SHOW NOTES!

with Jared Lance



September has truly been a whirlwind! From Chicago to Tulsa, I found myself on the road every single weekend this month, traveling, performing, connecting, and living so many of the moments I once only dreamed about.

Without a doubt, this has been the busiest month of my reign so far, but I wouldn't trade a single mile, late night, or early morning for anything in the world. Every stop brought new opportunities, unforgettable experiences, incredible people, and contestants who reminded me exactly why I fell in love with this system in the first place. Being able to witness the passion, dedication, and heart that so many people pour into pageantry has been one of the greatest gifts of wearing this title. As exhausting as this month has been, it has also been one of the most rewarding reminders that this reign is about so much more than a crown rather the relationships we build, the doors we open, and the lives we get to touch along the way.

If September has taught me anything, it's that sometimes the busiest seasons of our lives become the ones we remember most fondly. And if this month is any indication of what's still to come, I know there are so many more incredible memories waiting to be made.

Chicago was one for the books! I had the incredible honor of attending the Continental Pageantry weekend, where I made my first National Walk as Gay America Esquire on the Mr. Continental stage! To experience that moment surrounded by so much history, talent, and excellence was truly special, and getting to witness Joshuan Aponte capture the title of Mr. Continental made the weekend even more memorable.







The excitement continued as our very own Miss Gay America 2020/2021 Pattaya Hart, claimed the title of Miss Continental! What a moment to celebrate two incredible entertainers and the magic of pageantry. But beyond the titles and the excitement of competition, one of the greatest gifts of the weekend was being surrounded by so much of my Gay America family. There is something truly special about sharing these experiences with people who understand the heart, dedication, and passion that go into what we do. My first official walk as your Gay America Esquire was one I will never forget, and I am so grateful Chicago got to be the place where this next chapter of my journey began!


2026




Honorary

Back-to-back weekends of pageantry! September brought us together for both Gay Fancy America Esquire and Gay Delaware America Esquire, and what an incredible couple of weekends they were! Congratulations to our qualified contestants, Zach King, as well as Michael and Quinn Matthews, on earning their places as we continue the journey toward Gay America Esquire 2027.

Hosting two preliminaries on back-to-back weekends certainly came with its own set of challenges, but those challenges were met with so many beautiful memories, meaningful connections, and unforgettable moments. Each event reminded me why I fell in love with this system in the first place. There is something truly special about witnessing the passion, dedication, and heart that our contestants, promoters, and supporters pour into this community. Time and time again, I leave a prelim feeling more inspired than the last, and these two weekends were no exception. Pageantry is not dying; it is alive and thriving in the people who continue to believe in it, invest in it, and show up for it. As I continue this journey as your reigning Gay America Esquire, I am more excited than ever to see what the future holds for our system and the incredible individuals who make it what it is.



Zach King, Gay Fancy America Esquire 2026 with My'kel Knight Addams Iman, Gay Fancy America Esquire 2025

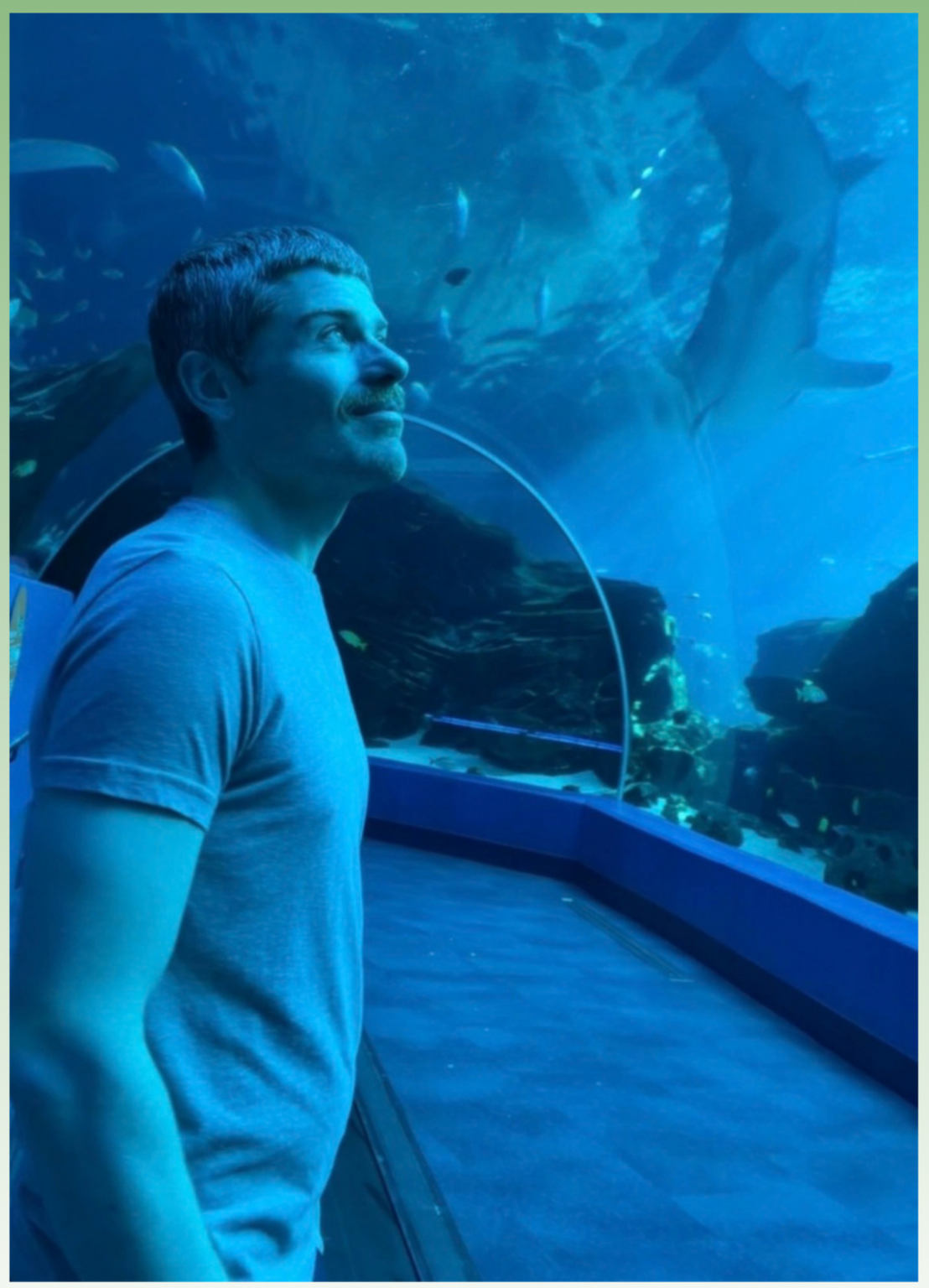


Quinn Matthews, our lovely 1st Alt & Michael our inagueal Gay Delaware America Esquire

Through all the craziness of being gone every weekend, I was so grateful to take a moment to celebrate my fourth wedding anniversary with my husband, Dorian! We spent the day doing absolutely nothing but sleeping in, visiting the Georgia Aquarium, and ending the evening with a lovely private dinner together.

I've always said that being a titleholder takes so much out of an individual, but sometimes it takes even more out of the person standing beside them. This reign would not be nearly as successful or meaningful without Dorian's unwavering love, patience, and support behind the scenes. He has stood beside me through the long weekends, the late nights, the travel, and everything that comes with this incredible journey. I know how lucky I am to have him in my corner, cheering me on and loving me through every moment of it. Here's to four years of marriage, a lifetime of memories still to come, and having my favorite person by my side throughout this reign and far beyond it. I love you, Dorian!





My weekend in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for Miss Gay Oklahoma America and Miss Gay Oklahoma America Femme was such a special experience! Having never visited Tulsa or Oklahoma before, I was so grateful for the opportunity to explore a new part of the country and witness firsthand the rich history, tradition, and legacy that Gay Oklahoma America continues to carry. It was a joy to celebrate the outgoing court and honor the work they have poured into their titles, while also being there to support my two queens, Tracy and Anya. Moments like these remind me that pageantry is about so much more than a crown; it's about the history we inherit, the relationships we build, and the communities that continue to show up year after year. I left Oklahoma with a full heart, a deeper appreciation for this system, and even more excitement for the future of Gay America!


Linday Paige











As I look back on everything September brought, I find myself feeling an overwhelming amount of gratitude for this journey and for every person who has made this reign so special. From traveling across the country and witnessing incredible moments of pageantry to celebrating milestones with my husband and building relationships with our contestants, promoters, and titleholders, I am constantly reminded of just how much this title means to me. Every weekend brings a new lesson, a new memory, and another reason to believe in the future of Gay America Esquire.

As we move into the next season of preliminaries, I want to encourage every contestant, promoter, and supporter to keep showing up, keep believing, and keep investing in what makes this system so special. The work we do at the local level matters. The relationships we build matter. And the dreams we help bring to life matter. It takes an entire community to keep this legacy moving forward, and I am so proud of the people who continue to dedicate their time, energy, talent, and hearts to making it happen.

Being your reigning Symbol of Excellence, Gay America Esquire 2026, has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am nowhere near finished celebrating what this system can accomplish. If anything, every mile traveled and every stage witnessed has made me more passionate about the road ahead. The best chapters of this reign are still being written, and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together!

Thank you for welcoming me into your communities, trusting me with your stages, and allowing me to represent a system that has given me so much. Let's finish this season strong, continue lifting one another up, and make Gay America Esquire 2027 a year to remember. After all, excellence isn't just a title we wear; it's a standard we carry with us everywhere we go.







Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for a lot of prelims coming up between November! I cannot wait to see so many familiar faces, meet new ones and continue to grow the GAE Class or 2027!

Always

-Gay America Esquire-

JaredLance