

MISS GAY AMERICA PAGEANT
1975



Shawn Luis

Souvenir Program

THE DEPOSITORY

December 5, 6, 7, 1975

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

A Message From The Founder
The past year and a half would be impossible to even summarize in the space that I have available to me here. Needless to say, it has been filled with more headaches and problems. I feel that a bit of history concerning the pageant is appropriate at this time for your information.

1972 - A successful and fun-filled pageant held in Nashville, Tennessee, where Norma Kristie was chosen as the first Miss Gay America.

1973 - Another successful pageant is again held in Nashville. Lady Baronessa is selected as the second Miss Gay America. The contest has grown to national status.

1974 - The third pageant is held in Atlanta, Georgia. The setting is the Atlanta America Hotel. It is a beautiful pageant, and the selection of Shawn Luis as the third Miss Gay America was our reward for the hard work.

1975 - The pageant is scheduled for May in Washington, D.C. Three weeks before the pageant is scheduled, we receive word that our booking at the hotel is cancelled. We have no other alternative but to cancel the pageant and try to reschedule it at a later date. Eventually, Norma Kristie secures the location for the Miss Gay America Pageant, and we are off and running.

This brings us to the present time. You are here to enjoy the finest contest of its kind in the world. The Miss Gay America Pageant is not something that someone thought of to fill their pockets with money. It surely has not been, and will not be this year a profitable venture. We are just grateful to know that this year we will be able to pay all prizes, and continue with the pageant. The door charge that you are paying will help toward payment of the prize money. The entire budget of this year's pageant has been under the

direction of Norma Kristie.

Through all the years of the pageant, one thing should stand out above all else. That is the labor of love that goes into the production of the contest and the marvelous people that the pageant works with each year. At any time, the Board of Directors could have thrown up their hands in dismay, but collectively they could not. The pageant means something to anyone that has ever been involved with its production.

In closing, I would like to make a personal statement which I will take full responsibility for. In each year of the pageant and its production, there have been those who would see this organization destroyed. These people include disgruntled contestants in local and also the national contest who did not win. Their reaction to losing is automatic... It was **FIXED!!!** After each contest they enter, this is the standard answer they make and will be after this contest for some people. Most of you will know these people or people like them. This type is against everything that is good and productive and represents gay people. To these people I say, "Our pageant means something to us, and it will continue and flourish on an annual basis". There may be some who will be angry and upset by my words. These are the people to whom I refer. To all others who would help us and try to make the pageant something for us to be proud of, I offer heartfelt thanks from the Board of Directors for all you have done, and would do for us. You have earned the gratitude of everyone connected with the pageant. To Norma Kristie, Lady Baronessa and Shawn Luis, I extend love and admiration for all... The contributions to the betterment of gay life has been fantastic.. Your contribution to society ... monumental.

Jerry W. Peek
Founder
Miss Gay America Pageant



NORMA KRISTIE
Miss Gay America 1972

DEDICATION:

The Miss Gay America Pageant of 1975-76 is not to be dedicated to one particular person because so many people have made it possible for the pageant to become a reality. Without these people who have given freely of their time and talents, the Miss Gay America Pageant just could not be. It is with great warmth and love, that I dedicate this pageant to all those gay people around the country and especially in Houston, who have worked so hard during the last few months.

As the promoter and organizer of the Miss Gay America Pageant of 1975-76, I say "Thank You" for being the wonderful people you are. Miss Gay America belongs to you.

MISS GAY AMERICA

The Miss Gay America pageant 1976 has been rescheduled due to the Bayou Landing Houston being sold. Originally scheduled for November 21, 22, and 23, the pageant has been reset at the Old Plantation Houston, 2020 Kipling for December 5, 6, and 7.

The Miss Gay America Pageant was conceived as just another contest for female impersonators, an event to perhaps give business a shot in the arm. However, before the first contest was held, it became evident that this would become much more. Entries were received from across the country. The best that female impersonation had to offer came to Nashville, Tennessee, to be a part of the Miss Gay America Pageant of 1972.

An appreciative audience on the final night made the judge's decision a unanimous one. From Hot Springs, Arkansas, came Norma Kristie. The rest is history. Norma traveled more than 100,000 miles that year to spread the word about the contest. Much of the success of the pageant is

directly attributed to Norma Kristie; and the Miss Gay America Board of Directors gave Norma the title of Miss Gay America, Emeritus.

In 1973, once again they came in greater numbers to try for the title. From Puerto Rico by way of Chicago, came the Lady Baronessa. Again the judgement was correct. Lady Baronessa with much charm and beauty captivated the audience. Baronessa returned to Nashville, and then flew to Atlanta, Georgia to pass on the coveted title of Miss Gay America.

After four days and nights of strenuous competition both on and off stage, Shawn Luis, a native Hawaiian, living in Chicago, captured the coveted title. Shawn has spent a whirlwind year, along with the Former Miss Gay Americas publicizing the pageant, and representing this "different" side of gay life.

This year, the contestants will come together again for the pageant, and one will carry away the coronation robe and crown of Miss Gay America 1976.

"MISTERS" OF CEREMONIES



Lady Baronessa



Jennifer George



Chelsey St John

FRIDAY NIGHT ----- DECEMBER 5, 1975

Overture
Opening Production

Introduction of Hostess Norma Kristie, Miss Gay
America 1972

Invocation M. C. C.
Parade of Contestants
Introduction of Miss Gay America 1975 . . Shawn Luis
Introduction of Pageant M.C.'s
Introduction of the Judges
Special Entertainment

Evening Gown Competition First Half
Sportswear Competition First Half
Talent Competition First Half

Special Entertainment
Sportswear and Talent Preliminary Winners Announcement

SATURDAY NIGHT . . DECEMBER 6, 1975

Overture
Opening Production

Introduction of Hostess Norma Kristie, Miss Gay
America 1972

Parade of Contestants
Introduction of Miss Gay America 1975 . . . Shawn Luis
Introduction of Judges
Introduction of Miss Gay America 1973 . . Lady Bronessa
Evening Gown Competition Second Half
Special Entertainment Miss Gay America 1973
Sportswear Competition Second Half
Special Entertainment
Talent Competition Second Half
Special Entertainment
Sportswear and Talent Preliminary Winners Announcement

SUNDAY . . DECEMBER 7, 1975

Overture
Opening Production

Introduction of Hostess Norma Kristie, Miss Gay
America 1972

Parade of Contestants
Introduction of Miss Gay America 1974 . . Shawn Luis
Introduction of the Judges
Introduction of the Pageant MC's
Announcement of the 10 Semifinalists
Special Entertainment Godspell
Evening Gown Competition
Special Entertainment
Sportswear Competition
Special Entertainment
Talent Competition
Male Fashion Show Ah Men., Houston
Special Entertainment
Questioning of the Semifinalists
Special Entertainment
Miss Gay America Farewell Shawn Luis
Parade of Contestants
Announcement of Miss Congeniality
Announcement of the Second Runner-Up
Announcement of the First Runner-Up
Coronation of Miss Gay America 1975-76

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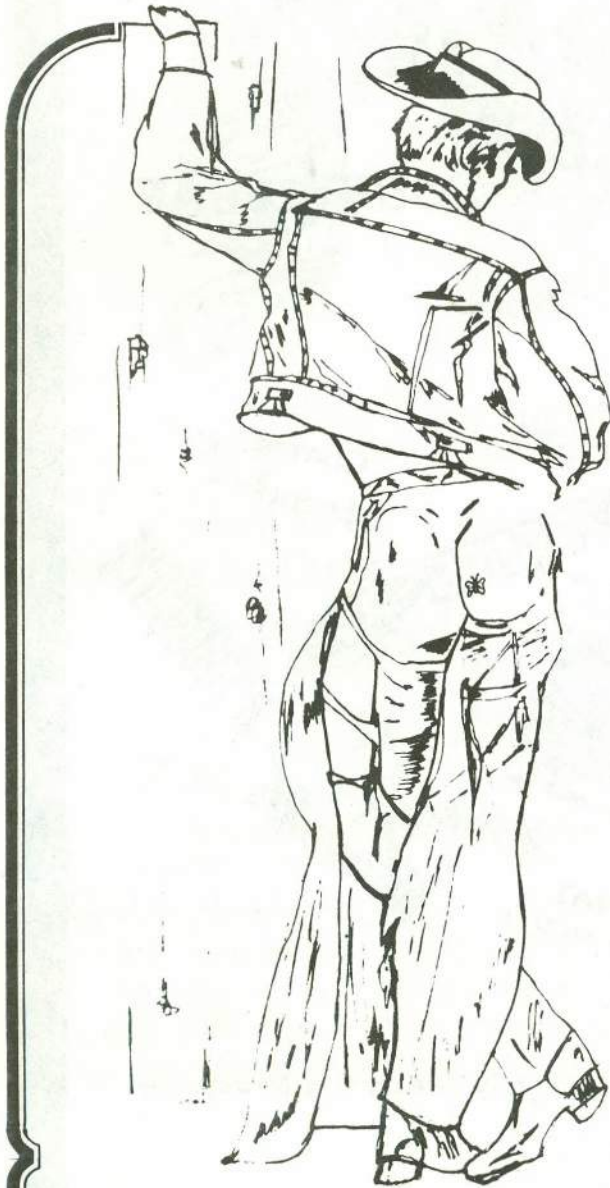


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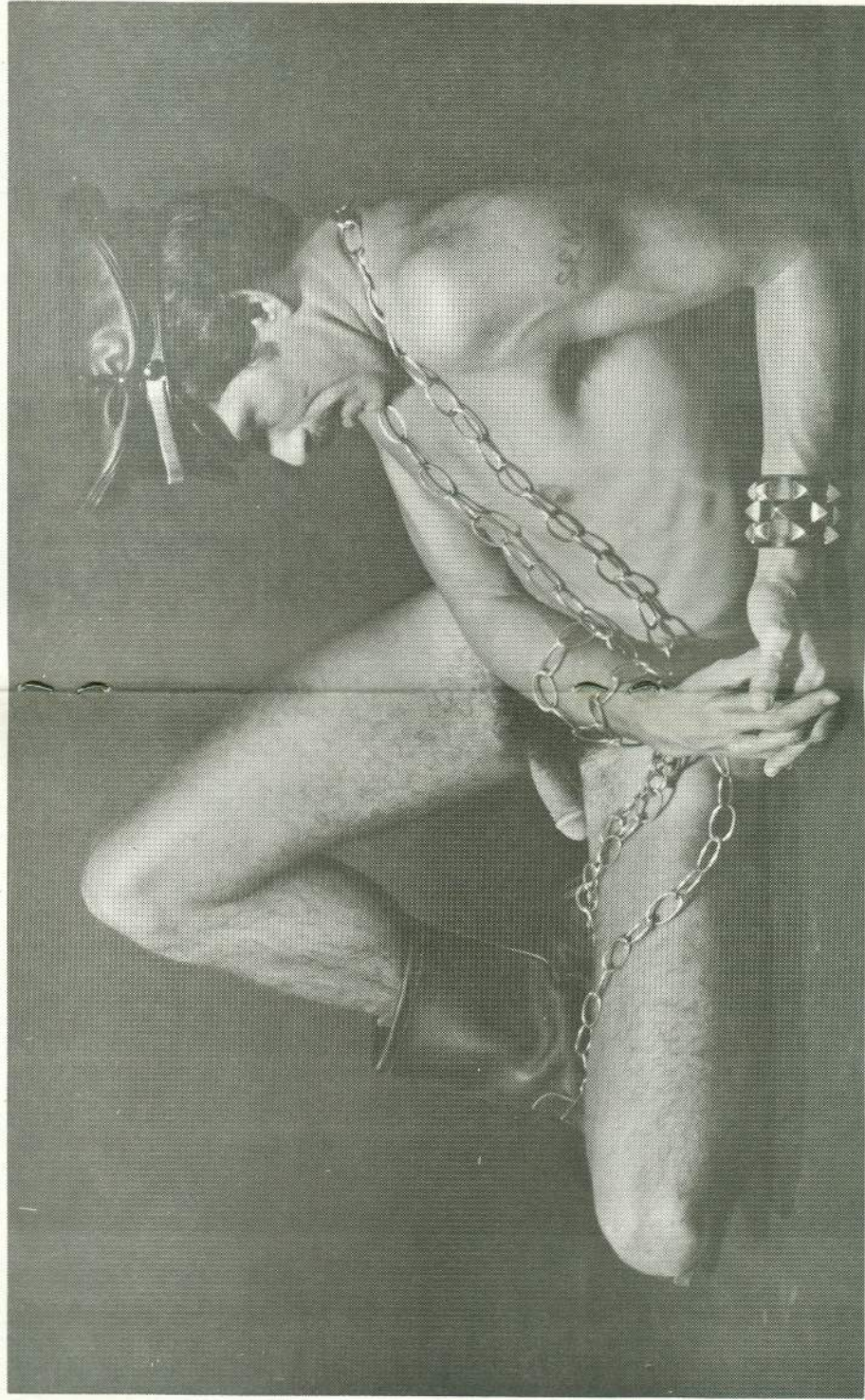
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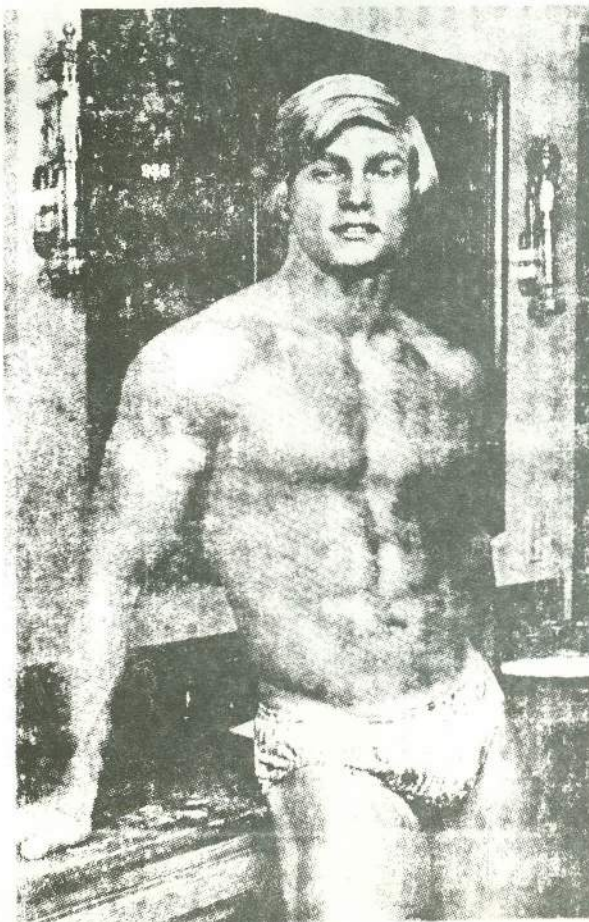
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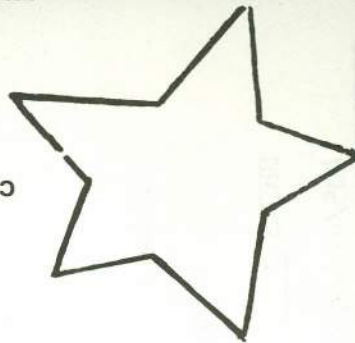
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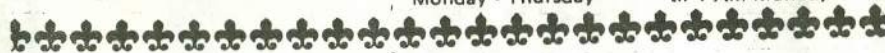


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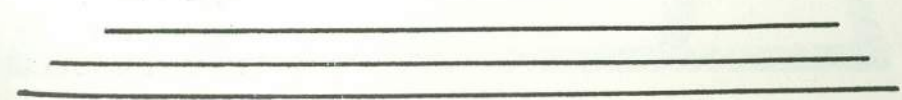
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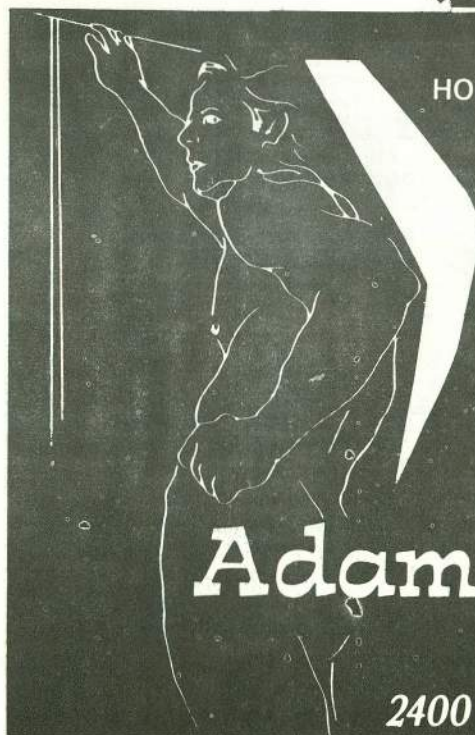
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MISS GAY AMERICA PAGEANT 1975



Shawn Luis

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THE DEPOSITORY
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