

A RAY OF SUNSHINE

NOTES FROM MR GAY AMERICA 2022 - KC SUNSHINE



NOV. 22
EDITION

www.MrGayAmerica.net

IT'S A FAMILY REUNION

Learn how family truly was the ultimate dream team for me during the national competition.

MY FIRST 30 DAYS

See what I've been up to during the first month of my reign.

HELLO AMERICA

Hear from KC Sunshine your newly crowned Mr. Gay America on his vision and goals for his reign.

KC Sunshine
MR. GAY AMERICA 2022

HELLO AMERICA!

A NOTE FROM KC SUNSHINE



**ME & MISS GAY AMERICA 2022
DEXTACI**

Welcome to “A Ray of Sunshine” Volume 1, brought to you by your Mr. Gay America 2022, KC Sunshine! I can’t begin to express how elated, humbled, and honored I am to have this nationally recognized platform, and to begin my work in the community with the title. Even more humbling, I get to share this 2022 title with the amazing beauty that is Dextaci, Miss Gay America 2022. She is such a gem that I’m happy to call a friend, mentor & my queen

The experience I had during the 2022 Mr. Gay America pageant was incredibly rewarding and mind blowing, for reasons beyond just that of winning. First and foremost, I was blessed to have an amazing support system behind me throughout my entire process and planning; my mentors, my dancers, my dresser, my designers, my sponsors, and my biggest supporter of all, my husband Derick (who’s been dubbed officially “America’s 1st Gentlemen”). I experienced firsthand the true meaning of Unity with my team.

A FAMILY AFFAIR!

THE ULTIMATE SUPPORT SYSTEM



In addition to my chosen family being there for me, I had my given family at my side all year for love and support. Perhaps the most incredible example of support was to have my family members present in Las Vegas to witness the entire week of pageantry, cheering me on and supporting my class of 2022 brothers. My husband, mother, father and grandmother (from Kansas City) and Tia (from Las Angeles) all made the trip to Las Vegas for MrGA 2022 week. Even my youngest brother Tommy took time off, from his Doctoral program at UC Berkeley, to attend the pageant; my middle brother Johnny supported me from Kansas City where he stayed to take care of the family pets. I can truly say that I was blessed beyond words to have them present each night, and to have had them onstage for a photo after winning.

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MY FIRST 30 DAYS

COAST TO COAST

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After being crowned on Thursday, October 6, my duties as Mr. Gay America 2022 began the very next day as I was invited to walk in the Las Vegas Pride Parade. That was a true thrill, and icing on the already sweetened cake of this title. Walking in the parade gave me the opportunity to see the LGBTQ+ community of Las Vegas, interacting with them to spread Love & Unity, as the new Symbol of Excellence. This first event will forever serve as a breathtaking first memory as MrGA 2022.

Upon my return to Kansas City, I hit the ground running as Mr. Gay America 2022. First, I was greeted by a surprise welcome home celebration from my home cast & bar of Missie B's. I landed at 7pm, and by 10pm I was on stage performing my first crowning number in my hometown, with the warmest welcome from the crowd, and sitting front & center was my husband, mother & father (all 3 had known about the surprise welcome and kept it secret from me).

During my interview with judges, I was asked what I planned to do to help bring more visibility to the Mr. Gay America system, the pageant world, and our LGBTQ+ community; my response was simple, "community outreach and awareness". It's my hope, and goal, to break out of the 4 walls of the clubs and bars, and take this platform & symbol of Excellence out into our LGBTQ+ and Allied community to show them what it means to be visibly excellent for the benefit of others; specifically working as an example for our LGBTQ+ Youth.

My first week as Mr. Gay America 2022 reflected just that. My first appearance in the community was a show and meet & greet at Missouri Western State University, which celebrated National Coming Out Day, on Tuesday, October 11. The very next day, I was invited to speak at Our Spot KC, a resource hub & center that provides assistance for the LGBTQ+ community, and provides programming for Youth every Wednesday. Being that 17 years ago I started my performing and pageant career in a youth center just like this (called Passages KC), it was a very nostalgic and gratifying moment to be invited to share my experience with the new youth of today.

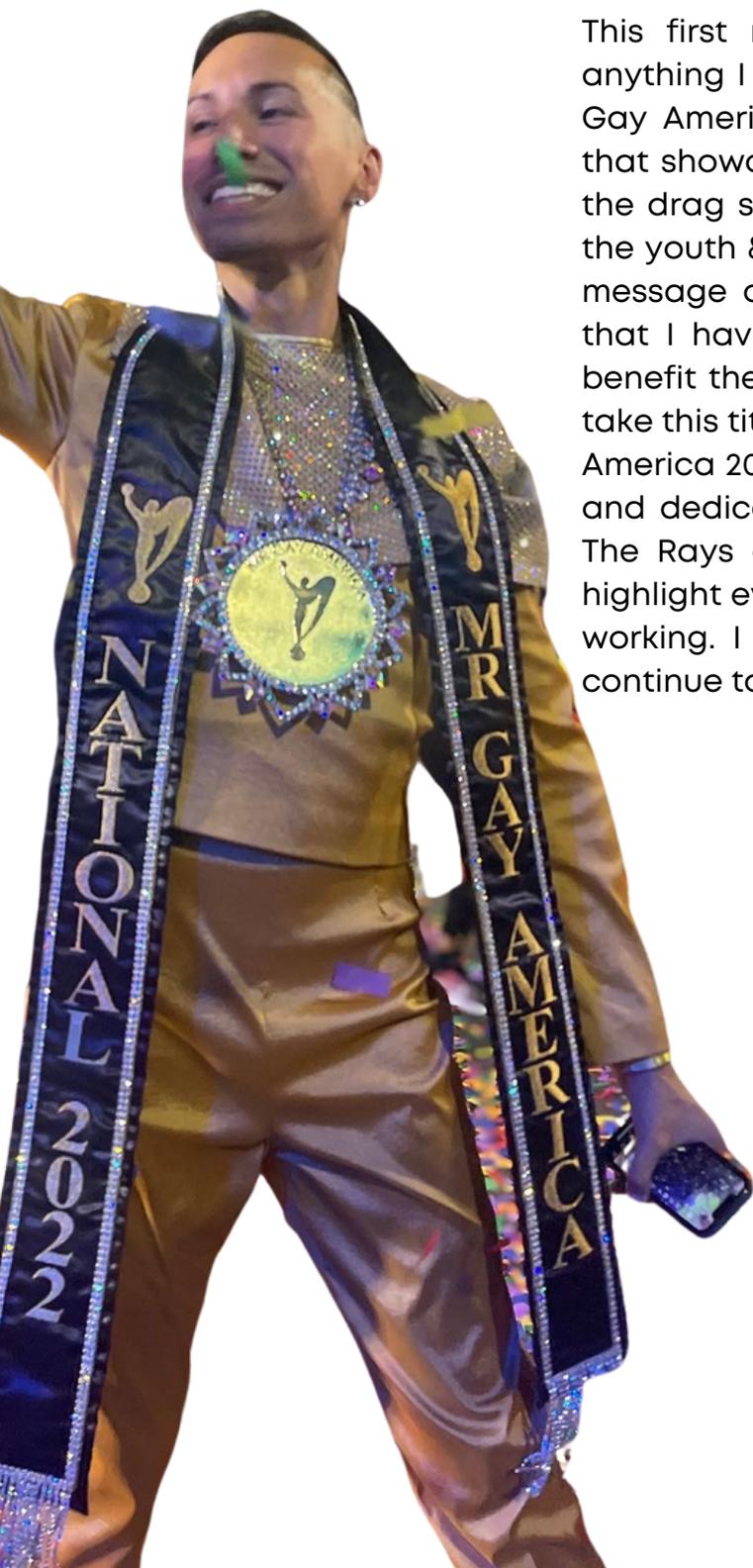
During the next few weeks, I found myself hosting the Queers & Fears Halloween Party (put on by Synergy Services Youth Resiliency Center), performing & co-hosting the 9th Annual University of Central Missouri Drag Show (put on by Nclusion Plus), and running in the "Girls on the Run" 5K marathon with my 4th grade students. Needless to say my first month as Mr. Gay America 2022 has quickly been overflowing my heart with joy and making my reign more memorable than I could have imagined.

During this past month I have also been fortunate to attend several pageants (on city, state, regional, & national levels) to support and show the Unity that is within our pageantry community. Starting with Miss Diamond America in Little Rock, where I was able to spend time with my new pageant queen Miss Gay America, Dextaci, and learn more about the administration side of reigning. I cannot begin to express how amazing it feels to have her as my reigning Miss Gay America queen and to have built such a great relationship with her already. Since I was crowned Mr. Gay America, she and I have spoken everyday, with both our visions of the America system aligned for growth & visibility. She has had such an immense impact on how I carry myself as a symbol of excellence. From Little Rock, I then jumped over to Springfield, Missouri to make a pop-up appearance at the Miss Gay Springfield America prelim, and support my good judge Tajma Stetson (Miss Gay Missouri America 2023) and my Missouri America family. The following weekend, I jetted up North to Omaha, Nebraska where I attended the National Monster Xtreme pageant in support of my friend Brett Shyanne and their step down. Finally, the traveling adventures of my first month's reign took me to Houston, Texas where I represented the Mr. Gay America system at the Mr. Gay USofA 2022 pageant, and baby let me tell you wow that was an amazing time! In addition to witnessing a great example of male pageantry and seeing the gentlemen exhibit amazing packages & talents on stage, it was so beautiful to be in the presence of so many of my National Reigning brothers, ALL representing their respective systems so well. The Unity that was showcased at Mr. Gay USofA is one that I hope continues to carry across every system, showing that our community is one of love, togetherness, and comradery

MY FIRST 30 DAYS

CONTINUED

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This first month as Mr. Gay America has been beyond anything I could have imagined when I won the title. As Mr. Gay America 2022, I want to be an example of excellence that showcases Unity in all aspects of our community. From the drag shows, the pageants, and the clubs, to educating the youth & the allied community, and finally to bringing this message of Unity to the mainstream community; the work that I have, and will continue, to put forth for myself will benefit the future of our community and this world. I do not take this title, platform, or undertaking lightly, and as Mr. Gay America 2022 I have set a standard for myself requiring work and dedication that I am prepared to put forth every day. The Rays of this Sunshine will continue to reach out and highlight everyone in our community, and I can't wait to keep working. I promise this month is only a taste of what will continue to come from KC Sunshine, Mr. Gay America 2022

UNTIL NEXT TIME,

KC SUNSHINE,
MR. GAY AMERICA 2022

