

PLAYBILL

Gay America Esquire 2026

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SHOW NOTES!

with
Lared Lance



If July proved anything, it's that this community continues to amaze me.

This past month was filled with drag, pageantry, laughter, late nights, and countless miles traveled but more importantly, it was filled with chosen family. Every show, every conversation backstage, and every hug after a performance reminded me that this title has never been about one person. It's about the incredible community we have the privilege to be apart of.

I've had the honor of celebrating the artistry of our entertainers, cheering on contestants as they chased their dreams, and strengthening relationships with promoters, former titleholders, and supporters who continue to keep the Gay America Pageantry System alive! Whether we met for the first time or simply picked up where we left off, every connection has made this journey even more meaningful.

As you'll see throughout this month's newsletter, July was a beautiful reminder that while crowns may bring us together, it's the friendships, mentorships, and community we build along the way that truly define this reign.



There are weekends that remind you why this title is so special, and my trip to Miss Gay Arizona was one of them.

From the moment Tracy and I arrived, we were embraced with open arms. We had the privilege of being featured at both Cruisin' 7th and Kobalt, and each show was filled with incredible talent, electric energy, and audiences that made us feel less like guests and more like family. The casts at both venues welcomed us so warmly, and it was impossible not to feel right at home.

A huge thank you goes to Daniel, the promoter of the Miss Gay Arizona America, whose hospitality was nothing short of extraordinary. Every detail was handled with such care, and he truly went above and beyond to make sure Tracy and I were treated like royalty throughout the weekend. His passion for this system and for taking care of everyone involved was evident in every moment. (& here's hoping that I still make it in the good chapters of the memoir!)

One of the greatest gifts of the weekend was the opportunity to spend time with my predecessor, Kristofer Inez Onyx. As reigning titleholders, we often spend so much time on the road that meaningful moments with those who came before us can be rare, but special. Especially when I'm in his hometown. Sharing laughs, stories, and catching up with Kristofer was something I'll genuinely treasure.

Weekends like this are a beautiful reminder that the Gay America family extends far beyond a stage. It's built through friendships, hospitality, shared memories, and the incredible communities that welcome us into their homes. Arizona, thank you for making us feel so loved. I can't wait to see you all again.



Congratulations on a fabulous reign, Chris Mort! Your laugh is everything and then some! You are such a joy to be around.

Big congratulations to the two representatives for Miss Gay Arizona America, Benaddiction, your new MGAA! And the fabulous 1st Alternate, Ally Inez Nite!



A really big highlight of being in Arizona was getting to shoot with THEE famous Scotty Kirby! I had one of the best if not THE BEST photoshoot I've ever had. It was so much fun and light hearted.

This is just ONE of the shots he took! Thank you Scotty for a fabulous time and for making me feel like royalty.



As incredible as it was to spend the weekend surrounded by the pageant family I love so much, there was another part of this trip that healed me in a way I didn't expect.

Being back in the desert cured pieces of my soul I didn't even realize needed mending. There's something almost impossible to explain about the smell of rain in the desert. It's earthy, clean, nostalgic, and somehow hopeful all at once. If you've experienced it, you know exactly what I mean. If you haven't, there simply aren't words that can do it justice.

The dry heat wrapped around me like an old friend. The endless desert landscape, the mountains in the distance, and the quiet beauty of Arizona reminded me of a place that has always felt like home. It was refreshing in every sense of the word.

Sometimes we don't realize how much we miss a place until we're standing in it again, breathing it in.

This trip gave me memories I'll cherish with my pageant family, but the desert gave me something even more valuable: a sense of peace, a renewed spirit, and a reminder that some places don't just welcome you back but they help you find yourself again.

One of the greatest privileges of this reign has been the opportunity to show up for my community in meaningful ways, and attending the 39th Joining Hearts Pool Party as a welcomed guest was one of those moments. It was an honor to represent Gay America Esquire while connecting with so many incredible people throughout the day. I had the chance to share the story of our pageantry system, answer questions, and introduce new faces to what Gay America Esquire stands for. More than anything, I was proud to be a visible Symbol of Excellence to show people that our title is about far more than competition; it's about service, visibility, and community.

To stand alongside thousands of people united by compassion, generosity, and a shared commitment to raising funds for HIV prevention, care, and support was deeply moving. Every conversation, every handshake, and every smile reinforced why representation matters. I left the event with a full heart, grateful not only for the opportunity to shine a light on our system, but also to be part of a community that continues to lead with love, remembrance, and hope.



The next couple of weeks I'm going to be traveling so much more and getting ready for the my preliminary season to really start! Be on the lookout for a few more dates to be announced! The next time I see you all on the preliminary road will be in Raleigh, NC for Gay Fancy America Esquire!

GAY SOUTHERN AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026
WINNER: TYSON N REIGN
1ST ALT: FELIX

GAY FANCY AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026
SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2026 | RALEIGH, NC
PROMOTERS: ALAN DOMINGO &
JOSHUA GRAY-HEIM

GAY DELAWARE AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 | WILMINGTON, DE
PROMOTERS: SCARLET MASTERS &
KASEY GONZALEZ-CRUZ

GAY MISSOURI AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026
NOVEMBER 8, 2026 | ST LOUIS, MO
PROMOTER: LUIS ACEVEDO

GAY OHIO AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026
NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | COLUMBUS, OH
PROMOTER: BRAD BONACCI

GAY ARIZONA AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026
TBD | PHOENIX, AZ
PROMOTERS: MICHAEL V GAFFNEY &
RICKY SEDILLO

GAY CASCADIA AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026
TBD | LACEY, WA
PROMOTER: CHUCK BURKE

GAY AMERICA ESQUIRE 2027
MAY 13-15, 2027
MTH THEATER | KANSAS CITY, MO

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LEADING MALE ENTERTAINMENT

Always

-Gay America Esquire-

Jared Lance