Local icons rock the stage at PRIZM’s 10th Annual Drag Show

KARLYNE KILLEBRE W
STAFF WRITER

In a fabulous flurry of glitter and blinding light, PRIZM hosted its tenth annual drag show in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center on October 10. This year’s theme was Masquerade. Attendees walked in along a velvet rope under the doorway’s canopy of festive Mardi Gras streamers while hunting for empty seats beneath the ornate pride flags and banners hanging from the ceiling. Elaborately decorated t-shirts were sold at the entrance of the event for three dollars.

One of the highlights of the night was audience participation. A group of three attendees came dressed in 18th century masquerade gear, complete with corsets, capes and masks.

For the second year in a row, the show was hosted by St. Louis’ own Siren. She charmed the crowd with her wild ensembles, matching wigs, bad girl stories, and attitude. She occasionally greeted everyone with a dance number or two throughout the show.

The event line-up consisted predominantly of repeat offenders, but the crowd was pleased to see all of the icons sharing the stage. St. Louis favorite Miss Jaida Kiss, Kendale St. James, Robin Hearts, Rydyer Reeves, and Sum Yung Weng gave the audience routines coming with sex, class, and affecation. Performances were accompanied by popular pop hits, from Drake and Zedd to Whitney Houston. The futs full of money that each performer took home attested to the audience’s involvement and appreciation.

The surprise of the evening was a performance by RuPaul Drag Race winner, Monica Beverly Hills. She hosted a mini-forum talking about her experiences early on in the evening. Hills hung around until later in the evening to awe people with two exhibitions of her pretty slimmy and fierce apparel. She performed her lip-synced cover of Rihanna’s single “Drunk on Love.” She originally performed the cover on YouTube and received widespread fame and acclaim for the video.

In between sets, Siren would walk the aisles trolling for a shy someone she could flirt with and lightly embarrass. It was very common for the queens to find themselves in audience members’ laps or shaking their ample cleavage in the men’s faces. It was all in good humor and therapeutically appropriate to the event.

A brief meeting with Dakota Dancy, senior, psychology and president of PRIZM, explained what their organization really aims to do with these drag shows.

“We host the drag show every year because we realize our campus is very diverse. What we hope to do is get people who might not feel comfortable, to go to a drag show. As to why the events are held at University of Missouri-St. Louis, Dancy explained. “We do it on campus, that was something that’s very accessible for everyone and you can get your friends to come.” He admits that many members of the student body have their own pre-formed convictions about events of this nature. “We’re opening people’s minds who might not be open to a drag show because it can be a lot.”

The event’s success has been substantial, judging from the event turnout in this and previous years. Strangers have approached the PRIZM president to share their comments about their own misconceptions and lack of exposure to transgendered identity and lifestyle. According to Dancy, many initial skeptics are now allies of the organization. An even bigger feat is the lack of offensive responses commonly experienced by the LGBTQ community outside of UMSL. “We haven’t really met any flack for doing the show,” Dancy said, though admitting the event was not without criticism.

“There’s been a few rude comments,” Dancy said. PRIZM members and supporters weigh the negative commentary alongside a decade of successful years hosting a packed drag performance.
Jubilee Flashback compiled by Albert Nall

The Current has been a part of UMSL since 1966. In honor of the campus’ 50th anniversary, we are reprinting articles from years past. This story originally ran on October 14, 1996. For more Jubilee Flashback, visit our website at thecurrent-online.com.

Susanna Hoffs—Self-titled

LONDON RECORDINGS

You remember the Bangles, don’t you? Of course you do. They were that novel, all-girl band with the hit song, “Manic Monday,” written by the artist formerly known as Prince. I’m sure you’re wondering, “What ever happened to this sexy lead singer, Susanna Hoffs, who co-authored in the “Rehearsal,” Talkculture, with Jackson Browne?” After the breakup of the Bangles, a debut solo CD and a five-year hiatus, she is making a strong return to the music scene with the release of her self-titled CD.

Why the five-year hiatus from her last CD?

“In a certain way it was an example of a learning that I didn’t want to do...” Hoffs says of making that first solo CD. “It was feeling a lot of pressure to get something out done and there were such unrealistic expectations about how commercial it should be. My own issue was why was and what I wanted to do and get lost. I was ignoring my instincts, which is the worst thing an artist can do.”

Her approach towards making her new CD was much different.

“My only go-to make sure that I could really be comfortable, with something that didn’t feel false to me and that I allowed myself, ‘that’, she said.

After five years, Hoffs’ offer has proven worth the wait.

The 12 original songs and energetic music sound so simple and sweet as it julubly, Hoffs uses uncut melodies in the ironic manner to illuminate passion to make it an expert sensitively plausible. The song “Week with Love,” is an example of this. Here, Hoffs sings about the death of John Lennon in a eulogy of passion that prompts the listener to forget the world. The song “Week with Love,” is an example of this. Here, Hoffs sings about the death of John Lennon in a eulogy of passion that prompts the listener to forget the world.

What does Susanna Hoffs, lead singer of the all-girl group The Bangles have in common with the late John Lennon, as well as other legends of rock and roll?

FIND OUT AT THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM
Students and faculty discuss carbon at News at Noon

The Current’s “News at Noon” series continued on October 9 with the topic “Should We Put a Price on Carbon?” led by Dr. Lea-Rachel Kosnik, associate professor of economics. The discussion centered on whether a monetary cost should be placed on carbon emissions as a means to encourage better environmental practices.

“News at Noon” is a monthly forum aimed at promoting discussion by faculty and students on current events. The series is co-sponsored by The Current and the New York Times, with support from the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Student Life at University of Missouri–St. Louis. A free pizza lunch is provided.

The next forum will be held on November 13 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in MSC Century Room C. The topic will be “Social Media: Owning Your Own Identity.”
UMSL promotes breast cancer awareness month

SIMONNE KIMBLE
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri-Louisville kicked off Breast Cancer Awareness month with an annual event to inform staff and students about breast cancer. Students were encouraged to "Think Pink" and how their support on October 14 and 15 in the Nosh of the Allen Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Kathy Castulik, health educator, University health services, is a staff member of the University Health, Wellness and Counseling Services (UHWC), along with Dr. Nancy Magadon, clinical professor, University health services. The primary purpose of UHWC is to offer students, staff, and faculty an on-campus resource or information about the six dimensions of wellness.

Castulik plans, promotes, and sets up the event annually for the public. The event was located in the Nosh for easy access to students and staff.

"My goal is to increase awareness through education about risk factors for breast cancer and prevention and care," Castulik said. A display was set up in the Nosh for those interested in receiving more in-depth information about breast cancer.

Those visiting the event were given the opportunity to express their opinion or views on the "Think Pink" board and explain why they support breast cancer. By attending the event, visitors became eligible to register their names in a raffle. Winners were drawn randomly by Castulik, and had the chance to win cool prizes including stuffed animals and breast cancer awareness bracelets.

Laquinton Davis, sophomore, sports medicine, believes that having the knowledge about any type of cancer is important. "I believe that being informed about breast cancer can save a lot of lives," Davis said. "[Some] people did not realize they had cancer until it was too late. Research is important." He added he supports breast cancer awareness by wearing pink during October, the nationally observed month of breast cancer awareness.

Castulik offered free pamphlets with general information about cancer screening, including mammograms, breast and testicular self-exams. A hands-on demonstration was provided to help all visitors have a better understanding of what to look for when checking themselves for early signs of either breast or testicular cancer.

Along with being the health educator at UMSL, Castulik helps coordinate Missouri Baptist Center's participation with UMSL activities. The Center provides annual Mammography Screenings for the students and staff. The screenings will take place October 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students and staff must schedule an appointment in advance.

For questions or concerns, contact Kathy Castulik at castulik@umsl.edu or visit the Wellness Resource Services page on UMSL's website.

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High heels and powerful singing successfully dominate the stage in ‘Rocky Horror Show’

DANIEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

"The Rocky Horror Show" is a fan-favorite musical that debuted in London forty years ago, and landed at the Pageant as part of the Art Hill cult movie "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." This campy, Halloween-porter tribute to old sci-fi horror movies had hilarious dialogue, powerful singing, but most of all, it had men in heels.

"The Rocky Horror Show" is an amazing, out-of-the-ordinary musical and it is safe to say that the University of Missouri-St. Louis students in the department of music, theatre and media studies did an excellent job of reviving it. The production was staged on October 10 through October 13, with matinee and evening performances, in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL.

Last Thursday, the Lee Theater opened its doors and was quickly filled by an audience who were dying to see the UMSL version of "Rocky Horror.’’

"Rocky Horror" starred Brianda Cepeda, soprano, keyboardist, and Nick Smith, freshmans, engineering, who play Brad and Janet, the loving couple at the center of it all, driving to see Dr. Everett C. Scott. Unfortunately, the pair get stuck in a storm and, in need of shelter, they wander up to a dark castle only to find strange people inside. The leading role, Dr. Frank 'N' Furter is played by Brian J. Rolf, junior, theatre and dance. Dr. Frank 'N Furter is a transvestite from Transsexual Transylvania who lets the couple inside but then makes them join in his evening's plans and even satisfy his needs.

The sets on stage, the lighting and the music were completely on-point in this production. From clouds of smoke to multi-color lights: flashing everywhere, there was not a dull moment. Even the crowd participated throughout the entire musical. People screamed out the lines along with the actors, cheered as their favorite songs were performed, and there were even some who dressed like characters in the show. Young and old set in the audience together and the majority of the crowd seemed to already know the musical well.

Rolf played his part perfectly. The original star of both the original London stage production and the movie version, British actor/singer Tim Curry, had a strong, powerful, and somewhat odd baritone voice, which isn't easy to imitate. Not only did he sing just like Curry in the movie, but, from phone to the stage, he walked the walk and talked the talk with entertaining swagger throughout.

Cepeda and Smith were also up to par, Cepeda supplying the high, light voice needed for the part of Janet and tenor Smith portraying the doozy, but somewhat forceful, Brad.

The rest of the cast also did an excellent job leading the audience from singing to laughing. One cast member in particular, Grayson Jores, freshman, theater and dance, stood out. Jores, who has been performing on stage for years but is new to UMSL, performed the role as Dr. Everett V. Scott and completely surprised the audience with his high-held notes and hilarious wheelchair dancing.

There were a few mistakes here and there, but the actors captivated the audience and drew them into the musical to the point where any minor mistakes were hardly noticeable.

There is nothing to give but a thumbs up to this performance. "The Rocky Horror Show" is a delightfully sloppy salute to horror movies and sexual liberation that fans could not get enough of from beginning to end.

The University Symphony Orchestra performed the world premiere of the "Julieve Symphony" at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on October 9 at 7:30 p.m. The symphony was composed by Barbara Harbach, professor of Music, Music History, Music Composition and Harpichord at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Harbach was commissioned by the university to write a special presentation piece to commemorate UMSL’s 50th anniversary. Harbach is widely recognized within the institution of music and academia for her large collection of compositions. Her works include everything from symphonies and string orchestras, to film scores, modern ballet and pieces for organ, harpichord and piano.

The first part of the "Julieve Symphony" was the "Bellevue" movement. This portion of the symphony, a fugue, was indeed relevant, being inspired by the former Bellevue Country Club Clubhouse which served as the young university's first administrative, classroom and library space. As a symbol of the past, "Bellevue" is a subconscious retrospective on a building that was sent into history into 1978.

On the other hand, the sentimental ambience of the "Mihinday Fiesta," the lively second movement which was inspired by the annual Mihinday spring festival, serves as a nod to the university's international elements. "Tritons Ascending," the third movement, which looks to the campus' future, will have an even greater connotation at UMSL's 100th year anniversary. In that sense, Harbach’s "Julieve Symphony" will stand as a statement of the university at its 50th anniversary and an emblem of UMSL’s history.

Before the premiere of the "Julieve Symphony," the orchestra offered a selection of other musical pieces. The evening began with the exotic and seductive "Bacchanale" from "Samson and Delilah" by French composer Camille Saint Saens. "Bacchanale" was inspired by Saites Saites’ travels around the world, particularly the Middle East. The composition is just as potent and adventurous as it is romantic and lush, with its themes of gluttony and lust. The orchestra handled this piece masterfully under the control of Daniel Kohler, senior, music, student conductor.

The next piece was an "Avalanche Caprice" from "String Quartet in D Major, Op. 11" by Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky, which served as a contrast to the first composition, with a more dependent introduction. Tchaikovsky's "Opus 11" slowly evolves from a melodic and sedate easiness, to a somewhat forced and unnatural exhilaration at the end of the piece. A noteworthy piece performed at the concert was the inspirational "Symphony No. 2 in Major, Op. 36" by Ludwig van Beethoven. This piece was written by Beethoven in 1802 at a time when resigned himself to living with a hearing impairment.

What really stands out in the performance of the Beethoven masterpiece was the flute section, led by Rachel Petrolit, senior, music, along with Jessica Windle, senior, music, Renilda Lala, senior, music, and Gail Ford, senior, music. Appearing at various intervals in the performance, the Quintet were the clear stand- representing a composer who could not hear the instruments from a distance nor the person standing next to him. The meaning behind this piece is the fiery, courageous determination and resolve by Beethoven in the face of adversity and despair.
With a score of 0-1, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's soccer team lost to the Missouri S&T Lady Miners at Don Dallas Field on October 6. The Tritons outshot the Lady Miners 12 to 6, but failed to find the net with the team's four shots on goal. Hannah Kaloupek, sophomore, criminal justice, led the Tritons of the bench with two shots, both of them shots on goal.

Men's soccer team lost to the Missouri S&T Miners with a score of 1-2 in overtime at Don Dallas field on October 6. The Miner's scored in the 15th minute, but the Tritons rallied and scored in the 56th with a goal by Matt Burrus, senior, business administration, assisted by Evan Garrard, freshman, biology. In overtime, the Tritons were unable to stop a header off a corner kick into the goal to end the game in the 95th minute.

Men's golf placed 12th out of 16 at the Guy Harvey International in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on October 7. The Tritons posted a team score of 893. Barry, the defending national champions, won the tournament with a team score of 854, edging out Lynn who posed an 861. Warren Crow, senior, business shot a 218 total tying for 23rd in the tournament. Colby Yates, sophomore, undeclared, placed 40th with a 224 and Joe Atkinson, senior, international business, 44th with a 225.

Women's volleyball defeated the Lindenwood Lions with a score of 3-2 at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center on October 8. The Tritons set scores of 16-25, 25-21, 23-25, 25-18, 15-7 improved the team's record with a score from Sidney Allen, sophomore, secondary education, assisted by Kaloupek to send the game into overtime. The Tritons could not hold off the Cardinals, who scored the winning goal in the 95th minute.

Women's soccer lost to the William Jewell Cardinals with a score of 2-1 in Liberty, Missouri on October 11. Jon Huelman, sophomore, nursing, scoring the first goal for the Tritons in the 16th minute. The Cardinals responded with a goal in the 51st minute, but the Tritons put the game away in the 71st minute with a goal from Matt Burrus, senior, international business.
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