directory. Gold ticket sales numbered 752 and the Silver tickets, 106...girl, that's a lot of tickets! The Court raised \$14,000 for the Center and \$10,000 for AmFAR.

As for the evening itself... it was March 22nd at the New York Hilton. Cocktail hour began at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and the show following at 8:00 p.m. Act One opened with the Imperial Performance, "Broadway Meets Opera" featuring our reigning monarchs, along with a striking array of colorful courtiers. The production, conceived and choreographed by Randy Riggs, cleverly blended the themes of the La Scala Emperor and the Broadway Empress in a dazzling "Phantom of the Opera" medley. H.I.M. Empress VII Coco La Chine, President of the Board, welcomed Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messenger to the stage. Next, the Emperor and Empress turned it out as

they were introduced to the cheering throng. It was all about big crown and legs-for-days as H.I.M. Empress II Champagne gave a mysterious and dreamy Decade Walk. Charles Busch received the Imperial Diamond Award for community achievements. Another highlight of the evening was H.I.M. Empress IX Philomena's Dowager Walk - a fierce turn as Evita (sounding remarkably like Victoria Weston) singing "Don't Cry For Me New York City" in virgin white and then busting out in black leather with "Stand Back..." ...and you'd better, baby.

All fell silent as it was announced that H.M.I.S.M. Emperor Steven would take his final Monarch's walk alone, without his Empress - hence, the drama and intrigue. Speculations ran the gamut and let me say right now, the rumor about wearing the crown for just a little while longer is absolutely untrue and should not be repeated! No one knew for sure what happened. Would H.M.I.S.M. Empress Ran-Dee appear again, or not? Emerge she did, to take the stage with His Majesty and add that perfect finish to a most successful reign.

Finally, the time arrived for the Coronation Ceremony of our newly elected Monarchs! Tomas and Gianna gave *serious* crown upon assuming their new command. Gianna's train gave Amtrak a run for their money, and she *can't* go on strike! She was absolutely breathtaking in blue and seemed to float down the runway as she approached the College of Monarchs. Tomas was the picture of what an Emperor should look like in burgundy and gold: a perfect compliment to Gianna.

On a personal note, for our first Coronation, we have to say that the evening was a night to remember: one which raised a considerable sum for our chosen beneficiaries whilst perpetuating the ideals of the Court System, allowing us all to have a fun as we continue to provide service to our community.

## THE PRINCE & PRINCESS SHOW

By Steven Frear

Coronation Week certainly got off to a smashing start on March 18th with The Prince and Princess Show at New York's favorite gay bar - Splash. One Prince and Eight Princesses entertained the crowd at Splash and managed to raise money for Lifebeat's Hearts and Voices. The evening was hosted by the coordinator of the event, Duchess Anne Tique and Her Royal Highness, Sister to HMISM Emperor VI Steven, the Angel and La Scala Consort to HMISM Empress X Ran-Dee, the Imperial Crown Princess Royale Gianna. The door was "manned" by Prince William and Joe Doyle. The Imperial Crown Prince Royale Tomas appeared as a stunning Tony Orlando with the Ladies Angela Mercy and Freeta Chews as Dawn. The girls did double duty that night as back up to Princess Royale Panzi. Gianna (see above for full and proper title) wowed the crowd with her number. Everyone was thrilled to see the return of "Air Brenda" performed by the unique Princess Brenda Starr. Duchess Anne Tique performed her signature number "I'm not getting married" with flawless style and lipsinque. She was supported by the inimitable Princess Tedi de Bare and some guy in a tuxedo shirt. Duchess Leeza Monet delivered her usual high energy performance and had the crowd clamoring for more.

The single dark spot that evening was the absence due to illness of the Opulent and Ethereal Broadway Angel Empress, Empress X Ran-Dee. She was greatly missed. One Empress did perform - Empress VII Coco La Chine! We all know she owned the place! As a closing number, Princess Royale Lita Austin, backed up by Princess Royale Trompe L'Oiel, Princess Tedi de Bare, Duchess Anne Tique,

Count Robert and some guy in a black shirt performed a fully choreographed rendition of "All That Jazz". Lord Damien was overheard to say "I think this is my favorite look for Lita!" An impromptu finale performed by (please excuse the lack of titles) Coco, Gianna, Lita and Anne Tique of "If You Don't See What You Want Up Here" brought the show to a rousing close!

The take at the door and the tips were generous, and were matched dollar for dollar by the owners of Splash, Brian and Harry. Just imagine what we could have raised if all of our members had attended!

## WORDS OF WISDOM

By Billie Ann Miller

It was just about a year and a half ago that my first column was printed in this newsletter. I am very happy to say that since my article, there has been a very visible change in the attitudes of court members and I must say it is a positive one! I wrote "...if you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything! Reach out to fellow members. It goes a long way..." From time to time, I am the target of negative comments and reaction - but I do not retaliate. Precious energy must be reserved for productivity and not negativity. There was a tremendous display of love, warmth, camaraderie and friendship at the Victory Brunch this year. H.I.M. Empress Nicole of San Diego told us she was very moved to see this change in the New York Court. My goal has always been peace, love and harmony here in New York. H.I.M. Empress I, The Widow Norton, has always said "...we do not have to love one another, but we must have respect and compassion ...." Peace & Love

## LORD & LADIES SHOW

By Zondra Foxx  
Imbiber & Inscripter

Variety is the spice of life and the ICNY served up some spicy dishes at Lips for the Lords and Ladies Show. Since elevations were conferred recently, some of the performers had graduated out of that category, but who cares about exactitude? It was a long show with some familiar faces and some just testing the waters. The Royalettes, Anne Tique, Tedi di Bare and Josephine (these are no ladies), warmed things up with a 60's girl group medley. Funny how all those songs really do sound alike! With a breath of fresh air, Gusty Winds high kicked "All That Jazz" onto a higher plane. Next, at the recently tuned piano, Jackie Jonee actually played a la Liberace, but in simple black elegance. This girl has talent. The highlight of the evening must have been the Court's junior juvenile delinquent Lord Valentine with "Beauty School Dropout" with cotton-candy wigged Angela and Freeta assisting. Gianna and Tomas vigorously worked their scepters during the intermission, bestowing elevations on those absent from dinner. Back to the show with Josie as Miss Taken; Peacock talking dirty to her animal menagerie; Patrice Roberts telling how she puts it all together (Cage aux Folles); Freeta (actually alone!) in "Living Without You" (must refer to Angela); and Angela (alone!) with "Tonight Take Me Out" and dancing dirty so you get the point! The pinnacle of the evening was probably the spouses Von Birkenwaldau with "Miss Chatelaine" (Shadow Lane, whatever) - sooooo hot, sooooo nasty. The raffles brought out the high rollers, finger food was served throughout the evening, and the lounge was quite full with delighted courtie

1997

## June

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		2	3 8-Membership Mtg- The Center	4	5	6 9pmEmpress' Fights AIDS-Ice Palace, Cherry Grove \$40- contact Randee or Gianna-Coronations Hamilton,Ont. Can. Reno,Nev.-Contact Victor Grosetti
8		9	10	11	12	13 Reno,Nev. Coronation-call 702- 333-9189
15		16	17 8pm-Bingo,Bongo, Bango-St. Bernard's Church-328 W.14 St- contact Joe Doyle	18	19	20 Lexington,Ky. Coronation-call 606- 255-1316/225-5151
2pm-Gay Pride Rally-Bryant Park Show at Pieces- contact Tyler Alexander	22	6-The Center Garden Party / Gay Men's Chorus-Carnegie Hall-contact Jose Fernandez	23 7-10 Emperor Tomas Birthday Celebration Dinner-Rose Cafe-5th Ave. & 9 St.-\$29 dinner + cash bar- contact Bill LaMonica	24	25	26 9-Benefit Show at MOIST, Hoboken- contact Gary Cosgrove
11:30 a.m.Gay Pride Parade-Contact Emperor Tomas or Empress Gianna	29	30	JULY	1	2	3 Pines Invasion-H 4 Contact Thom Hansen