

THE DRAG RAG

NOTES FROM THE FRONT ROWS



Vol 1 No 3



DIVA TALK:

Diva to a fan:

How do I look, dear?
Fan: Beautiful!!
Diva: That's the right answer dear. Now enjoy the show!

Diva to her audience:

I feel very 'Price is Right' up here!

Diva to someone in the audience:

Well, hello!!
When did you get out of prison? Oh, look at the time dear. Shouldn't you get back to the halfway house before they lock up?

Diva to a patron speaking out of turn:

Let *me* do the reading, bitch!
Diva to a fan:
I don't remember your name but your lips are familiar.

Diva introduction:

Give it up for our next entertainer. She hasn't been here a lot. and you haven't missed much!

On seeing an out-of-drag sister:

What happened dear? Did a house fall on you?!

DIVA DEAREST: *Ms Bloomingdale's letter file will return in the next issue. She has been distracted by moving into her new chateau. Devoted fans should hand their letters to the nearest bartender who will deliver them to the Diva with her next liquid refreshment.*

Jordan Taylor - Making Magic out of Chaos on 17th St.

Hosting Cabaret at Chaos on Saturday or dancing up a storm at *Mr P's* or *Deco's*, Jordan Taylor is the image of suave elegance.

You'd never guess that just two years ago, her drag career began and nearly ended: she entered an amateur drag contest at Zeigfield's and lost "horribly, I vowed never to do it again!"

In California, her first home, Jordan had never even heard of drag. Working at a Dupont florist's she discovered a whole new

artform in photos at the shop. "I saw drag in DC and fell in love with it."

She credits diva Xavier Bloomingdale with rescuing her after the Zeigfield disappointment. She met Xavier at *Mr P's* shows and found a drag mother she relies on totally. "There is no way in the world I could have done drag in this town without her!", Jordan says. "If she leaves town, I'm following her!! I love her for being so supportive of the drag community."

From Diva Bloomingdale, Jordan learned the arts of drag, including Bloomingdale's Law: *You Can Never Own Enough Evening Gowns.*

Jordan has taught herself to do all her own makeup, though JB, her partner, originally made her up.

In the two years since Xavier saved Jordan for dragdom, Ms Taylor has developed her own style: elegant, controlled, but breaking out into unexpectedly tempestuous dancing.

"I'm a good drama and glamour queen", she says, "but I'm a work in progress. I'm still developing my own style and character."

Ms Taylor credits her career in drag with helping her feel more comfortable with herself, and much more able to overcome her shyness and take control in public. Having her own show has relaxed her and allowed her to concentrate on building the interaction between artists and audience that she feels is crucial to good drag.

As the annual pageant season draws near, Jordan - tired of being first runner-up at several local pageants-- is readying herself to compete for the Miss Mr P's and Miss Dupont Circle titles.

You can catch Ms Taylor at Chaos on Saturdays; at Mr P's on Sundays, Tuesday, and Thursday, and at Deco on Wednesdays.

DRAG 101:

Cosmetic Advice :

"I can do my makeup in an hour, if I have to. I like to take three hours, which includes my bath. You can't rush glamour." (RuPaul, "Ru's on First", Allure magazine, Feb 1997)

"Advice for people considering silver body makeup for photo shoots - don't do it. Silver photographs grey!" (New York's *Diabolique*, on her Website at www.walrus.com/~suave/grey.htm)

Quote of the Week:

**I started out pure as
the driven snow ...
but then I drifted!**

-MissMaeWest

Jordan and JB tell the *Drag Rag* that they have just adopted a 3 month old baby boy -- a Dalmatian puppy named Taylor. And that they are all together and very happily married. Good luck to all three .

SHE SAID/I SAID

Stevi talked to the *Drag Rag* about the break with Vita Opulence:

Stevi: I've been working with Vita since she asked me to join the Thursday night show at Zeigfield's years ago. It was just after I won the amateur drag contest there.

Everything was cool until a year ago when Vita started telling me what numbers to do, where to work, and even tried to get me to wear these "Priscilla" outfits that are so out of date. When people start telling me what to do, I step.

Last month, when I had to miss two Thursday nights, Vita got mad and told me not to use the Opulence name anymore. I said, don't worry about it. I won't use it.

Drag Rag: How do you feel about it now?

Stevi: I'm happier to be just Stevi. I'm glad I broke away from her so I don't have to conform to someone else's standards. And now that I'm on my own, I can do my own thing without having to worry about it backlashing on someone else. Now I feel I'm free to move on to other things.

SCENE/HEARD

Visually Stunning! Blonde Diva *Xavier Bloomingdale* regal in black leather and up-standing neck cape for the closing number, and looking rather like the Evil Queen in Snow White, descended the steps at Deco to her 'court' of stars.

Always Ready Ms *Adrienne Blackwell*, drag mother, hostess, and role model to the fans after a VERY high kick at *Mr P's*: "Chile I may be old but **I ain't COLD!**"

Local Royalty Our new Miss Gay DC, Ms *Sabrina White* brought her cutaway coat, lithe gracious figure, cropped blonde head and a song about "everybody wants something" to Chaos' Cabaret and a warm green (coins, girl!) reception from the Saturday night crowd.

This ain't Kansas, Toto! *Jordan Taylor*, in scarlet gown and ruby red shoes, dancing the hell out of *Mr P's* old stage with all the enthusiasm of Dorothy on the Yellow Brick Road.

Janice Sighting Elvis may be working in an Orlando supermarket but Janice Joplin definitely was inhabiting Ms *Terri Santana* as she *Took It to the Limit* and captivated a roomful of hard-to-please queers and friends at *Mr P's*.

Oh no!! You DIDN'T go there!!! *Gucci Rene Blackwell*, the artist formerly known as Gucci Goddamnit!, told a too drunk and way out of line fan: "The next person who reaches under my skirt will lose an eyeball. Remember!! I work in Southeast as a drag queen!!"

Splitting up Ms *Anita Wong*, our agile Asian artist, drew thunderous applause for her leap and splits at the end of her number Thursday night at *Mr P's*. The aerobic tradition in drag continues!

Hurt me/Beat me Ms *Tina* in the illusion of *The Dominatrix* tamed the fans as she debuted in black lace, black leather boots, and riding crop!

Walk the walk (P's, Deco, and wherever discerning fans gather) Ms *Christian* cajoled by our diva and the fans into doing her trademark walk-and-turn-and-walk. We should all walk as tall and as well as Ms Christian. Any number of drag sisters could take lessons from her!

Fringe and Feathers Judging by the number of boas on display Thursday at P's, there must be a helluva lot of bald chickens on Eastern shore! Fringe was also in as *Terri Santana*, *Gigi*, and others twirled fringes that were even more twisted than *Mr P's* customers..

Zoot Suit Queen Ms *Tina Tuna* tore up the house with her aggressive demand to *Treat Her Like a Lady*. Her dance steps were warning enough to obey!

Born again?! Getting down the aisle at Chaos' Cabaret is almost like going down the birth canal. Not exactly rebirth, but ... it is a relief to pop out at either end. Rebirth reminds us, isn't it time for another Gospelfest at *Mr P's*, Ms *Capri*?

Carmen! Ms *Diana's* waving hands and hips turned them out--and on--as she descended Deco's stairs in her flaming red flamenco outfit.

Not So Private Dancers Ms *Marilyn Monroe*, patron saint of *Mr P's* performers, and her studly assistants had rapt attention from a hormone-hot crowd in an over-heated room as they unwrapped clothing and inhibitions.

Cartwheel on the Rocks! Ms *Esmeralda*, the beautiful and athletic reigning Miss Omega, nearly added her foot to a fan's mug as she came out of a well-turned cartwheel.

FILM AT 11:

Who's the drag artist who was shown exclaiming "She's fabulous. I love her." about the waitress at Bob & Edith's Arlington cafe in a tape shown on Friday's Channel 9 *News at 11?????*

TRANSNEWS Local lawyer, Alyson Meiselman, a transsexual family practice lawyer in Montgomery County, is a strong candidate for a judicial appointment as a domestic relations master in the county. She began living as a woman just a year ago.

Do It For Us All

The AIDS Vaccine Test

The AIDS Vaccine Project needs to sign up **40 more volunteers** by the middle of August.

1-877-VAX4YOU