

Drag

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"I liked how some of my friends tipped them. It was really funny and entertaining," said freshman Amanda Snyder.

Each drag queen brought something different to the dance floor. Ann Fu Yung passed as a Lady Gaga look-alike as she sashayed around the room. Angelique Young and "The One and Only" Sasha wowed everyone with their back-flips and leg kicks that could put the Radio City Rockettes to shame. Not to mention that they did so while wearing high heels. Thea Trix may have put on the most heartfelt per-

formance with a mock rendition of Cyndi Lauper's "True Colors" and an upbeat remake of "Colors of the Wind."

As the drag queens followed suit with performance after performance, their costumes continually became more extravagant. Thea Trix opted for brighter dresses with neon colors and, when she spun around, the colors blended like a rainbow. No obvious wardrobe malfunctions plagued the night, besides an earring or two that lost its hold.

Midway through the extravaganza, the girls sidelined themselves to judge the student drag competition. Three students chose to participate this year. Geoff Zaffino, a sophomore majoring in aerospace engineering, was one of the three. The drag queens dubbed him "Visa Declined."

"This was my first drag show. I decided to do it because several of my friends are in Trigon and I thought it would be a lot of fun," said Geoff. "It wasn't at all uncomfortable for me. I've done a lot of theatrics in the past, and it really was quite enjoyable. I would definitely do it again."

Burt Ward, a junior majoring in electrical engineering, had never been to a drag show before, but after finding out about it last year he also decided to give it a go.

"This was my first year doing this," said Ward. "I had planned to do this and enjoyed it."

Although only three students willingly dressed in drag, this fact didn't deter the drag

queens. To make up for the lack of competitors, the girls picked male students from the crowd to transform into drag queens backstage. Four brave souls conquered this feat with, it seemed, their dignity still intact.

"I had a fabulous time," said Matthew Ritz, a senior majoring in environmental studies. "I have gone all three years. I love it. I am straight, but not narrow-minded. My girlfriend and I are strong supporters of the show and everything Trigon does."

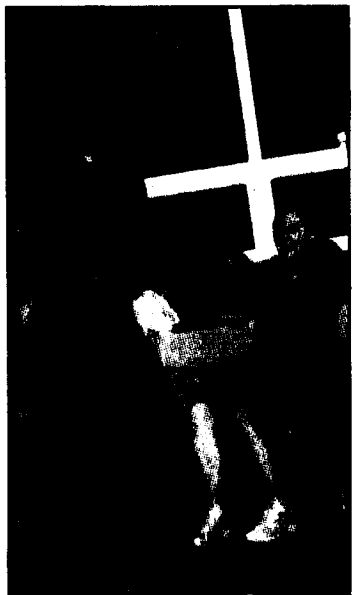
Freshman Brianna Spishock said that "the drag queens I conversed with were classier in comparison to most girls on this campus."

Some may not think of these ladies as "classy," but what they do is quite extraordinary.

Sasha is currently attending nursing school and is working as a health unit coordinator in Pittsburgh. She started doing drag as a dare from her catholic school music teacher.

After entering a contest for Kierra Darshell, creator of the "Stars of the Millennium Showcase" at Pittsburgh nightclub, Pegasus, Sasha decided to continue on with drag. She eventually claimed the title "Miss Pittsburgh," and has been doing drag for the past six years.

"I would love to go to Vegas and be a Vegas showgirl," said Sasha. "My biggest goal is to have a one hour concert style show with just music and dancing."



Ashley Bemis / The Behrend Beacon
"I think that this year was way better than last year," said sophomore Krista Banks. "We were excited; [the drag queens] were delicious."



Daniel Smith / The Behrend Beacon
While Sasha would love to be a Vegas showgirl, she has no problem coming to colleges to help students appreciate diversity through drag.

Down a different rabbit hole

Behrend production is a new take on *Alice in Wonderland*

EVAN KOSEK
culture editor

A dozen eager thespians take the stage Nov. 12 in a performance that will shatter gender role perceptions.

ALICE: Tales of a Curious Girl will debut after months of hard work and dedication from 12 new and familiar faces. Elizabeth Fogle, an English faculty member, joins the array of college students for this production, being the only professor in the performance. Of course, the big night wouldn't be possible without one key person: production director Chrystyna Dail.

"This is not Disney's version of the Lewis Carroll stories," said Dail.

This adaptation will focus on gender constructions within the original novel, as well as portraying contradicting views.

"I'm thrilled to be directing such a cohesive and talented cast," said Dail.

Tickets are on sale and available now in the Office of Student Activities.



Photo provided by ALICE press release

Senior Bryan Monroe joins junior Kylie Swanson as she takes the spotlight starring as the show's namesake, Alice.

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