

culture

Queen of Hearts

Celebrating 75 years with Darcelle

Photos by Marty Davis

Surrounded by hundreds of family, friends and admirers, Darcelle XV celebrated her 75th birthday with panache at Melody Ballroom. Those in attendance were treated to a decadent buffet, award-winning entertainment and even an official proclamation by Mayor Tom Potter.

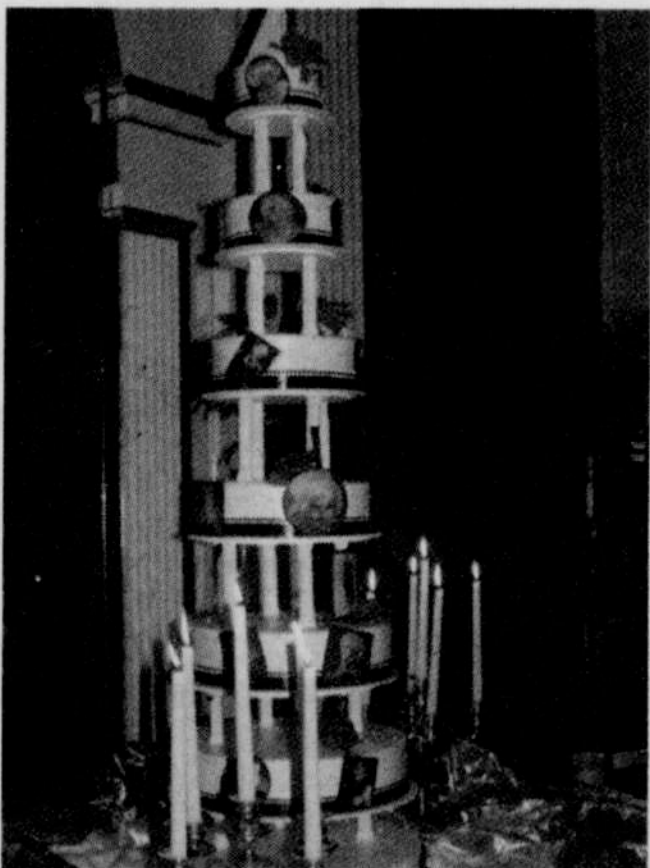
"I'm happy to be here, celebrating a Portland icon," said Potter, who declared Nov. 16 a Day of Appreciation for Darcelle.

The legendary performer's wish was granted with a cake the bakers needed a ladder to complete.

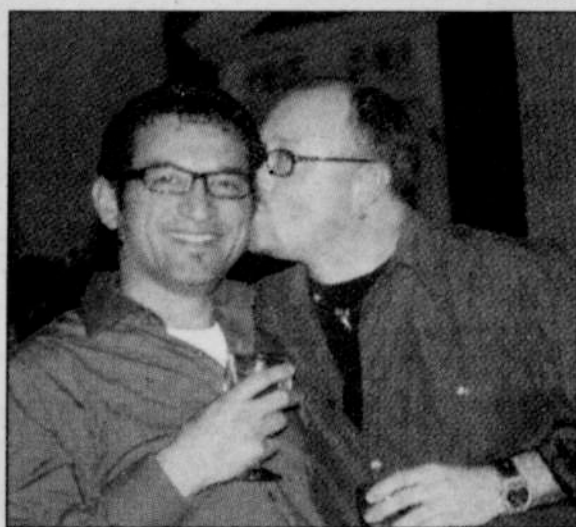
The audience was given a sneak peek at *Queen of Hearts*, an in-the-works documentary about Darcelle and the use drag to explore changing gender codes in society. **10**



Darcelle, in all her glory, turns 75.



The cake is adorned with photos of Darcelle through the years.



Party guys smooch at Darcelle's party.



Event coordinator Kimberlee Van Patten discusses details with *Oregonian* columnist Jonathan Nicholas.



Rose Empress XLVII Alycia Day and Rose Emperor XXXII Mark Hollywood help celebrate Darcelle's birthday.



Rose Emperor XXVIII ShelleY and Rose Empress XLVI Lotta Liquor look fabulous.



Portland Mayor Tom Potter pays tribute to Darcelle.



The family man proudly introduces, from left, granddaughter Amanda, daughter Maridee and granddaughter Sara.



Walter Cole II helps with the family business as bar manager at Darcelle's.



Darcelle's friends and biggest fans, Edie and Dale Cochran, wouldn't miss the birthday bash.



Kenyon Dawson and Lani Mendell can be seen working at Darcelle XV Showplace.