

A RAY OF SUNSHINE

NOTES FROM MR GAY AMERICA 2022 - KC SUNSHINE



JAN. 23
EDITION

www.MrGayAmerica.net

K.C GETS POLITICAL

Mr. Gay America invited to perform for National Black Caucus of State Legislators



LAST DANCE

Hear how K.C and Miss Gay America 2022 Dextaci spent their final few weeks reigning together as we welcome Miss Gay America 2023.

MR. GAY AMERICA NAMED "2022 SYSTEM OF THE YEAR!"

More from the 2022 Lets Talk Pageant Awards...



Happy Winter Season America, and welcome back to “A Ray of Sunshine” Volume 2, with Mr. Gay America 2022, KC Sunshine. I hope everyone has had a wonderful Winter and Holiday Season thus far. I know personally this season has been exhausting but an absolute blast.

My work this winter season started in Houston, Texas, after Mr. Gay USofA, when I volunteered at the Alliance Multicultural Center during their “Thanksgiving for Refugees” event. Two of my closest friends and I helped pass out clothes, supplies & boxes of produce to refugees from all across the world. After the event, I booked it over to Hamburger Mary’s Houston where I joined the cast and hostess Alexye’us Paris for 3 amazing sold out shows. I had not performed on a Texas stage since 2011, and those girls made me feel so welcome and right back at home; we had such a great kiki backstage! I was up bright and early the next day for an amazing day of shooting with Tios Photography, before catching my flight home to Kansas City.

The end of November marked a tragic event for our LGBTQ family when the shooting at Club Q occurred, claiming the lives of 5 individuals. I was saddened to hear this news not only because it was an attack on a safe space in our community, but because I have been lucky enough to perform at Club Q and know firsthand how great the staff & patrons of the bar are. As upsetting as it was to see the headlines and news report, it was just as heartwarming to see the outpour of love for the Colorado Springs community that came from across our nation to support the Club Q family; I’m very proud that I was able to participate in several benefit shows in Kansas, Missouri & Nebraska.

December started off with an incredible BANG for Mr. Gay America as my husband and I traveled to Las Vegas for a weekend filled with family, friends & fun events. I started the trip off by performing as Michael Jackson at Drai’s Nightclub for the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, 46th Annual Legislative Conference. The event was hosted by comedian Bill Bellamy (who I’ve loved since I was young) and marked a huge milestone in my career while performing not only for Representatives from across the nation, but also alongside Motown legend Bubba Knight; brother to Gladys Knight and one of the original Pips.

What an honor it was for Mr. Gay America to spend the evening meeting some of our country’s most influential Black Leaders and rubbing shoulders with government officials. The next day, my amazing Royal America wife Dextaci joined us in Las Vegas and we spent the evening with our dear friends Nina Deangelo, David Robins, our MrGA owner Simba and his husband Danny. We began the night with food trucks & artwork exhibits at First Fridays, moving then to a patio bar for cocktails around a fire and rounded out our evening at David’s home for a family night of pizza, baked goods, and movies.

Our final day in Las Vegas, Dextaci and I had a fabulous Mr. & Miss Gay America couple photoshoot, followed by a dinner with the Living Legend Lawanda Jackson (who coached us both on our America journeys). It was a blessing to have this time with Lawanda to catch up on life and enjoy pageant stories. As a holiday gift, David treated the family to the Barry Manilow Holiday Show and we saw the icon himself in a Christmas-Holiday extravaganza show that night. This Las Vegas trip was exactly what the doctor ordered to give my husband and I a weekend with family and friends, and allow Dextaci & I time to build more memories for our reign as Mr. & Miss Gay America 2022.



Upon returning to Kansas City, my responsibilities in the community jumped back into full swing as I started one of my favorite annual projects called Project Pride. Project Pride is a theatrical safe space group for LGBTQIA+ high school students sponsored by the Coterie Theater. Each year, the youth work together and create an original production of one acts that center around topics of equality & activism in the LGBTQIA+ community. This is my 6th year as a co-director and each year the students come up with an amazing, powerful, and eye-opening production. This year's production will be performed March 4 & 5 in Kansas City. December was also filled with HoliGay cheer and Winter fun as I performed in several local shows with Kansas City's finest performers; Flo, Melinda Ryder, Iman Mykals, Kyla Breeze, Regina La Rae and Christa Collins to name a few.

After Christmas, I took a roadtrip to Nashville, Tennessee with my America brother Felix Patrick (Mr. Gay Missouri America 2022) where we attended the 2022 Let's Talk Pageant People's Choice Awards, put on by Twiin Riollano. It was so great to recognize the amazing accomplishments around our nation in pageantry, and baby the Gay America system walked away winning several categories on both the Mr. & Miss side that included: System of the Year, Best Stage & Lighting Crew (Neandre Bonet & team), King of the Year (Christopher Iman, MrGA 2021), Queen of the Year & Marketing Guru of the Year (Dextaci, MGA 2022), and Innovator of the Year & Promotor of the Year (Simba R Hall, owner of MrGA). I also was very humbled to receive 2 awards that night; Best Fashion Tip & Impersonator of the Year.

The winter season brought some incredible memories to my reign and I am continuously grateful for every blessing that has come with the title of Mr. Gay America 2022. As the new year rolls in, I look forward to the new adventures & outings 2023 will hold for us but with new beginnings, I want to also remind everyone to take time for yourselves and your health; both physical and mental. It is so important to remember that you are loved and valued in this world, regardless of the hardships that may come, you can always find support in the community and you can always find refuge in those closest to you. Don't ever be afraid to reach out for help. You are a light in this world! Happy end of 2022 to All, and blessings in 2023.



Until next time,
KC SUNSHINE
 MR. GAY AMERICA 2022

