

Media Notes

BY LOIS COMMONDENOMINATOR

If a little Drag is good, a lot is better! Drag is everywhere it seems, so it shouldn't come as any surprise to find it in children's television programming too! The **Ren and Stimpy Show** continues to earn our admiration in this field. In one recent episode, Drag lyrics are provided for viewers in a sing-along format! By the end of "**The Royal Canadian Kilted Yaksman's Anthem**," when tykes of all ages, sexes and genders follow the bouncing ball, they eventually sing "we proudly wear women's clothing!" Thank you **Nickelodeon!**

Nickelodeon's Wienerville has also been doing their part to introduce cross-dressing to young and impressionable minds. A recent episode opened with a puppet Drag performance by the show's host, comedian **Marc Weiner**. He thrilled the cheering peanut gallery of boys and girls with a Drag turn as the town's local elected official, **Mayor Dottie**. Dottie's main function is to teach good citizenship and civic responsibility, but thank the Goddess she also throws in a lesson on how to squeal in falsetto, accessorize with a tasteful strand o' beads and coordinate wigs with eye shadows, earrings and lipsticks.

Thank you to **The Comedy Channel** for broadcasting "**Eight Hours of Drag**," a special **Short Attention Span Theater** that lasted a whole Sunday afternoon! The show consisted of snippets and comedy routines featuring Drag performances, but we especially loved those from our fave, **The Kids in the Hall**. Then, the cult movie "**Polyester**" graced the airwaves, or should I say cablewaves. The infamous "bad taste" meister **John Waters** directed this vehicle for his rotund superstar **Divine**. John is currently making the talkshow rounds about his newest release, "**Serial Mom**." In "**Polyester**," the late **Divine** has been cast as an average housewife named **Francine Fishpaw**, a "woman" on the very verge. "**Polyester**" is one of those films that prompts one to rifle Mom's closet and drag out her favorite pair of spandex treads! As an audience participation gimmick, people received scratch 'n sniff cards at the original screenings. Don't fret if that makes you feel deprived in any way, because... what is that I smell? "**Polyester**" is now available on laser disc from **The**



TRES

These Cinammon Girls are truly delicious! Once you've tried a Deva, you'll be a believer! From left to right, Monique McCay Spice Deva, Tatyana Monet Deva, Brytnee' Bryant Deva and Vanessa Shantay Deva are the chic four-person entertainment force that call themselves The House of Deva. Based in Palm Springs, they work most of the local clubs, like Choices, Daddy Warbuck's, C.C. Construction and Shades, but they love to travel and frequently visit West Hollywood, most recently at Capones. Throughout their one-hour review, these beautiful and graceful female impersonators show off their talents in solo renditions with look-alikes and parodies such as; Ce Ce Penniston, Vanessa Williams, Patti Labelle, RuPaul, Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston, Karyn White, B Angie B and much, much more. "With the right clothes, the right hair, the right makeup and the right attitude, anyone can be beautiful," said Brytnee', the group's choreographer and spokesperson, "but our act is also about what's on the inside. That's why we always include En Vogue's hit 'Free Your Mind' in our show." How do four gorgeous Drag Queens get along living together and working together? "We don't share everything, if that's what you mean! We're each like one of the four Queens in a deck of cards; I'm Queen of Diamonds because I'll accept nothing less, Vanessa is Queen of Spades because she'll speak her mind, Monique is Queen of Clubs because she's worked at all of them, and Tatyana is Queen of Hearts because she's a sensuous sex symbol. Some of your readers might be fans of Tatyana's work in the adult video hit, "She-Male Shaft." If you want to be in their fan club, send \$5 to Brytnee' Bryant Deva, Cathedral City, CA 92234.

Criterion Collection, and a brand new scratch 'n sniff card comes with every purchase!

Speaking of **John Waters**, thank you to **Brian E.** for sending in a copy of **Denver's Homo Magazine** that had an interview **John Waters** did recently. Brian thought I'd pee in my pedal pushers if I knew what John said in the interview. He was right! John was quoted as saying in part, "I saw in **Dragazine** about where all the **Cockettes** were, but I wish someone would do a well-researched article about what happened to all the **Cockettes**. Where are they today, who's alive and who isn't, and what they do now?" **John Waters Reads Dragazine!** Unfortunately John, the news isn't too good about some of the surviving members. **Pristine Condition**, one of the famous performance artists in the trendsetting gender-fucked theatrical group, passed away from AIDS on May 23rd. Fortunately, he felt well enough to attend the group's reunion party recently held in **San Francisco**. He is survived by a lovely sister and many loving friends who already miss him. **John** another one of the glittering **Cockettes**, passed away just one month before. See the rest of the Reunion story in this section.

Barbra Streisand recently returned to the concert stage and was met with financial and critical success. Her return was enhanced, however, by the presence of the Drag talents of **Mike Myers** from "**Saturday Night Live**," according to the **LA Times**. Mike appeared in Drag as his alter ego, **Linda Richman**, when he joined Babs on stage for the much ballihooded **New Years Eve** performance at the **MGM Grand** in **Las Vegas**. Linda, who sprinkles her speech liberally with cute yiddishisms like "I'm farklemt," is a Long Island housewife-turned cable-access talk-show hostess with a Streisand obsession. She describes her idol Barbra's every physical feature as being "**like buttah**" and "**something to die for**." "The wickedly funny Richman injected the show with a liberating sense of fun," said the **LA Times** reviewer.

I took a recent Friday night off to visit **Silverlake's Casitas Del Campo's** new subterranean 'cavern' room. It's been home for the past several months to "**The Plush Life**," a weekly Drag soap opera.

The Imperial Court of Los Angeles invited us to attend the Mr., Miss and Ms. Gay Pride Contest, held at the Revolver in West Hollywood, just prior to and in conjunction with the Christopher Street Festival and Gay Pride parade. The lovely Yellow Rose Empress Jamie Cole and the Court of Pride, Unity and Restoration of Los Angeles called to extend an invitation. Butches, fems, drags, lipstick lesbians and everyone in between are called upon each year to participate. The Mr. contest for the men who don't dress, the Miss contest for those who do, and the Ms. contest for our Lesbian sisters. After the nominal entry fee of \$10, contestants compete in sportswear, swimwear and formal attire, and earn points answering a brief Q & A. The questions regard bolstering community involvement and Gay Pride. An entertainment portion is purely optional. Once the contest is over, the winners earn the honor of riding on the Imperial Court float in the Gay Pride parade. The competition for winners is not only for fun. During the year of their reign that follows, Mr., Miss and Ms. Gay Pride must display community involvement. To do this, they must organize at least one fund raiser, either individually or with the help of the other winners, for the charity of their choice. The goal of the competition is not only to discover individuals who will enjoy charitable activities even after the fun of winning wears off. **The Imperial Court** is a lively social organization and holds regular monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at Revolver. Contact Jamie at 213-██████████ to find out more about this worthwhile non-profit institution.

Happy Birthday to former Empress of Los Angeles, Rosie Del Mar!!! She had a blast at Ed Debevik's restaurant on June 11th, and we were there in spirit!

At press time, we just loved the new play called "Charlemaine," written by actress/playwrite Sarah Miles and performed for the first time in the US at the Fountain Theater in Hollywood. In it, a young man discovers his transsexual nature and deals with it as it affects his life and his marriage. One crossdressed audience member whispered, "it feels like deja vu!" See it when it comes to town!

As our new friends at San Francisco's Rant and Rave Magazine say, "the higher the hair, the closer to God!" And we'll see you out on the Boulevard, Girlenes! *DJ*



NICOLE WORKS SKIRT!

By the time this is printed, many tens of thousands will have gathered in New York City for the June 1994 extravaganza known as Stonewall 25, the celebration to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion that was the watershed of modern Gay liberation. Empress Nicole Ramirez Murray wanted you to know that the interests of drag queens, transgenders, transsexuals, bigenders, crossgenders, androgynes, femmiphiles, transvestites, she-males, female impersonators, street queens, cross-dressers and other divas were represented by her presence as one of the National Co-Chairpersons of the event. Empress Nicole, also known as Nicole Ramirez Murray, is not just your ordinary drag queen. Nicole is the only person to have been elected to the National Executive Boards

of both the 1987 and 1993 March on Washington, was the Chairperson of the Mayor of San Diego's first Gay/Lesbian Advisory Board, is a past National Executive Board Member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (H.R.C.F.), and is a well-known, successful fund raiser and female impersonator. With a Latino heritage, Nicole was recently honored with the first annual Cesar E. Chavez Social Justice Award for over twenty years of hard work, dedication, and activism within two minority communities - the Latino Community and the Lesbian and Gay Community. To top it all off, the International Stonewall Ball was her personal brain child. The ball was hailed as "a global drag extravaganza." One of the other functions of the ball was to recognize twenty-five members of the drag/transgender community for making a difference and an impact on societal issues relating to the Lesbian and Gay community - locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. "To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and try to ignore the important role drag queens played is like celebrating Thanksgiving and not mentioning Native Americans," stated Nicole. "Stonewall 25 gives us the golden opportunity to educate a whole new generation about the history of our movement and the important role drag queens, bull dykes, and people of color played at the Stonewall Riots. "It is important to remember that lesbians and gays of different backgrounds and lifestyles were brought together 25 years ago because of the riots, and are coming together again to celebrate today in honor of that event. Stonewall 25 truly belongs to all of us."



A gratuitous photo of THE THREE STOOGES from *Rhythm and Weep*, Columbia Pictures, 1946

COURTESY OF RALPH JUDD