

CULTURE



The Imperial Sovereign
Rose Court
and
Miss Gay Oregon XXVIII
Alycia Day

invites one and all
to

SASH BASH
2002

All Net Proceeds to Benefit
"Our House of Portland"
To be held at
Darcelle XV 208 N.W. 3rd Avenue
November 20, 2002
Door at 7pm & Show at 8pm
\$5 Donation



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Supreme court

There was a lot to like
about Coronation 2002

BY ERIN SEXTON
PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS



Pookie J. Bush—sat at the far end of the runway/ stage and accepted gifts and good tidings from visiting monarchies.

Newly elected Empress XLV Chloe Stone and Emperor XXIX Josef A. Foxx

As the entrances wound down, the stage lit up with sparkle-clad entertainment, including anniversary monarchs Empress XV

Darcelle, Empress XXV Champagne, Emperor XIX Jim Ploeg and Rose Empress XXXV Michelle Craig.

Now, Darcelle has made quite a name for herself during the past 30 years in Portland and around the country as a stellar drag queen and fund-raiser extraordinaire. She still doesn't disappoint as an entertainer, trotting out no less than six sequin- and ruffle-covered dancers in Vegas-style leotards and plumes.

In a show of patriotic fervor that celebrated the First Amendment and the beauty of this country's diversity, Darcelle appeared in black leather jeans and jacket, topped off by a must-see-to-believe red, white and blue wig. She sang "God Bless America," encouraging audience participation, and cracked her bullwhip with glee at appropriate intervals. What a woman.

Of course, the crowning moment of the evening was just that. All the song and dance really leads to the final walk of Poison and ShelleY and the stepping up of newly elected Empress XLV Chloe Stone and Emperor XXIX Josef A. Foxx.

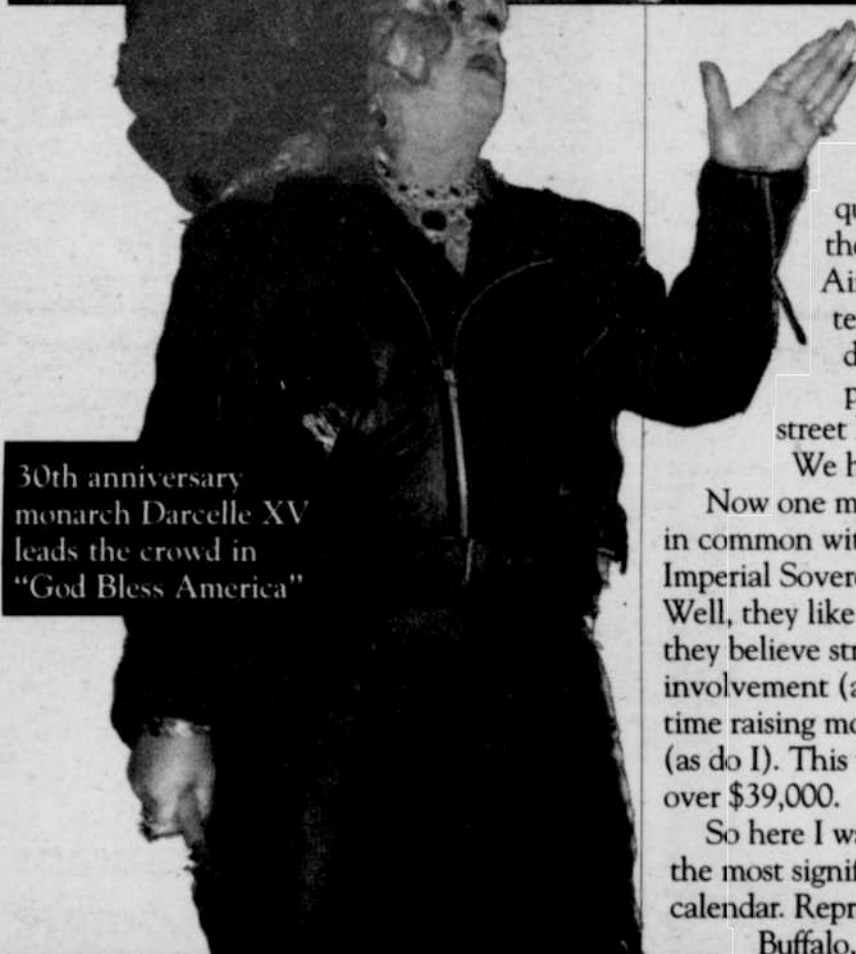
After calling everybody who was ever involved in the Rose Court or who had a drink at Embers onto the stage, the crowns were passed on, along with the titles, and the new Empress and Emperor ascended to the throne.

Quite the regal end to an evening that can best be described as fantastic. [E]

ERIN SEXTON is the Advertising Assistant at Just Out.



20th anniversary celebrant Empress XXV Champagne still shakes that groove



30th anniversary monarch Darcelle XV leads the crowd in "God Bless America"

The first indication we were in the right place was the appearance of a small parade of drag queens across the parking lot of the Holiday Inn at the Portland Airport. Men in slinky dresses tottered by in heels I could never dream of wearing; ornate headpieces sparkled in the glow of the street lamps.

We had arrived at Coronation 2002.

Now one might ask what a dyke like me has in common with an organization like the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court of Portland. Well, they like to have a good time (as do I), they believe strongly in community service and involvement (as do I), and they spend a lot of time raising money for causes they believe in (as do I). This year the grand total came to just over \$39,000.

So here I was on the evening of Oct. 26 at the most significant event in the court's yearly calendar. Representatives from as far away as Buffalo, N.Y., Chicago and Calgary, Alberta, were on hand to make their entrances and to honor the dignitaries and titleholders of the Rose Court. They were also there to recognize the hard work of outgoing Empress XLIV Poison Marie Waters and Emperor XXVIII ShelleY and to celebrate the crowning of the new Empress and Emperor. Oh, yeah—and they were there to have a good time.

The ballroom at the Holiday Inn is big. And it was packed from one side to the other with tables full of beautifully dressed members of monarchies, dapper-looking butches and even a few PFLAG moms. Four bars kept the drinks flowing, and folks moved about from table to table chatting and commenting on the show. Oh, did I mention coronation is really a big drag show that goes on for six hours?

The Rose Court obviously put a lot of time and energy into transforming the ballroom into "Egypt: Adventure in the Valley of Kings & Queens." Dominating the landscape was a huge pyramid decorated with a king's sarcophagus, surrounded by trees and accented by screens depicting Egyptian-themed art.

Outgoing royalty—Poison, ShelleY, Princess XXXII Mee-sha Peru and Prince XXVII



Empress XLIV Poison Marie Waters and Emperor XXVIII ShelleY say goodbye in style