

SCENE/HEARD

Be Careful What You Ask For! Diva Bloomingdale, performing her popular *Champagne Tastes* complaint came face to face with somewhat inebriated off-duty bartender, Lamont, who tossed handfuls of dollars at diva as she lamented her fate. It was a stand off. Literally!

Necessary Self-Defense Ms Gigi Couture fending off a much too friendly fan at Mr P's sent him back into a mug of rum and coke, drenching the table and the *Drag Rag*. Gucci and Stevi both 'read' too friendly fans.

Cartwheel Cartwheel! Continuing the aerobic drag tradition at *Mr P's* the diva and the crowd got *two* cartwheels from Gucci Blackwell on August 10th and one from her drag mother Adrienne. It must run in the family -- or the cocktails! Who's Next?!

Drag Art You Can Wear?! Don Juan 'Picasso' at the door of Deco, tastefully decorating Ms Gucci's bosom with lipgloss semicircles before Deco's record-setting 18 minute drag show (8/4).

A New Day Dawns was Ms Fox's opening tune at Omega as she joined Omega's JC as co-hostess for the Monday night shows. **AND** Watch for the new *Glorious Burlesque* at *Mr P's* soon.

Road Kill Lovingly introduced to Omega as "our reigning sick twisted cunt, and they all love her", Berlin delivered a satisfyingly raunchy and depressed performance.

Walk the Walk Ms Xavier invited the crowd to do Ms Christian's walk in her absence. No one dared. No one could!

Escape from Tara Ms Regina Josette covered herself head to toe in antebellum drag, hustling her bustle around the stage and twirling enough material to set the stage drapes fluttering and cool the crowd at *Mr P's*. She really did "strike a pose" as she performed in the illusion of Moodonna.

Spousal Abuse?? For Chaos' Employees Drag Night, Jordan Taylor's partner JB donned an iridescent dress and an auburn wig. "It took five drag queens and miles of duct tape to get me dressed", he said. "You think you're hot! I've got six layers of panty hose on. I tell you, I have new respect for these drag queens!". Among the best of Chaos' staff: Jamease as "Baby Face".

Watch the Hands!! Keep an eye on the hands. Some of the most expressive sets of hands around are Capri, Jordan Taylor, and Stevi's!! Watch how the hands express the words. It ain't an accident!

Feathers & Fringe continued Even Miss Patti Labelle was decked out in fringe, bright red, at her King's Dominion concert (look for Capri to model the number asap). Meanwhile Ms Sabrina White, reigning Ms DC, had enough peacock feathers to take flight at Chaos the other night. Bald peacocks must be joining the bald chickens on Eastern Shore.

JUST IN!! Disappearing Drag Shows?! Deco's Wed. nigh show has had a hard time appearing the past three weeks. What's going on? We already know what isn't going on: the show!

Encores!! in the past two weeks

Diva **Xavier Bloomingdale**, with gardenias in her hair, for a superbly emotional rendition of Lady Day tunes that brought an encore rendition of *Touch Me in the Morning*.

Ms **Jordan Taylor** elegant in black velvet sheath and jewels for a virtuoso performance of "I have nothing if I don't have you" an equally good encore of "I will always love you".

Ms **Adrienne Blackwell**, doing her signature tune *Heatwave* at *Mr P's* punctuated the verses with lots of high kicks but made the crowd wait two days for a real cartwheel.

Ms **Stevi**, in flapper beads and short outfit, for her multifaceted portrayal of jazz in *Hot Jazz Baby* at Nob Hill and at *Mr P's*. and for her Gidget "Shaking her booty" at Nob Hill..

Hot Tips! Scandals! Rants! Raves! call **Drag Rag** at (202) 907-9007
(c) Mark Meinke

THE DRAG RAG

NOTES FROM THE FRONT ROWS

Vol 1 No 4



DIVA TALK:

On Life in General:

Here you can get drunk, pass out, we'll steal your wallet and put you out.

On Job Descriptions:

I'm selling crack -- but it's not the kind you smoke.

On Marketing Skills:

If your money's right, I can make it tight.

On Job Definition:

I don't come on your job kicking dicks out of your mouth; don't you come on mine.

Recruiting!? To a straight fan:

Her: How old are you?

Him: 32.

Her: How would you like to be 69 tonight?

Him: Only with my wife.

Her: Is she here?

Him: Yes, over there.

Her: Well, next time be sure

GUCCI:

Moving On Up

Say "Gucci" and *everyone* knows who you're talking about: that tall slim quick-moving, good-looking, fast-talking performer.

Her fan club meets in Lorton (every other Thursday at 7 pm in the main yard) and makes her jewelry out of floor tiles.

And don't mess with her! She can go 'street' on you in a heartbeat. You got to be careful around someone who rides the X-2 in full drag. It's been a short trip from anonymous fan to a name everyone knows. Two years ago, she was hanging back and watching shows at Nob Hill: still like the quiet shy

you come alone.

On Tipping:

Come on guys, show the girls some coins. Just show them. You don't have to actually give them anything.

Proverb:

You can take the queen out of the trailer park but you can't take the trailer park out of the drag queen.

Coolidge student she used to be.

Gucci, the artist who promises to remove your eyeball for you if you get too free with her, whose tongue lashes disobedient audiences into submission, was indeed once shy. "I've always been a smart ass" she says "but I used to be a loner, just went to school and came home again."

Like her art, Gucci's name, is still taking shape. At the Ibx, folks used to say "here comes the Queen". For a while she got tagged as Miss Benetton but when someone at the Ibx called her Gucci, DJ Cool said "OK, that's it. You're Gucci now!" And still is!

She is now officially Ms Gucci Rene Blackwell, in honor of her drag mother Adrienne Blackwell. But to many she's still Gucci Goddamnit as Diva Xavier Bloomingdale first introduced her to *Mr P's*.

Adrienne saw Gucci hanging out at Nob Hill watching the male dancers and told her "You oughta be a woman." Gucci couldn't see it!

GUCCI *continued*

But, two weeks later, Adrienne Blackwell put her in a dress, slapped a wig on her head and pushed her out on stage. "I shook like a leaf. But the crowd loved it", says Gucci. "They gave me coins!" Nob Hill, where her father had won *Mr Nob Hill*, put her on the road to drag.

Top DC drag artist Dominique Fox told her about other drag clubs around town and gave her help with makeup and clothes. At *Mr P's*, Xavier Bloomingdale and Naomi Kane taught her still more. "Now", she says, when I look back I say to myself 'How could I ever live without drag' -- and artificial hair!"

When she started performing at *Mr P's* in late 1997 Ms Gucci began to feel like a professional. She's still learning from her drag sisters. "Every time I do a show, I sit back and watch the other artists. Of course I'm still

working on my own selections. I'm looking at some Eartha Kitt numbers now. And I want to try some more dramatic drag."

She learned to talk back, "thanks to Xavier who gave me so much hell I just learned to start talking back." And if you don't believe it, just listen to her when she's on the mike at *Mr P's*! She still gets stage fright "but a couple of cocktails take care of that".

You can see Gucci at *Mr P's*, Deco, Omega, and now she's gone full circle: she has her own show on Sundays at Nob Hill.

R - E - S - P - E - C - T

Aretha sang it:

"What you want/What you need/All I'm asking is for/
R-E-S-P-E-C-T/Just a little bit"

Drag is one of the cheapest entertainments to put on: the artists bring their own costumes, their own music, and often their own sets. They do all their own make-up, dressing, and rehearsals. They take the chances. They bring the fans. The fans bring money.

Most of the time all the performers get back are the 'coins' the fans give them and the chance to create.

When they come to perform and can't, the artists and the fans both don't get no

R - E - S - P - E - C - T

SHE SAID/I SAID

Gucci — "Xavier, you look like a dried up Chia pet!"

Xavier — "Well, darling, you look like a burnt up book of matches."

Xavier --- "There she goes up to the bar to spend her tips!"

Jordan --- "I learned it from the best!"

Xavier -- "If you learned it from me, you'd be up at the Willard with your legs up, counting your money!"

JC's! Rules (at Omega)

1. Clap when a girl is on the mike!
2. If you get louder than me, I'll have to hurt you!
3. This is our dressing room over here behind this shabby curtain. If you put your head in there, I get really moody and you won't like it!

Capri: You're looking very 'I'm-waiting-up-for-you' darling!

Xavier: She learned all that from me. I breast fed her on gin!

Diya Dearest,

Diya Dearest,

My boyfriend is seeing another man. I hate to think of him in another man's arms. But, when he's home, he's really good to me. What should I do?

I'm assuming that the two of you live together. Does he work? Do he pay the bills? Does he make love to you on demand?

I didn't think so! You stupid bitch!! This is 1999. Make him get 2 part time jobs, plus his full time job. Make him pay all of your bills.

And refuse sex with him. Insist that he masturbates daily. Don't compete with his boyfriend. You won't have time. You'll be too busy shopping.

You have a choice, honey. Take my advice or continue to serve yourself sloppy seconds.

Your Diva!

Diya Dearest,

You're so wonderful. I wish I could be just like you: tall and white but deeply tanned, and so gracious and kind. What can I do?

Eat your Wheaties, avoid Avon cosmetics, live by Dermablend and Max Factor. Stock up on Geritol because you'll need it. Use lots of Preparation H for under the eyes. Consider prostitution as a hobby. Shoplift as often as possible (it builds character). Avoid men who invite you out for dinner. Instead opt for furniture stores, jewelry stores, and fur salons.

Never tell a man that you are gay while in drag. Instead say you're buy-sexual. Avoid Lee press-on nails while masturbating. And when it comes to lovers: always date gangsters, Mafia, and drug lords!

Your Diva!

Diya Dearest,

I've just met the cutest VCR repairman. Well, actually he works for the cable company, but he does VCRs on the side. He's tall and handsome and has muscles for miles. Do you think I should keep seeing him?

But of course, darling.

Stock up on head cleaner, purchase all the AAA batteries that you can, for your remote of course. And finally, make love in the SLP mode. It should last for 4 years, or less, depending on usage.

Your Diva!

Quote of the Week:

Don't fuck
with
the money,
honey!

--Stevi

(c) Mark Meinke