

# PLAYBILL

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Gay America Esquire 2026

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**THE**  
**ESQUIRE**  
**WITH JARED LANCE**  
**SHOW**

# SHOW NOTES!

with  
*Sared Lancee*



Act I :

WOW! I can't believe I'm writing my first Newsletter in my reign as your Symbol of Excellence. I am still on cloud nine and have been overwhelmed with the amount of outpouring love, support and kindness our community and beyond has shown me.

My journey competing for the Gay America pageantry system started just under 3 years ago in June 2023. With each year, I grew as an entertainer and competitor but most importantly as a person. In this system, I truly have found my purpose, community and chosen family. This last year, I qualified on June 1st, 2025 in Johnson City, TN as Gay Southern America Esquire. I had a full 11 months to prepare my package for GAE nationals and it really did pay off.

The 11 months I had to prepare were long; figuring out the concept for talent, the direction for presentation given the theme and talking with my designer on how to properly embellish my Red Carpet Fashion without making it look too “costume-y”. The real PREPARATION started in January 2026, when I finally was able to schedule rehearsals with my dancers, buy fabrics and construct garments with my mentor/dresser and really fine tune the minor details of each category. “The devil is in the details” as they say, and focusing on those details I feel really set me apart this year from my previous years.

When ARRIVING in Kansas City, it was the most calm I had ever felt when preparing to compete on the national stage. Little to no hiccups after landing which allowed me to really take in the entire experience in a sane state of mind. “HAVE FUN!” was repeated to us over and over during registration and this year was the first year I fully had fun with every single category.

In theatre, you are told that when you, the actor, is having fun then the audience is having fun and that's the mindset I went into once the pageant started.

**“Please meet and greet your new Gay America Esquire... contestant.. number... 4, JaredLance!” - Dextaci MGA 2022**

The moment my life changed forever. 3 very long consecutive years back to back with countless hours of rehearsals, fittings, traveling, gaining sponsorships and being away from home from my husband, Dorian... finally paid off. My fellow contestants put up an amazing competition and all of them have what it takes to be successful in this system. Their names are: Q Dominican Sanchez, Kristofer Cass, My'Kel Knight-Addams Iman, Sir Wesleigh Braxton Black, Mirage J Cruz, JC CHAOS, Aundra Mikyles, Tyson N. Reign, Ghost X, Gabriel Ruby Skywalker St. James, Arty Party & Dino Station. These gentleman showed me so much love after my win and I felt truly supported. They are all Symbols of Excellence and I'm going to be a better National Titleholder because of them.

Seconds after my name was announced, I threw up the “I Love You” 🖐️ symbol to the sky. That was me telling my late mother, Linda, that I loved her and that this was ultimately for her.

My husband was not able to come to Kansas City to watch me compete but he was watching live on the stream. I felt his love and he sent me the cutest voice memo directly after. My drag mother Celeste Holmes, (Kevin McClelland), her partner Ray Folsom and my dear friend Joe Greene were in the audience from Atlanta and it meant the world they flew all the way to watch me

compete and ultimately win. My dresser and mentor, Taejah Thomas, was my backbone through it all and wouldn't have been able to do any of it without her. Shout out to my amazing dancers with AJA talent; Ethan, Isaac, Jen, Rachel, Pollux & Trinity! With choreography by Alberto! They really saw my vision and helped me execute it without compromising any minor detail. Bradley Meyer (Katty Wampus) built my amazing set pieces and tv prop that really helped the whole vision come together on stage. I have so much love for all of you!

After winning and pictures, I was rushed off to Missie B's to have my first official performance as Gay America Esquire 2026. Thank you to the Friday night cast and Iman Mykals for allowing me to have that moment. I am so grateful! My first performance was 'Go The Distance' from Disney's Hercules. I've always had a love for the movie and character and the song really captures my journey competing for Gay America Esquire. “I know every mile, will be worth my while  
When I go the distance, I'll be right where I belong.”



Shout out to our own Anchor of Excellence, Morgan Morgan Morgan and the amazing cameraman Jordan on capturing and documenting the entire weekend of pageantry! You both created a beautiful time capsule that I personally will cherish for my entire reign and beyond!



The next morning the work began! I had breakfast with my regional promoters, Ritchie & Robbie. We laughed and reminisced over the last 24 hours. They have been by my side through it all and part of this win was for them. I didn't just gain promoters with these two, I gained family. After breakfast, I had my first official photo shoot with the FABULOUS Angela with Evening Star Photography. KC, Kristofer, Ritchie & Robbie along with Dextaci and Dan James joined me in this moment. I felt like a star and it started to set in that I won and my dream came true.

After our photoshoot, we went to Hamburger Mary's Kansas City! The cast was A M A Z I N G! My new wife, Miss Gay America, Tracy La Lousianne & Miss Gay America Femme, Anya Marino were in the cast along side Miss Gay Missouri America, Heather Fellas and the incomparable hostess Luna Flare! It was my Hamburger Mary's Cherry being popped and it did not disappoint! I laughed the entire time and really took in all the moments with my Gay America family.

After brunch, Kristofer Inez Onyx & KC took me to orientation where we laid out my 30, 60 & 90 day plan as well as my initiatives and what my year will look like. It's a lot to take in at first, and definitely a lot to process in the coming days after but I know I'm in the best hands possible with Kristofer and KC. They are not just my national promoter and the national Director of the Esquire division, they are my brothers and I know with their leadership & guidance we are going to have a very successful year with the Gay America Esquire division.



After all the business was done for the day, then came the fun part! I was in the Saturday night show at Missie B's with an all Gay America cast! The cast included KC Sunshine, Kristofer Inez Onyx, Tatiyanna Voche', Tracy La Lousianne, Heather Fellas and Vivian Taylor! The crowd was amazing, and I felt so much love in that room. The show on stage is always a blast, but the real show happens in the dressing room. The camaraderie and inside jokes and subtle, but fun shade being thrown in all directions. This was a moment that I have been dreaming of for years. Being in the room full of Symbols of Excellence and now I have my own seat at that table.



I'm not quite sure I will ever come down from the high that I have been feeling ever since May 1, 2026 in Kansas City, Missouri. After coming home back to Atlanta and going out into my local community, I was met with so much warmth and love and really felt that I had Atlanta on my side. I love this city so much and I want to do right by the system and be the best representative that I can be.



There is a seat at the table for anybody who wants to pursue the Gay America pageantry system. We welcome you with open arms and open hearts. Growing up as a stage actor, I always admired William Shakespeare and this quote:

“This Above All; To Thine Ownself Be True”.

This quote from Hamlet encouraged me to come out as a gay man and to pursue everything I ever wanted while being authentically me.

I am so eager to hit the road with my preliminaries and opportunities throughout the next year that will help me expand the Gay America system and the Esquire division as a whole. Thank you to everyone who has believed in me every step of the way, this is all for you!



-GAY AMERICA ESQUIRE 2026-

*Always*

*Jared Lance*