

Best In Drag Show 2010

A huge "Thank You" from Aid For AIDS goes out to the volunteer cast and crew, underwriters, celebrity judges, attendees, and many supporters of Best In Drag Show 2010!

Best In Drag Show returned to the Orpheum Theatre on October 24th and raised more than \$250,000 for Aid For AIDS. It was a night of laughter and tributes that included two \$1,000 back flips by Lotta, drag show girls in gold lamé, **Kathy Griffin's** opening stand-up, and the maverick contestant, Miss Alaska, who loved hunting, resembled Sarah Palin, and won the 2010 crown.

The celebrity judges included **Holland Taylor** (Two and a Half Men), **John C. Reilly** (Cyrus), **Kathy Kinney** (Drew Carey Show), **Dot-Marie Jones** (Glee), **Jayma Mays** (Glee), **Sara Gilbert** (Roseanne, The Talk), **Linda Hamilton** (Terminator), **Chris Pratt** (Parks and Recreation), **Anna Faris** (Scary Movie), and **Heather Tom** (Bold and the Beautiful).

Star Lotta Slots, in a sparkling red mini-toga, opened the show with the high-energy "Guido's Song" from the 1982 Tony Award-winning Broadway musical and 2009 film "Nine." Her backup dancers were the Italian Greyhounds (show girls). The Italian theme was evident in the pre-party décor by **Michael Habicht/iiiDesigns**, the set design by **Jimmy Cuomo**, the advertising and program by **Tom Welch**, and the Greyhound's costume design by **Christian Satrustegui**.

Following two donation-driven back flips by Lotta and an introduction to comedian **Jason Dudey**, the new Master of Ceremonies, the show paused briefly to honor Lotta. Performer **Jeffrey Drew**, who created the Lotta Slots character and became a winning contestant more than ten years ago, has been an integral part of the fundraiser for many years. 2010 marked his eighth and final year as a color commentator for the show.

Patrick Rush, former show MC and long-time participant, presented Aid For AIDS' first *Patrick R Service Award* to recipient **Stephen Molinaro**. Stephen, performing in the show as Check Puppy, spoke eloquently about his journey in recovery, his mentors, and how significant the financial assistance will be for vocational training. He is maintaining a 4.0 GPA at The Art Institute of California. His brief remarks were a very high point in the evening, illustrating so beautifully how AFA's support can truly alter lives. Read more about *The Patrick R Service Award* at the AFA website.

The introduction of the six contestants started the competition. The intros were followed by the swimsuit and talent competitions. The night's winner, Miss Alaska, Bridgetta Nowear, created by **Taylor Goodrich**, was a glamorous, animal-hunting songstress in wolf and baby seal. Miss New Jersey, Juana De Ginah, created by **Luis Camacho**, was a sexy, fame-obsessed, acrobatic pole-dancer and singer who called her "Daddy" to deliver a \$1,500 check to AFA. Miss New York, Ann Let's Be Frank, created by **Tas Steiner**, sang about personal power and sported a 1940's style that incorporated design elements from Anne Frank's handwriting and WWII Germany. Miss Kansas, Charity Case, created by **Wendel Dupert**, was a petite but plus-sized confection who presented three representations of strong female role models. Miss Louisiana, Riga Mortess, created by **Donato Crowley**, was a gorgeous vampire and clothes-horse who waltzed through 300 years of undead and as many jewels. Miss North Carolina, Kitty Hawk, created by **Johnny Chaillot**, was a flight attendant with a personal interest in pleasing her passengers -- from her inflatable life-vest swimsuit to her song and dance in little more than an oversized cockatoo headdress.

Between segments, color commentators Lotta and newbie Dee W. Ieye, a creation of **Kevin Farrell**, shredded the contestants. Dee brought a wonderful balance and wit to their banter -- a delicate little belle with razor one-liners. She and Lotta were a much-talked-about part of the show.

Some of the other significant contributors and/or volunteers to the fundraiser included: Italian Greyhounds: **Christian Satrustegui**, **Jason Boegh**, **Jim Crane**, **Andrew Gouldh**, **Keith Lamont**, **Stephen Molinaro**, **Karl Padilla**, **Anil Patel**, **Don Pietranczyk**, **Brian Sharp**, **Mark Smith**, **Paul Wintner**, **Brian Zimmer**; producer/director/choreographer: **Tom Pardoe**; assistant to Tom Pardoe: **David Sanford**; writers: **Matt Durkin**, **Jason Dudey**, **Kevin Farrell**, **Jeffrey Drew**; lighting designer: **Joey Alfano**; props: **Roman Udalov**; music designer: **Pete Struve**, **Tom Pardoe**; stage manager: **Todd Gajdusek**; assistant stage managers: **Jeff Jerome**, **Dani Kelly**; Greyhound costume construction: **Craig Sadler**; set design assistant: **Jeff Simon**; stage drapery assistants: **Steve Markham**, **Bud Coffey**; stage crew: **David Arenas**, **Randi Borden**, **Doug Dangerfield**, **Luis Cardet**, **Rich Tobin**, **Denny Pleinmann**; lighting crew: **Dan Lewis**, **John Pedone**, **Adam Cohan**, **Braydon Schiner**; slide show photographer and event photography: **John Paschal**, **JPI Studios**; girl Fridays: **Tim Sullivan**, **David Weber**; tally masters: **Brandon Thomas**, **Ruben Zambrano**; green room hosts: **Jason Frazier**, **Gerry Mullins**; celebrity wrangler and greeter: **Patrick Rush**; Aid For AIDS: **Jeannette Bondurant**, **Terry Goddard II**, **Jamie Ju**, **Cary Monette**, **Raul Pavia**, **Alex Strautman**; media/red carpet assistants: **Andrea Krauss**, **Sherri Lewis**; pre-party assistants: **Seth Browning**, **Robert Montgomery**, **Leland Baldwin**, **David Weber**; video of event: **Lorena David**, **Pete Fitzgerald**, **Mark Jackson**; ushers, will call, and night-of assistants: **Adel Akkad**, **Aaron Montgomery**, **Ben Carter**, **Carla Estrada**, **Christina Ma**, **Danny Montgomery**, **Debbie Wade**, **DJ Grabe**, **Doug Wilson**, **Gail Slater**, **Jason Jobmann**, **Jeff Thomas**, **Jeffred Armas**, **Jennifer Winslow**, **John Arsenault**, **Jonathan Osborne**, **Kelly Jobmann**, **Maribel Ulloa**, **Mark Stuplin**, **Oskar Ulloa**, **Patrick Palacios**, **Ramon Ortega**, **Roy Chavez**, **Ruby Montgomery**, **Sabrina Moore**, **Sandy Kim**, **Simone Kim**, **Steve Sun**, **Trent Holland**, **Vicki Freda**, and **Yolanda Gomez**.

Additional acknowledgements: **ABC Studios Set Construction**; **Blade Magazine**; **Campus Circle**; **Canal Club/Danny's Venice/James' Beach** - **Daniel Samakow**; **Tommy Clenney**; **Edge Performing Arts Center**; **EyeSpyLA**; **Fairfax Senior Citizens Center**; **Chris Ferrer**; **Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market**; **Frontiers IN LA**; **Gilbert Production Services**; **Dale Griner**; **HereMedia**; **RJ Holguin** and the **12 Step Store**; **Laura A. Hovermale** and **Hollywood United Methodist Church**; **Mark Robert Jackson**; **Chef Juan Gonzalez Catering**; **Evan James Lopez**, **Gerry Mullins**; **Odyssey Magazine**; **Orpheum Theatre** - **Steve Needleman**, **Ed Kelsey**, **Miles Williams**, **Deborah Stussman**, **Christian Andrade**; **RAGE Monthly**; **Jeffrey Simon**; **S.I.R. Audio/Video Company**; **Liz Skaggs** - **Motion Graphics**; **Mike Stone**; **Urth Cafe**; **The Velvet Garden/Kim and Diane**.

Thanks, again, to the show underwriters: **Spencer Recovery/Chris Spencer**; **Dr. Mark Honzel**; **Howard Green** and **Authentic Talent & Literary Management**; **U.S. Executive Search Inc./Cecile V. Munoz**; **Erik Hyman** and **Max Mutchnick**; **Dr. Kyle Landauer**; **Denis Cagna** and **Carlos Medina**; **Eagle LA**; **John P. Monahan**; **Kevin Sharkey**; **Robert Russell Turner**; **Jeff Bradley**; **James Andre** and **Paul Kellogg**.

(Extensive efforts were made to include all volunteers and significant contributor names, however, inadvertent omissions or errors may have occurred. J. Bondurant)



Holland Taylor, John C. Reilly, Heather Tom, Kathy Kinney, Kathy Griffin, Anna Faris, Chris Pratt, Linda Hamilton, Dot-Marie Jones, Jayma Mays, Sara Gilbert.



Best In Drag Show benefiting Aid For AIDS 2010 Cast, Director, & Judges



Dee W. Ieye



Kathy Griffin



Stephen Molinaro



Patrick Rush



Lotta Slots



Jason Dudey



Miss Louisiana Riga Mortess



Miss New York Ann Let's Be Frank



Miss Alaska Bridgetta Nowear



Miss Kansas Charity Case



Miss North Carolina Kitty Hawk



Miss New Jersey Juana De Ginah



Last Year's Winner Sybil Rights



Miss Alaska 2010 Winner

Photos by JPI Studios.

Link: www.aidforaids.net/index1.html for news, services, events.