

Appeared in GayWired.com online on October 23, 2006



Celebs, Amateur Drag Queens Raise Money for AIDS

2006 Best In Drag Competition Raises \$250K for Aid for AIDS
10.23.06

By Ross von Metzke

(Los Angeles, CA) — Amateur drag queens, a slew of [Hollywood](#) celebrities and an audience full of folks in a giving mood helped to raise more than a quarter of a million dollars for HIV/[AIDS](#) at this weeken's tragic and truly entertaining Best In Drag 2006 competition

Seven drag queens vied for the crown of Best In Drag 2006 as they suffered through [swimsuit](#), talent, evening gown and question and answer competitions, all to raise money for [Aid for AIDS](#), a Los Angeles based organization that raises money LA residents who are living below the poverty line with [HIV/AIDS](#).

Celebrity Photos by Tony DiMaio

The stars—including **Charlie Sheen**, *The OC*'s **Peter Gallagher** and **Melinda Clarke**, *American Pie*'s **Jennifer Coolidge**, **Kathy Griffin**, **Jason Alexander**, *Reno 911*'s **Niecy Nash**, **Chris Kattan**, [Academy Award](#) nominee **John C. Reilly**, *Vanished*'s **Rebecca Gayheart** and **Eric Dane** (*Grey's Anatomy*'s Dr. McSteamy)—sat in the audience as judges, gave money and were the frequent butts of the drag queens jokes.

Last night's event raised \$250,000 and counting as the [curtain](#) dropped at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, crowning Miss Pennsylvania Cookie D'eau (**Michael Patrick Coughlin**) Miss Best In Drag, largely on the strength of her talent competition, a performance of **Pink**'s "Dear Mr. President" on which she played guitar and sang.

The competition was fierce—literally, including back-stabbing [bible](#) thumper Rita Bible, strung out pothead Lacie Brownie, the babe with Bells Palsy Roxy Cotton, disillusioned dyke Sue Baru, muscular Miss New Jersey (complete with a turnpike inspired swimsuit) Anna Bollick and Hannah Schevitz, one Jewish stereotype after another.



Lotta and Ida Dunham provide bitchy color commentary

Throughout the event, bitchy color commentators Lotta (**Jeffrey Drew**) and Ida Dunham (**Todd Sherry**) rip the contestants apart, likening them to dog show rejects and peppering the evening with scathing jabs, one after another.

For the swimwear competition, Sue Baru graced the stage in a beaver skin two piece she skinned on the way over; for talent, Rita Bible and her marionette talked shit about all of the other contestants, condemning them and the Hollywood celebs to hell.



Jennifer Coolidge and Jason Alexander

The evening's highlight, which sparked a standing ovation, belonged to Roxy Cotton, whose evening gown began as a neatly wrapped gift and, after glittered confetti shot out of the top of the box, dropped into an elaborate representation of the Brooklyn Bridge, Roxy herself as the bridge's center.

Since 1983, Aid for AIDS has provided financial assistance to individuals and families impoverished and disabled by HIV/AIDS. From paying for housing to assistance with utilities bills, transportation and groceries, the organization hosts a slew of events yearly to raise money.

Best In Drag was remounted four years ago after a hiatus in the late '90s and early '00s by Master of Ceremonies **Patrick Rush** and his partner, Director/Producer **Tom Pardoe**.

Throughout the show, audience members toss wadded up singles at the performers, which are swept into the orchestra pit to be counted toward the evening's grand total. Rush periodically announces check donations as they are collected throughout the house.

Clarke, Gallagher and Alexander each donated \$1,000, while Kathy Griffin offered a make good for \$2,000. As the evening reached its finale, Rush announced a \$10,000 donation by Sheen, who attended at the urging of his *Two & a Half Men* co-star **Holland Taylor**, who attended in 2005 and raised more than \$10,000 for the organization.



Charlie Sheen and guest

For more information on Aid for AIDS, visit www.aidforaids.net. On the Website, you can access information for all of the year's fundraising events, including 2007's Best In Drag show.

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