

CCC converts to 'drag queen time'

By Annemarie Schulte
Arts & Culture Editor

There's something about seeing a man in heels that is both fascinating and disturbing ... and also weirdly humorous.

The Spectrum Gay-Straight Alliance at Clackamas Community College hosted the third annual Drag Show on Wednesday May 12 in the Bill Brod Community Center. There were drag queens and drag kings, and most of the acts featured lip synching to famous rock or pop songs.

The show started a notable 35 minutes late because they were on "drag queen time" but the real reason was technical difficulties. None the less, a large crowd remained and patiently waited for the show to start.

The Mistress of Ceremonies Poison Waters (Kevin Cook) started up the show and commented on the harsh lighting of the community center saying it was like "drag in Albertson's." Right away Poison Waters had the audience laughing.

Poison Waters said he had been doing drag for 22 years now and is part of Darcel XV and Company at Darcel's downtown. Darcel's is the oldest running female impersonation show in the nation and is hosting their only all ages show on June 6.

The performers included both men dressed as women and women dressed as men. The individual winner, "Josie" lip synched to a song called "Creep" in a dress, and ASG officers Alyssa Fava, Quen Tuoy and Wendy Serrano made a strong showing, winning the group category by lip synching in drag to "Gold Digger."

CCC student Dominique Hale, who had "Happy Birthday" sung to her by the whole community center

thanks to Poison Waters, said she had never seen the show before but that it was "interesting and different."

Another student Jason Phillips who had also never seen the show before (and was even grabbed from the audience in one of the acts) said it was "hilarious, super funny."

Raffle tickets were being sold for prizes such as massages and free lunches, and even drag queen Poison Waters bought some tickets for two young girls in the audience.

The judge panel included two other drag queens besides Poison Waters: "Felicity Carmichaels" who won Miss Gay Portland in 2009 and performed to "I Love Rock

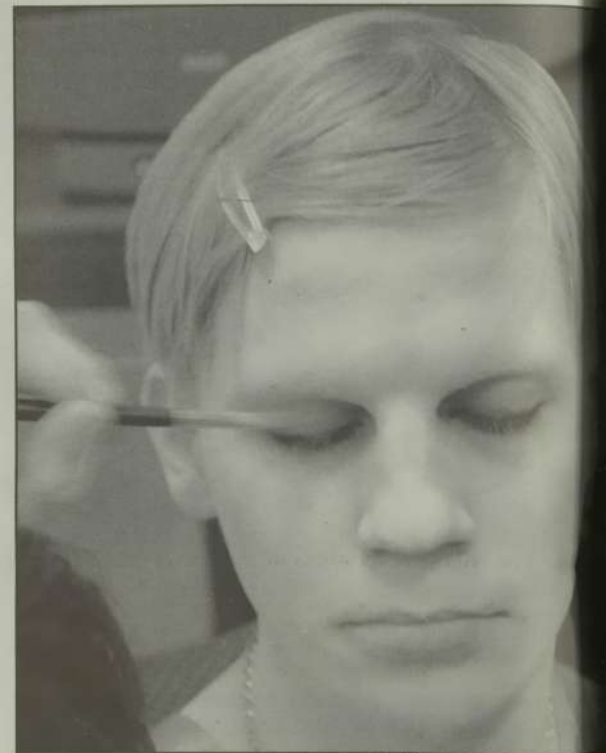
N' Roll," and also "Bella Carmichaels" (From Slaughter's in Old Town) did a comedy skit and lip synched at the end of show.

Other contestants Amanda Skies, Anita V. and M, who all lip synched and interacted with the audience. After every performance the judges would say a few things and for the most part were always kind to the various performers.

To get more info on the Spectrum Gay-Straight Alliance, call Bruce at 594-3332 or Carol at 503-3256, and to see what Poison Waters is all about visit website at PoisonWaters.com



Poison Waters, a local drag queen, rocks the mic in the Bill Brod Community Center during the drag show on Wednesday, May 12.



Joe Halverson receives a makeover for his/her grand entrance at the drag show as Josie.

Thai food that crawls

By Joshua Baird
The Clackamas Print

"That is so disgusting," Shya Velasquez said. Her face took on a greenish tint as I shoveled yet another of the deep fried crickets into my mouth that Rice, a Thai eatery in Milwaukie, serves as a specialty appetizer.

These little creatures are fried whole and then seasoned with soy sauce. That may sound disgusting to many; it was, however, a delicious and unique start to a wonderful dining experience.

Crickets are served whole, however in order to eat these scrumptiously crisp Gryllidae you have to break off its hind legs, which in the male of the species contains a set of teeth which are quite sharp, but also used to create that chirping sound many of us are familiar with. The flavor was similar to a roasted pumpkin seed.

After washing down the crunchy shells with a tamarind lemonade, I started to dig into my second course appetizer, which was a tofu salad roll dipped in peanut sauce. Many Thai restaurants have these however what I was most impressed with was that they placed a single basil leaf inside each roll providing a distinct flavor unique from other Thai restaurants.

Next up the waitress brought out our entrees; I had a dish made

with poached pork and Thai broccoli sliced thin and marinated in a lime chili garlic sauce with chunks of fresh garlic added after cooking it. All of that was finished off with mango sticky rice, which is the host of slices of fresh mango and a generous helping of sticky rice flavored with a sweet coconut milk base.

Though my meal, which was supposed to be medium, turned out a bit spicier than I had hoped for it was an enjoyable experience and I would definitely return.

The prices were reasonable ranging from \$5 to \$10 dollars for an appetizer and anywhere from \$7 to \$18 for an entrée.

The service was prompt and polite and the atmosphere is highly eclectic with images and posters ranging from what I can only assume was an old school Thai film, to a joke reading, "There are three types of rings in marriage, engagement ring, wedding ring, and suffer ring." There was even an ad for cigarettes sporting the visage of a Thai warrior complete with sword and armor.

As for service I would give Rice three stars, the food four stars and the environment deserves three stars for creativity.

Rice is located at 10614 Southeast Main Street in downtown Milwaukie. You can also view the menu at www.ricethaicookery.com.

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