



APES AND PEACOCKS

**Ten years with
the chimpanzees in
East Africa**

**A night with
the drag queens in
West London**

Jean Fredericks invites you to a relaxed rave-up of a
Breezy Balmly Ball

Presented by MALE MOD WIGS

*A Midsummer
Dream
Ball*

**FANCY
DRESS
BALL**



SATURDAY, JUNE 19th 1971
7.30 p.m. to 11.45 p.m.

BAND PLUS VALUABLE PRIZES BUFFET LICENSED BARS

Theme: **Hiawian Nights**

75p in advance plus s.a.e. by post from: **Admission £1 at the door**

Mr. J. WATSON
55 BLOEMFONTEIN ROAD,
LONDON, W.12

Mr. RON STORME
9a CLARENDON DRIVE,
LONDON, S.W.15
01-788 4154

Book your tickets well in advance to save disappointment as these raves are the in-things and heavily attended. ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?
COME IN COSTUME or CASUAL
The Management reserve the right to refuse admission without question.

Come as you aren't

An evening at a drag ball in Bayswater

by Brock Baker; photographs by David Reed

Above: an invitation to the sixth drag ball given by Mr Jean Fredericks since he has been living in London. A professional drag artist for 10 years, Jean Fredericks has sung opera in his native Canada and possesses a musical degree. Right: the climax of the evening - Jean Fredericks, as mistress of ceremonies, congratulates the 'Princess of Tonga', winner of the First Prize and new Queen of the Midsummer Dream Ball. The 'Princess', whose real name is Roger, was born in Ceylon and works in London as an assistant in a snack bar. Sitting on the platform behind them are a group of professional drag artists - guests of honour making 'personal appearances' at the ball - which includes (from left to right) Mombasa, David Delacey, Ron Storme and Roberta Camp. The Second Prize was won by Lloyd Chandica, a dressmaker, who came as 'A Very Memorable Face'. (Chandica had won First Prize, as 'Indiana Topaz', at another ball given by Jean Fredericks in May, when the central theme was Hot Pants.) Third Prize was won by 'Diwata' - otherwise known as Sonny Santos, a student from the Philippines who was attending his first drag ball. ➡➡➡



What a wonderful night for a ball! Balmy with the promise of summer, still fresh from the memory of spring. The revellers assemble excitedly, pouring in out of the London dusk to the red-carpeted, chandeliered lobby. Mr Jean Fredericks, massive and majestic, receives them on the stairs leading up to the ballroom floor. Shirley Bassey, Barbra Streisand, Dusty Springfield, Diana Ross, all have their admiring imitators in this crowd. Some are beauties, some are less than beauties, but the latter substitute dignity for the feline assets of their younger comrades. Those few not in costume slink silently about the edges of the colourful groups like ink against a sea of light. Later, when the heat and press of the evening's entertainment has stretched thin the fabric of illusion, these silent few will join in a final raucous dance of *Knees Up Mother Brown*. The highlight of the ball is the competition, where before an imposing galaxy of professional drag artists the amateurs parade their inventions, for the honour of being Queen for a night. Jeff Reed and his band stop playing and the crowd collects into a coherent audience. "Lady Beaconsfield," the announcer calls, and out steps a distinguished dame in purple. "Elizabeth Taylor," "Lady Cadillac," "Dockyard Dora," "Carol Channing's Mother," "Delilah," "Irish Twilight," "Blue Movie," "Gypsy Rose Lee," "Joan Crawford" and finally "Dorothy Squires", a short wrinkled figure in blue chiffon who brings down the house. While we wait for the decisions of the judges (whose names are given as Mr Marlene, Maury Basket, Dr Joanne Sucky and Mr Shane) Mr Jean Fredericks leads us in that rhythmic number *The Hawaiian War Chant*. At last the results are announced and various stars of the profession present the beaming winners with handsome prizes of champagne and cash. Mr Fredericks awards a special prize for the most Glamorous Grandmother to the undoubted favourite of the audience, "Dorothy Squires", or Mr Freddie Williams. The evening draws to its close with a rollicking solo frug by Jean Fredericks and the final tender waltz



Enjoying a joke and a dance on the crowded floor at Mr Jean Fredericks's Midsummer Dream Ball at Bayswater: Alec Thompson (right) and 'Rosemary'



Juan Rodriguez (left), photographed with an unidentified escort, comes from Spain and works as a valet. He has been dressing occasionally in drag for six years



John Watts (left), a telephonist from Bristol, who has been dressing in drag for 10 years, with Tony Maher, a London beautician. "It all started as a joke"



Robert Britten, 19, born in Israel, is a part-time pro drag artist at the Green Man, Euston, and a cinema manager. "Next week I'm singing in *Aida* in Somerset"



Sitting out a dance on the stairs - 'Diane', who works as a display artist in London and lives at home with his family. "This is my first time in full drag," he said



'Lucy' (left), ex-RAF, now a chauffeur, has been 40 years in drag ("My wife knows I dress up: she does, too!"); and 'Paula', a boat-builder from Richmond



'Tilly Rothborough' (left), a freelance hairdresser from the North and pro drag artist, with her 'chaperone and dresser', a computer-programmer from London



'Angela Birch', wearing a flowered evening dress, takes a turn on the Dream Ball dance floor with 'Francesca Lamont', who is dressed from head to foot in white



Freddie Williams as 'Dorothy Squires'. A former professional drag artist, he still does occasional cinema commercials. "I used to work with Hylda Baker"



John, who makes all his fantastically elaborate clothes himself, works as a display designer in Doncaster. "Last year I won the best Easter bonnet prize"



'The Bride of Dracula' is an antique dealer in London who first put on drag at a Notting Hill pageant this year. "I'm over 50 - too late for a career," he said



Derek Damms (left), a service station forecourt manager, with Eddie Thompson, a salesman from Chiswick who toured army bases as a drag professional during the war



Steve Francis (left), a pro drag artist for five years, with 'Donna May', a window display designer from Bermondsey. "At the last ball I came as Bridget the Midget"



"I'm usually a blonde," says 'Sasha' from Toronto, who has been a professional drag artist for four years. "Before that? I went to school like everyone else"



Mark Cook (as 'Hawaiian Night Flyer') works in a London travel firm. "I got kicked out of Wales 'cos I couldn't sing."



Jean (also known as 'Sweet Charity') is a pro drag artist and 'barmaid' at the Dorset Arms. On a doctor's advice, he is having the sex-change operation: "It's terrific!"



Crinolined Paul Shannon is a hairdresser who comes from Nottingham and has been dressing in drag for three years. "I came on the scene too late," he laments



A cosmetician from India, Champa has been dressing in drag for two years. "But only when I'm abroad on vacation," he says



David Johnson (left), a clerk from Essex, here in drag for the first time, with John Lawson, a waiter who comes from Northumberland, at his second drag ball



From left to right: 'Pamela', a draughtsman from New Zealand; Jackie Conway, a London builder; and 'Stella', who when out of drag works in a London power station



David Delacey has been a professional drag artist since the beginning of the year. A former conjurer, he designs all his costumes