

Masquerade

Lipstick &

Volume 5

October

*This
issue's
cover
girl... the
lovely
Sabrina!*

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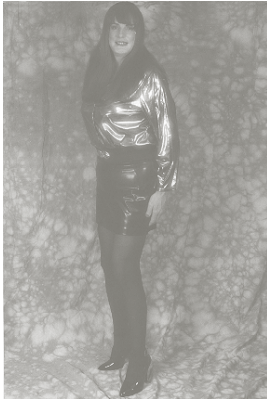
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Don't Forget!

*The submission Deadline is our next
meeting....November 12, 2002!*

*Lipstick and Lace...where's it's cool to be
"Read"!!!*

CARING FOR HAIR (THE FUN PART ABOUT BEING A GIRL!)

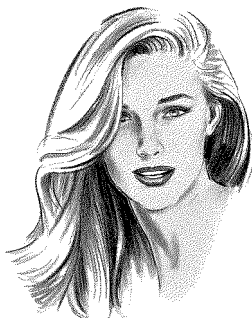


Once I started to accept this part of me as special, and not strange, things were becoming easier to deal with

Of all the things feminine that I have bought over the years, the scariest purchase I think I have ever made was my first two wigs, wayyy back when I was about 15!. After going through all the stress I had to get the first ones, where to have it delivered, what if someone found it, no way was I about to start asking questions about how to take care of it. Like how to take good care of them. Well, 25 years later, you can guess what shape my wigs were in!

It was the fall of 2000 when I started meeting people like me on the internet, and found people whom I could ask some of these questions of without any worries at all. It was such a relief for me, to finally after 25 years, find out I wasn't the only guy who liked to dress like a girl! Once I started to accept this part of me as special, and not strange, things were becoming easier to deal with. However, for my two "mops" it was a little too late!

Almost feeling proud of myself, and after many hours deciding on a style and color, I walked into Mario's in Polo Park one day, and bought my current hairpiece, and instantly fell in love with it!! When I first put it on, I felt so much more confident about my appearance, and



didn't want to loose that at all! So this meant learning to take care of my new wig right from the start! And what better place to ask how, then the place I got it from. The staff were very helpful and explained just how to go about it. So I'll share it with you here.

First, fill a sink with water, more on the cooler side to the glue holding the hairs into the cap don't loosen. Then put a dab, about as much of what you would use on your own hair, of a shampoo designed for color treated hair into the water and swish it around to mix it with the water. Then place your hairpiece into the water, making sure it is submerged, and let it soak for about 15-20 minutes. Don't move it around, you'll just get it tangled.

To rinse it, lift it out holding it in the "as-worn" position, and run it under water to rinse out the soap. Let it drip dry for a few minutes, then lay it on a towel overnight and let it dry. The best way is to place it on a wire wig stand to dry, which lets air all around it. However, everyone HAS a towel! Once it is dry, you can brush it carefully and the style will come right back, like magic!!

If you find you are getting a lot of static, after the rinsing, place a dab of

conditioner suitable for color treated hair, in a sink full of cool water, soak the hairpiece in it for a few moments, lift it out, let it drip dry, then lay it on the towel to dry overnight. You will find it is very easy to brush after using the conditioner.

To restore the shine and get rid of frizzy ends, I use a "hair varnish" which the friendly staff at Mario's showed me. After I wash and dry my wig, I place a dab of hair varnish on my fingers, then run my fingers through the hair, repeating the process until I'm happy with the look. I was amazed at how much of a difference this made. My hairpiece was almost like new again!!

Stay Pretty :-)

SA-



EDWINA'S TRIP TO VANCOUVER'S GAY PRIDE PARADE EN FEMME.

Yes, that's right, despite the post 9/11 airport security requirements, I chose to travel "en femme," via Air Tango to Vancouver, BC on Sunday August 4th. The trip was a part of my annual vacation and I wanted to be dressed for the city's Gay Pride Parade that was to get underway at noon.

My plane was scheduled to arrive in Vancouver at 8:30am. The plan was to breakfast on arrival with a friend, Wendy, a.k.a. Wayne, and my daughter Rachelle. After breakfast we were to make our way into the West End .sometime before 11am. Logistics simply did not give me either a place or the time to change and accomplish all the other things I wanted to do that morning and so I traveled fully prepared.

I very much wanted to pass and to look as feminine as I could. Accordingly, I chose a lovely floral summer dress with natural tone stockings, a white handbag and sensible but stylish walking shoes also in white.

My careful preparations that morning at home were well worth the effort for when I entered my cab outside the apartment the lady cab driver greeted me with a reassuring " Good morning Marm." Now, I have lots of lady friends who simply do not like to be called Marm by anyone let alone a cab driver. However, for me it was a moment of pure joy. There I was not ten paces from my door and at my first encounter I passed and with a woman to boot. That driver's salutation

was wonderful and I was on top of the world.

For me the challenge and excitement of cross-dressing is to present in a manner which allows me to blend in while simultaneously making a statement about my personality. I want to impress as an attractive, appealing well dressed female not some kind of misfit.

Needless to say I faced many other challenges as I proceeded to the airport. I was full of concern about the reactions of passenger agents, airport security personnel and my fellow passengers. Fortunately these concerns were not substantiated by my experience. All of the passenger agents, security personnel and other passengers were completely accepting about my appearance. I was asked for identification but there again so was everyone else and my drivers license mug shot was sufficient. The entire journey was problem free and I encountered no smirks, funny looks or harsh remarks. Indeed the experience was so much fun that I have decided travelling "en femme," is something I will do again.

Seating arrangements on the 'plane had me seated alongside two Chinese ladies, a mother and daughter couple returning to Vancouver. The mother graciously told me she thought I looked lovely and she wanted to know where I had purchased my dress.

The lead cabin attendant, also a woman, gave me a thumbs up. She said I set a



fine example for women on the 'plane on how to travel and look feminine at the same time.

Too many women passengers nowadays, she said, looked like guys.

I had noted in the waiting room that many of the women passengers were dressed in either shorts or slacks. When planning my clothing the previous evening I had thought about dressing that way myself, however, I had abandoned the idea because slacks would make me look too butch. For me feminine dress is colourful, easy and comfortable to wear and heck, I can wear pants anytime!

I really don't like the way in which many modern women are dressing. It seems they have lost their way in their struggle towards social equality. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into law in 1982. It introduced the legal construct of equality and represents an incredibly profound constitutional initiative that marks a major turning point in the evolution of our modern society.

Prior to the introduction of

I encountered no smirks, funny looks or harsh remarks.



EDWINA'S TRIP cont'd



the Charter the social construct was essentially paternalistic and women have had to struggle hard to change that social reality. Somehow during the struggle women came to feel their claim to social equality was being undermined by their feminine appearance and dress, as

every cross-dresser knows, is a very effective way of changing appearance. In my younger days dresses, skirts, stockings and heels, which were the principal forms of feminine dress and now they have been replaced by slacks, suits and other masculine type clothing. Dress in the work place was the initial frontier women established in their effort to achieve broad social acceptance of their equality.

The truth is equality stems from a person's commitment to and participation in the everyday life of society at large. Those women who understand this notion have no difficulty gaining social acceptance no matter what they wear. But I digress - back to my trip.

Wendy, my friend of several years, has problems passing. Part of this has to do with her physical appearance and part with her choice of clothing. When I came off the 'plane in Van-

couver she told me I looked just great- a real knockout were her very words. I her next breath she said she would never develop the confidence to carry off a trip like mine.

Wendy drove me into town where we met my daughter and breakfasted at Denny's on Broadway before proceeding into the West End. The weather that morning was typical Vancouver with heavy ominous clouds and signs of recent rain all over the place. It had rained all night I was told and the outlook for the Parade was not that good. Vancouverites generally do not let weather get in their way and Gay Pride was to push on regardless. I bought an umbrella on our way to the parade route and we three decided to stick it out no matter what. Vancouver's Gay Pride is one of the best such parades on the continent and I for one did not want to miss it.

As it turned out once we were in the West End the weather began to clear and by 11:00am the sun was starting to break through the clouds from time to time. In fact the afternoon turned out to be near perfect.

This year the parade offered 350 floats or sections and it took 3 hours to pass. We actually short circuited the parade by walking slowly towards its start point. From our initial view point just East of Beach and Denman we slowly walked up the route to the

Robson and Denman assembly point. In this way we were able to see all of the parade and, just as important, to gain a full appreciation of the spectators some of whom were just as colourful as the parade people themselves.

Some 250,000 people turned out to see the show. The entire West End was closed to vehicular traffic so that everyone there had had to walk in from different parts of the downtown area.

The parade was just magnificent. Highly organized it contained some lavish floats and there were lots of really great personal contributions. There were political protesters who were there to show how the BC liberal government has not been to kind to the Gay, Lesbian and transgendered community. Also, there were numerous other participants who simply wanted to be exotic and outrageous. Each section of the route was kept with it so to speak by a drag queen cheerleader and they had lots of fun with the crowd and the crowd with them. Fun and frolic were everywhere.

Much later that afternoon, tired but happy, we left the West End and drove over to Wendy's home in Surrey where I was to stay for the first 4 days of my vacation and a lovely vacation it was.

Ed-

equality stems
from a
person's
commitment
to and
participation
in the
everyday life



Humour!



So, just WHO is cutting in on the other's territory?????
Some women say they don't understand our need to crossdress. Ads like this confirm that most of them do it all the time! We should be so lucky!!!! If you know one of these women, be sure and show them this billboard! (photo courtesy of Sabrina)

SPEED BUMP



Birthday Girls!

Leah

Oct 1

Ardra

Oct

12

Lisa

Oct

19



...A FABULOUS 4 PAGE
ARTICLE FEATURING
PHOTOGRAPHS ...
COVERS ALL ASPECTS
OF CROSSDRESSING

Swerve features Masquerade!

For those who weren't at the September meeting, this will be extra exciting news!

Our September meeting was highlighted by a visit from Swerve Magazine's Richard Wood. He contacted us through a friend of Shandi's about doing an article on our group and doing a makeover on him, so he could get a proper understanding of our "hobby". We were happy to oblige him!

The previous Saturday he came to Shandi's to interview her and Vanessa, and make the arrangements for the coming Tuesday. We made sure we had a nice dress, shoes, nails etc. for him, and coached him on all the necessary preparations.

On Tuesday we had a fun

meeting where we got to watch Andrea transform Richard into "Dolly" and learn many tips and techniques in the process. Afterwards we took Dolly to Club 200 and Gio's where she had surprised a few people and got to know us a bit better.

The result is a fabulous 4

page article featuring photographs of the evening's events. The article covers all aspects of crossdressing from our perspective, his experience and research. It is an excellent piece that you'll want to have your own copy of! The issue hit newsstands Oct 2nd! Be sure and get yours!



Dolly's Gang!
Andrea, Ardra, Natalie, Sabrina,
Jacilyn, Dolly, Vanessa and Shandi.

COMING OUT

Many people have parts of themselves that they are uncomfortable sharing with others. Often it comes from a fear of being rejected, due to a preconceived notion that we know exactly how another person will react. Crossdressers in particular nearly always have difficulty "coming out" to friends and family. Because we always fear the worst. Each situation is different, and before you tell anyone the most important thing to remember is that you know the person best. You are the best judge as to how the person is going to react. When considering whether to tell someone or not to tell someone, you must decide if your fears are justified, or just your own paranoia. Chances are if your fears are justified, you shouldn't be telling that person.

Sooner or later we have to come out to some degree or we will go insane. Some girls as they become more comfortable with themselves want to do more than just go to club meetings and events. And the more times you go out, the greater the risk of getting caught. You have to determine who should know, and why they need to know. You may even want to tell the world, but maybe the world doesn't need to know. The selected people you share this part of yourself with should be in two categories, those who need to know, and those you want to share it with.

You must always consider the benefit to yourself and to them of their knowing your "terrible secret", what their attitudes towards it might be, and how much to tell them. So people will be open to learning everything, some don't need to know all the gory details, just the basics. They will ask if they need to know more. When you meet a potential girlfriend/boyfriend all sources say that it is important to tell them as early in the relationship as possible. This isn't easy, as it means exposing a lot of your innermost personality all at once. But consider that if you tell them early enough you still have the opportunity to reassess the relationship, before it becomes an issue. It's not easy, but consider how hard it will be later in the relationship. What if they feel like you've been hiding other things from them too? This is often the case, and can be the beginning of the end. Honesty up front, is the best policy in any relationship, even if you're not a crossdresser.

One way to gauge possible reactions is to notice reactions or ask questions when situations arise. If you come across a TV show, or movie like Sorority Boys, Too Wong Foo, Priscilla etc, ask a question or make a comment then. Often if it's brought up in conversation it will be easier to get a feel for the person's real feelings. Springing it on them, or being caught of guard can often be too much of a surprise, and therefore the person will automatically be on the defensive. Remember though that a positive reaction towards a movie or a stranger in drag is one thing. Some people react much differently if it's someone they know, or have feelings for.

Once you've gained some insight consider the benefits to you. People may accept it many different ways. Some may take it at face value, and say, "It's okay, what ever". Others may say, "It's your thing, just don't do it in front of me". And of course the dream reaction is "Cool, let's go shopping!" Remember, that self esteem comes from within you. The fact that someone may not accept this part of you is not necessarily your fault. They may have other issues besides your lifestyle. Often it is thought that the ones who put up the most opposition to those who are different, have the most to hide. Often it is they who can not get past those preconceived notions. If you think that the friendship/relationship may not survive your "coming out" perhaps, and think about this before you do anything, perhaps this person is not open-minded enough for you to be involved with regardless.

If you determine that it's worth the risk, it's up to you to take the next step. You must be prepared with information to answer whatever questions they might have about you, and how this is part of who you are. Don't assume anything. It will more than likely come as somewhat of a surprise. Be ready to listen as well as to educate, and correct any misinformation as it pertains to your own situation.

From our experience, it is a huge relief when you don't have to hide. It relieves stress and anxiety. It can improve your relationship by not having to walk on eggshells, and open up freer communication. Remember together we all can help each other. It's impossible to help everyone in the world, but Masquerade exists so we have the resources to help each other and those who are important to us.



Vanessa & Shandi
Collaborators!

SELF ESTEEM
COMES
FROM
WITHIN YOU

Vanessa &

DRAGOWEEN

Friday
November
1st
At the
Down Un-
der!

(Club Happenings Down-
stairs!)

272 Sher-
brook Doors

A JOINT VENTURE OF
Masquerade and
WTG
TO RAISE FUNDS



TICKETS ONLY \$10.00
AVAILABLE AT LADY GODIVA'S, THE
RAINBOW RESOURCE CENTRE, CLUB
HAPPENINGS,

Volunteers needed! Please contact Shandi!

PHOTO GALLERY



Mary and her birthday cake!



Natalie, Vanessa, Shandi and Sabrina lounge around outside Edwina's.



Edwina, Vanessa, Shandi, Andrea, Jacilynn, Jennifer, and Mary Ready for a "Hot August Night" aboard the Paddlewheel Queen!

Remember, if you have photos to share get them to Shandi by the deadline! They will be returned to you at the following meeting.



The Space Girls pose with our Den Mother!



Vanessa and Shandi perform at the benefit for DJ Christine at Happenings.

Masquera

c/o Lady Godiva Boutique
832 Corydon Ave.
Winnipeg, MB
R3M 0Y2

Phone: 204-586-9356
email: masquerade_mb@hotmail.

For the girl inside us all!

**Groups.msn.com/
MasqueradeMB**

We are a support group for cross-dressers, transvestites, and transsexuals. Our purpose is for people with like/common interests to associate and socialize. It is not for the purpose of soliciting or engaging in sexual activities.



All gender gifted individuals, who are 18 years of age or older, and are prepared to respect our bi-laws, are welcome. Spouses and significant others are encouraged and welcome to attend meetings and functions and join if they wish.

We regularly meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month. The meetings begin around 7:30 p.m. and go until 9 or 10. Refreshments, but no alcohol, are served. A \$3.00 due is charged to help cover costs of the tea & coffee, etc. that are provided.

We endeavour to maintain a very friendly, laid-back atmosphere. We are all there for the same reasons—a place to go to that is accepting, private and relaxing. Change facilities are available. Dressing for the first meeting or two is not required, but encouraged!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PAINTED LIPS

I hope your summer was a good one. I say “was” because by the time you read this the dreaded “S” word may be on the ground! Mine was fun because we had a lot of outings and events over the past couple of months.

I feel that I have to start pointing us in a direction as a club, and as individuals. It's halfway through the year and while we have progressed, other things have dwindled. Please understand that this is something we all have to help with in some way, big or small. I don't expect everyone to come volunteering for everything, especially since we are all on different levels.

But it could be as simple as words of encouragement for new members, and even us “seasoned veterans” need help from time to time. I'm not criticizing anyone, I just don't want to see anyone inadvertently get left behind.

My other concern is that our meetings sometimes drag out debating uninteresting issues. This makes meetings sometimes boring, and we end up looking unprofessional to new members, and to visitors. We have suggested “executive meetings” to deal with the various issues that may not be of direct interest during regular meetings, that would free up meetings for events and

guests. If you have other suggestions that you think could help please tell us.

We came up with an idea a while ago of making a video. We could get volunteers to talk about themselves and how the club has helped them, and we would add video footage of club events such as parties and meetings and outings. We would loan the tape to potential new members through Mary, or after their first meeting. Please come talk to me if you would like to be involved or have other ideas we could use to make our group more fun and interesting.

