

THE DRAG RAG

NOTES FROM THE FRONT ROWS



Vol 1 No 2



Diva Dearest:

Dear Diva, I'm a straight woman. If I go to a drag show I get asked if I'm a lesbian. What can I do? Quickly become one dear, quickly! Find yourself a good woman.

Dear Diva, What happens to drag queens when they get old?

They become fabulous old men, dear!

Dear Diva, What happens to drag queens when they die?

First, they go to bed. Then they go to High Heel Heaven.

Dear Diva, My friends tell me I look good in a dress and a wig. What should I do?

Take it off immediately. And find some new friends!

Dear Diva, Why am I here?

Because you didn't have to pay to get in, dear!

Dear Diva, Why aren't I having fun?

Your cocktail's too weak, dear. Smile at the bartender and ask for another!

Dear Diva, I can't pay the rent this week. What should I do?

Do cameos, dear. Cameos (free shows) and get some coins!

from The Collected Wisdom of Ms Xavier Bloomingdale

On Stage Diva

(to her audience)

I've got enough silicon in my body to have my own Tupperware party!

(on keeping standards)

I'm just an old-fashioned girl. When my men start trying on my wigs and dresses, I put them out!

Drawing on her 20 years experience as a drag performer, Ms Bloomingdale -- one of DC's leading drag mothers and hostesses -- trains, counsels, and guides young drag artists.

Heard/Seen

• Ms Stevi, appearing as Ms Gypsy Rose, left no doubt of her break with Ms Vita Not-so-Opulent and promised to "bust her butt" if she showed up. The artist in question did not appear.

• Ms Capri Bloomingdale tore up the house with her Amen Corner gospel song and prize-winning collection for her favorite charity. The gentleman to her left learned a lesson about not touching a showgirl's coins without an invitation.

• Ms Regina returned! New on stage this Week -- the tall Ms Victoria and Ms Natasha!

• What a difference a chair makes: Some criminal element removed the Diva's chair and left her standing.

• Ms Anita Wong, dragdom's exciting Asian artist, recently tried to wrap her slim self in Mr P's stage decorations!

• Ms Jessica offers a class in drag aerobics, and 'splits'. See the ushers for details. She and Miss Jordan Taylor will return once laws and certain people are sorted out.

Stevi: DC'S DRAG 'ALTERNATIVE' QUEEN

Who's hugely popular, absolutely unpredictable, totally Gemini, and has more mind-bending costumes than Imelda Marcos has shoes? Stevi Of course!

She's been entertaining us since 1990 with her unique blend of dance, drama, music, and costume.

She doesn't do pageants, believes in fantasy (delivers it to her audiences too), and uses a rotation of 300 performance numbers. "If there's something I want to do, I just go ahead and do it!" Crowds of fans at Mr P's, Perry's, Nob Hill, and other drag shows love it.

Stevi likes to "challenge the audience every night. My three or four numbers are a selection of what I'm about. I range from alternative song to show tunes to something funky; something beyond the predictability of club music. When people see me, they never know what I'm going to do!"

When Stevi hits the stage, we get more than just a lip-synched tune and good looks. Stevi delivers a whole show in a single number: music, dance, drama, costume, and *attitude*. Even opera tunes go over "because of the drama and the costumes", not to mention the talent.

Stevi's entrances are

Drag Etiquette 101: The Rules

1. Divas speak, audiences listen!!
2. Touch, but don't squeeze!
3. Never walk through a diva's performance area to get to the bathroom! Hold it, find someone else to hold it, or go find a tree.
4. NEVER EVER try to 'read' a drag queen--unless you're the bartender, and even then it's not a great idea!!

Quote of the Week:

"BITCH means

**Being In
Total Control,
Honey"**

slogan of
HEARTLESS BITCHES INTERNATIONAL

real entrances. EVERYONE waits wondering “what is the girl going to wear this time?”



Ms Stevi’s characters accessorize with paper rolls, feathers, boas, beads, tinfoil, old CDs, and stuffed animals, including regulars like Dino and Garfield. A few years back, it seemed every stuffed animal was going to end up on one of Stevi’s hats. Audiences loved the swan hats! And all of the costumes are Stevi originals!

Ms Stevi has been crossing stages since she was twelve, learning drama and music in school and acting with the Mount Vernon Players. “I stuck with drag” she says, “because it’s more comfortable; I can do a little bit of everything. Every number sends a message, has a meaning.”

“Cartoons started me in drag. I love them and I like women in power, Wonder Woman and all the others.” Drag is a full time job.

Stevi says films such as *Priscilla* and *To Wong Foo* show “Hollywood thinks all drag is about is clothes and swishing around. They don’t depict drag artists as positive people.”

Drag gets respect, she says, “because it’s hard to do, not everyone can do it.” Of course, some don’t see it as a real profession but Stevi reminds “it’s been around since Babylonia, baby. It is a profession and an artform. I do it for myself and for the people who enjoy it.”

“I listen to the audience. It helps when they feel they can participate. When I have the mike, I listen. If there’s too much talk, you aren’t reaching them.” At Nob Hill, Stevi brings along wigs and dresses for real audience participation. “The shows are fun, but with everything I have to carry, getting there is exhausting.”

With her appearances several times a week at *Mr P’s*, *Perry’s* and Wednesdays at Nob Hill, it’s easy to catch Ms Stevi in the act.



(c) Mark Meinke

Where the Drag Is:

- Sunday**
Mr P’s - Perry’s
Remingtons - Nob Hill
- Monday**
Omega
- Tuesday**
Mr P’s
- Wednesday**
Nob Hill - Deco
- Thursday**
Mr P’s
- Friday**
Nob Hill
- Saturday**
Chaos

Everyday at Zeigfield’s

Drag is Everywhere!

Draggin’ Through Town

Gucci Rides the X2

Sometimes I don’t ride the X-2 in drag, but mostly I do.

And believe me, baby, it is a real trip. Never nasty but always something.

Like when you’re playing it real low key and wearing no make-up and someone gets on the X-2 who recognizes you from the show and hollers out “Hey , Miss Gucci Goddamnit, How you doin, girl?” And everyone turns and looks.

And why is it always the kids who know you’re in drag? Especially the little girls. The Mommas and Daddies never pick up on it.

Like the other day this little kid looked up and said “Look mama, there go that Mr. Smilge lady!” or the kid whose Mama told him, “Stop starin at that lady, now!” and the kid said “But Mama, that ain’t a lady. That’s a man with a lot of hair.”

Now, where I live everyone’s used to me. Of course, they do come out sometimes, to see what I got on and how I did my make-up and which hair I’m wearing. But on the bus ...

Like the stop near the doctor’s office where the girls get their hormone shots. And just before you get to the stop and you get your hand on the cord, you hear someone on the bus say “ hey this next stop’s where all the drag queens get off”. So you let go of the cord and go two stops past your stop and get off and walk back.

And then there’s the

school season when the X-2 is packed with all these kids and they make smart comments like “Hey girl, my friend here wants to talk with you.” Or, “Hey, look at the drag queen!”

See that’s why you got to wear good tennis shoes, so you can hit it up and hurry out the back door. Queens got to make their own exits off of buses.

But the worst has got to be the old drunks who get on and can’t halfways see and sit down next to you and start telling you how they want to take you home and they’d sure like you to have their babies. And they smell of liquor and sweat

And you can’t wait till the next stop to get off or change your seat. The X-2 is a real trip.

Ms Gucci appears Tuesdays and Thursdays at *Mr P’s*, Wednesdays at *Deco*, and Fridays and Sundays at *Nob Hill*.

The Gucci fan club meets the third Tuesday of each month at *Lorton Correctional Institution*.

excerpts from *My Life and Times* by Gucci Rene Blackwell

Do It For Yourself & Your Friends

The AIDS Vaccine Test

The AIDS Vaccine Project needs to sign up **40 more volunteers** by the middle of August. The Vaccine has no HIV in it but it will prove if the vaccine works or not.

1-877-VAX4YOU