

# He's the Queen of them all

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**SHE** is a knock-out. Quite stunningly beautiful. She is, in fact, a he, though I never would have guessed, writes **MARJE PROOPS**.

The one thing that gives away the gender is the Adam's apple.

But I'm not altogether sure I'd have noticed that if I hadn't known before I met her—or rather him—that he is a 23-year-old boy named Anthony Shum, known as Isabella when dressed as a girl.

I said: "What do I call you, Isabella or Anthony?"

It seemed incongruous to address as Anthony the exquisite "girl" sitting opposite me dressed in floaty

black chiffon and using a dainty little powder compact.

He said I could call him Anthony if I liked.

In Hong Kong, he earned his living as a dancer. He could speak English, but couldn't read or write it. He's here now to learn how.

He's spent some time in Amsterdam where he said, they're all very liberated and no one bothers or looks askance at a boy in girl's clothes.

He thinks we're getting more liberated here too. In fact, he's quite surprised at how easy it is to go into an ordinary dress shop and buy frocks in London wearing men's clothes.

The black chiffon one cost £30.

He bought it in a shop near Marble Arch.

From a rack of dresses he found two or three he fancied and the assistant showed him to a changing room.

She thought he looked smashing in the black chiffon.

He wears high-heeled silver shoes with it and carries a silver handbag.

He got his black shiny wig from Selfridges. It was a bit too long and he asked the girl to trim it, which she did without demur.

He says that even if he did get funny looks or hear a muttered crack under the breath, he wouldn't care.

He's not fussy about using any

particular brand of cosmetics. When he's dressed as a woman he says he feels and behaves like a woman. His gestures are very feminine and graceful. He has lovely slender hands and long, pearly varnished nails.

I braced myself to ask him the intimate question which everyone must wonder about. "What do you do when you're out at a dance or the theatre dressed as a woman and you need to go to the loo?"

He said: "Well, there would be trouble if I went to the gents' dressed like this." So I go to the ladies.

Anthony loves dressing up to go



STUNNING: Drag queen Anthony  
PICTURE: Bill Kennedy



London News Service  
ANTHONY SHUM, a student dancer, is crowned Miss London Drag by pop star Long John Baldry at Hammersmith.

## The queen of drag —he's simply divine

By Lesley Garner

WITH a dazzlingly divine display, Hongkong dancer Anthony Shum became London's queen of drag at the weekend.

Student Anthony dazzled the 500 guests at Hammersmith town hall for the Miss London Drag 1977 contest.

First, he appeared in a gleaming blue cheong-sam, then a deliciously sexy little black swimsuit and finally a floating white ballgown that could only be called virginal.

Unlike the other competitors, who made their own clothes, Anthony bought the dress in Harrods, a snip at £75.

Second was Peter Miles, alias Miss Wandle—after the stream which slinks through Wandsworth, and Australian Lloyd Chandica came third looking divinely soigné.

Anthony Shum was a triumph of ultra-feminine fragility and grace, which is more than can be said of all of the guests. There was a 6ft 6in blond with a wig three feet in circumference and a well-practised line in cheesecake poses.

In fact there was everything from genuine style to simply mind-boggling vulgarity.