

# How to win a drag show:

*A comprehensive how-to guide for the brave souls competing to win Clackamas' drag show*

- Compiled by Megan Koler

**Where:** Bill Brod Community Center

**When:** Today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Who:** Three professional drag queens, including Portland's very own Sable Scities, will be judging and performing alongside the amateurs.

**What:** First prize is a \$50 gift certificate to Bugatti's Restaurant. All participants will receive prizes. There will also be a raffle where half the proceeds will be going to the charity SMYRC.

**About the charity:** The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) is a recreational and mental health counseling center for LGBTQ youth in Oregon.

**Eyebrows:**

No one is asking you to shave off your eyebrows for a drag show, but at least give them a trim for the big day. If you have light-colored eyebrows, you could camouflage them with nude cover-up and colorful eye shadow while drawing in new ones. It worked for Frank 'n'furter from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," and he had huge, bushy black ones.

**Dress:**

Don't steal your sister's prom dress or break the bank buying a new one. The thrift store is your best friend. Find something with an 'A' frame and a full, fluffy bottom. This will do two things: hide your junk and make it look like you have hips. Adding a nice big belt will also help create the feminine illusion.

**Boobs:**

Just go to your mother and say, "I need to borrow your bra ..." Just tell her it is for a charity.

**Brass Balls:**

Drag queens may wear dresses, but they are anything but sissies. It takes a lot of guts to strut on stage in women's clothes in a redneck state like this. Don't make your voice high and act like a girly girl.

**Body Hair:**

Just this one time, you should consider shaving your arms, back and legs if you plan on winning this show. Look on the bright side; it will grow back, and Olympic swimmers do it all the time.

**Makeup:**

This is where you have the best chance of convincing anyone you are not a man. You will need a close shave and plenty of concealer. After that, the eyes need to be the most dramatic thing on your face. Lots of eyeliner simulating long, thick lashes and lots of color is a must. A dash of red gloss on your lips to pout them out is the job.

**Hair:**

Unless you are sporting some locks already, you are going to need a wig. In either case ... tease it out of it! Make it big, and make it fabulous!

**Confidence:**

Being a drag queen is about pretending to be a woman - it is about the dress and the makeup and feeling fabulous and confident. If you don't exude confidence, you have no chance of winning.

**Shoes:**

Unless you have plenty of experience walking in heels, you should not venture past a two- or three-inch heel. A kitten heel might be a safe choice, or a stylish sandal. A high heel might make your legs look nice, but falling on your ass on stage looks much worse. Judges than some beefy calves.



Illustration by Megan Koler  
Clackamas Print



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## Slam poet teaches writing workshop

*The writer in residence at Clackamas, Turiya Autry, about her specific area of art, slam poetry*

**Jess Sheppard**

*The Clackamas Print*

A measly two hours was nowhere near long enough to spend in Turiya Autry's writing workshop Thursday, May 22.

Autry, a professor at Portland State University, spoke before an audience of 11 people on several topics, including self-expression through the arena of art, the hardships involved in being a writer and the encouragement individuals sometimes need before sharing their work.

She used the now-famous author J. K. Rowling as an example to support the idea that writing can be a successful career. No one starts out as a bestselling author, she said, and often a job is needed to support writing without hindering it.

"What's the day job?" she asked her audience. "What pays the bills while you write your manuscript?"

Another topic Autry addressed was public speaking and why it is one of the top fears of today.

As an exercise in dealing with speaking, she had her audience write a few sentences

about themselves to be read out loud to the whole gathering. She gave no rules for form, rhyme or rhythm. It didn't even have to be a poem as long as it was about the writer.

While the audience scribbled, she instructed them not to edit or delete anything from their prompt. She went on to explain that writing shouldn't be interrupted so it can be rewritten or corrected.

"Cross things out later," she said. "They aren't going anywhere."

After the group shared brief biographies aloud, Autry allowed a free-writing session.

Although she presented a number of topics, the participants were free to choose anything they wanted to write about. Afterward, pairs were formed, and the second exercise was thoroughly discussed and examined between the small groups.

Autry then introduced her third exercise: Renga.

Renga is a form of Japanese poetry. It begins with a single line - subject and sentence structure are irrelevant.

The second line is meant to relate directly back to the first line through repeating a word, theme or other such idea. The third line and every one after

continue to relate to the previous line without repeating anything but the rest of the poem.

Again, Autry brought restrictions with an exception: No one was to negate someone else's sentence.

Attendees worked in pairs, storming a number of sentences for the group. Each pair was asked to write a Renga together based on the two beginning lines chosen by the group. The group prepared me for... already happening to... arrived and the... ended.

Too soon five... arrived and the... ended.

"I thought the... was extremely... said English Instr... Gray, who particip... the students. "h... how you define... students came aw... number of pieces... and some refresh... approach the craft... In addition to... sive involvement... shops, Autry als... Black Studies and... Studies full-time... State University... bachelor's degree... and a master's in w...