

**2009**  
**Mr. Gay USofA**  
**AND**  
**Mr. Gay USofA At Large**  
**Contestant Handbook**



**September 30, 2009**  
**October 1, 2009**  
**October 2, 2009**

**Club Crystal**  
**Houston, Texas**

## Rules and Regulations –

1. Contestants for the Mr. Gay USofA and Mr. Gay USofA At Large Contests must be males and 21 years of age by the National Pageant to enter. All contestants should be prepared to present a valid, non-expired state issued ID at Registration. Contestants may not compete until the identification has been presented
2. All contestants for the Mr. Gay USofA At Large Contest must weigh at least 200 lbs at both their preliminary contest and the national contest.
3. Judging will be on a total points accumulated system. Score sheets will be provided by USofA Pageants. Ties will be broken by the higher talent score.
4. Contestants will be judged in the following categories:
  - a. Personal Interview
  - b. Talent
  - c. Club Wear
5. Talent presentation will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set up and tear down time will be limited to five (5) minutes. Talent presentations will be timed at rehearsals and any presentation over seven (7) minutes will have administrative points deducted.
6. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable except those which might cause injury to the audience or any other person. No excessive glitter and no fire or water may be used in any talent presentation. No live animals will be allowed in any talent presentation.
7. The use of or dispensing of any illegal drugs or marijuana will not be tolerated while a contestant is participating in any USofA Pageants event. Immediate disqualification will result for anyone who breaks this rule.
8. Any contestant who is not at their appointed place at the appointed time will lose administrative points.
9. Any contestant, contestant's dancer(s), helper(s), etc who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with any other person's property will be disqualified and immediately removed from the location of the contest.
10. USofA Pageants does not discriminate against any contestant with silicone or hormones. The use of silicone or hormones will not be considered by any judge while scoring either contest.
11. Once a contestant has placed as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate in a preliminary contest they may not enter another preliminary within that system. They must go to the national contest with that placement.
12. Any contestant who qualifies to compete in the national contest and fails to attend will be banned from the system for a period of three (3) years, must pay back any prize monies to their promoter and pay a \$125 fine to the national promoter.
13. Once an individual has won any USofA National Title (Miss Gay USofA, Mr. Gay USofA, Miss Gay USofA At Large, Mr. Gay USofA At Large, Miss

Gay USofA Classic, Mister USofA MI, Miss Black USofA or Mr. Black USofA) they may not compete in any USofA Pageant until the end of their reign.

14. USofA Pageants and Craig Henderson reserves the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered by these rules and regulations.

### **Accommodations -**

All Mr. Gay USofA contestants are required to secure accommodations for the nights of September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at the host hotel. Mr. Gay USofA At Large contestants are only required to secure accommodations at the host hotel on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. ANY exceptions for local contestants must be cleared through Craig Henderson before the contest.

The Host Hotel will be –

**The LaQuinta Houston  
Medical Center/Reliant Center  
9911 Buffalo Speedway  
Houston, Texas 77054  
713/668-8082**

The Host Hotel is off of Highway 610 West at the Buffalo Speedway directly across from the Astro Dome and Reliant Center.

All reservations must be made by calling the hotel directly. All rooms must be guaranteed by a credit card or prepaid. The room rate is \$59.00 per night plus tax. These reservations must be made by September 15, 2009 to receive this discounted rate. You must identify yourself as a member of the Mr. Gay USofA group to receive this discounted rate. If you do not have reservations at the host hotel (unless it's been cleared through Craig Henderson) you will lose administrative points. ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE GUARANTEED WITH A MAJOR CREDIT CARD OR PREPAID.

### **Admissions –**

Contestants do not have to pay admission to Club Crystal on any night of competition. All dressing room assistants, dancers, prop personnel, managers, lovers, etc. must pay admission to all events. Club Crystal is an 18 and over club. All persons entering Club Crystal MUST have a valid ID.

- Preliminary Competition – Mr. Gay USofA - \$12.00 – Wednesday
- Mr. Gay USofA At Large - \$12.00 – Thursday
- Final Night – Mr. Gay USofA - \$20.00 – Friday
- 

You must purchase tickets or pay cover for everyone in your group including dressers, dancers or any other helper.

IF you desire reserved seating – you can purchase that in advance by contacting Craig Henderson at [texas@usofa.org](mailto:texas@usofa.org) or by calling 713/947-9170.

## Applications –

The deadline for filing your applications is September 30<sup>th</sup> for Mr. Gay USofA and October 1<sup>st</sup> for Mr. Gay USofA At Large. Everyone should have an application filled out before you get to registration. Please fill out your application and bring it with you to registration.



## Mr. Gay USofA Mr. Gay USofA At Large Official Application

**PLEASE PRINT**

IN BLACK OR BLUE INK

Stage Name \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date Of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Backstage Assistant

Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Talent \_\_\_\_\_

Artist and Title of Talent Number

\_\_\_\_ Live \_\_\_\_ Dance \_\_\_\_ Lip Sync \_\_\_\_ Props \_\_\_\_ # of Dancers

By my signature below, I hereby agree to release and hold harmless USofA Pageants, Craig Henderson, The Official Mr. Gay USofA Contest and the Mr. Gay USofA At Large Contest, hereinafter referred to as the "contests", Preliminary Promoter's, their agents, servants and employees from any liabilities and/or responsibility whatsoever from, associated with or arising out of my participation in the "contests" and/or the titles of Mr. Gay USofA or Mr. Gay USofA At Large, including but not limited to personal injury and/or damage to personal property regardless of whether the loss, injury and/or damage occurred before, during or after the "contests" or any related activity.

I also hereby release myself from rights to any video taping (sound and/or video), photography (still camera or motion picture) of the "contests". I understand that I have no rights to any of the recordings that I appear in or on or the future sales thereof. I hereby agree that my name and photographs (still or motion picture) taken of me during the "contests" may be used for publication, promotional purposes or in any advertising publicity. By my signature below, I affirm and attest that I have read the Rules and Regulations of the "contests" and agree to abide by the same.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Legal Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **PRIZES –**

### ***TOP THREE FINALISTS***

Mr. Gay USofA - \$1500.00\*

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate - \$500.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate - \$250.00

Mr. Gay USofA At Large - \$1000.00\*\*

1<sup>st</sup> Alternate - \$500.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate - \$250.00

ALL winners must present a valid ID and Social Security Number when receiving prize money. All prize money will be distributed at a location to be announced following the crowning of the winner.

\*Mr. Gay USofA will receive \$1000.00 upon winning and the balance of the prize money after having completed the obligations of the reign which includes being present and performing all nights of the Mr. Gay USofA 2010 Contest.

\*\*Mr. Gay USofA At Large will receive \$750.00 upon winning and the balance of the prize money after having completed the obligations of the reign which includes being present and performing at Mr. Gay USofA At Large 2010 Contest.

## **Contestant Coordinator –**

This year Craig Henderson is proud to announce that **David Bridgman** will serve as contestant coordinator to assist you during the week in Houston, Texas. His job is to help ensure that you have an enjoyable time during your experience at this years contest. He is your point of contact with USofA and will be available to all the contestants daily. He will be reporting to the National Promoter daily on all matters.

## **Club Wear Competition –**

Contestants should dress as they would for an exciting night out on the town. You should wear clothing that you would expect to see in a large club in any major city in the USofA. Your club wear choice should match your personality, look and lifestyle. Club Wear should not be a costume for the stage but rather what you would wear to the club. Club Wear description cards will be submitted prior to your club wear competition. No other information should be placed on the description card. We DO NOT read description cards for any other category.

## **Personal Interview Competition –**

Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judges panel. The purpose of personal interview in the USofA System is to provide the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. In the interview the judges are allowed the opportunity to evaluate each contestants basic qualities – such as – intelligence, ability to communicate, attitude, composure, etc. The judges may also gather information about the contestants professional or personal life.

The basic nature of the interview is intended to be casual and relaxed. The suggested attire for interview is “Casual Day Wear”. Each contestant should select clothing in which he feels at ease. You should dress as you would for a job interview. Interviews for Mr. Gay USofA and Mr. Gay USofA At Large will be held at Club Crystal. Mr. Gay USofA At Large will have their personal interview following your contestant registration on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at Club Crystal.

## **Talent Competition –**

Any type of talent presentation will be allowed as long as it does not cause danger or injury to any contestant, dancer(s) or any audience member. You may not use fire, excessive glitter, water or liquid of any kind in any talent presentation. You may not use any live animals in any talent presentation.

Your talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop set up and take down time is limited to five (5) minutes. There is no restriction on the number of people you may have in your talent presentation.

At your contestant registration you must purchase dancer passes for ALL dancers in your talent presentation. If any dancer does not have a dancer pass they may NOT participate in your talent presentation.

Music for your talent presentation must be recorded on a CD-R, track one (1) and clearly marked with the contestants name only! NO CASSETTE tapes will be accepted. Contestants are advised to make a back up copy of their talent CD-R and bring it to the contest as a safety precaution. All talent music will be turned in at talent rehearsal. You will not receive this copy back until after final night. Make sure you bring a rehearsal copy of your talent presentation. Your talent presentation should be recorded on track one (1) of your CD-R and your crown number should be recorded as track two (2). Commercial CD's or CD-R's with additional tracks will not be accepted.

We have allowed a limited time for each contestant's talent presentation rehearsal. This will allow time for sound checks, blocking and lighting cues. Please make sure you are prepared for your talent rehearsal as time is limited. Each contestant MUST attend the talent rehearsal. Back up dancers will be assigned a separate dressing area. Make sure you tell the contestant coordinator at the contestant registration the exact number of dancers and prop personnel you will have. Props must be brought in at talent rehearsal. You will not be allowed to bring props in at any other time. You must remove your props at the end of that nights competition. ALL props must be removed or they may be discarded!

If you feel you have made the top twelve are you will be changing your talent for final night, you must bring your talent CD-R and props to the final night talent rehearsal. That will be the only time you will be able to change your talent presentation. If you feel you have made the top twelve you will only be allowed to bring your props in at the opening night presentation rehearsal.

All competition will be held on the main stage and dance floor of Club Crystal. Please use your rehearsal time to block out the stage area. Because of limited space at the nightclub, USofA Pageants is urging all contestants to minimize the number of large props used. All props must be free standing and must be able to enter through a standard sized doorway. Remember that USofA Pageants does not provide contestants with backstage staff for prop set-up and tear down, although we will assist with your props as much as possible. The backstage staff will not, under any circumstance, be responsible for any damage to props while helping a contestant. Props may only be stored at Club Crystal on the day of competition. Each contestant must secure his own storage of props at all times. All Large props will be stored outside the back door of Club Crystal. If your props are large, be prepared to bring them in the back door, onto the stage and then directly off the stage and out the back door.

### **Meetings and Rehearsals –**

Because of the logistics associated with organizing the Mr. Gay USofA and Mr. Gay USofA At Large Contests, all contestants are expected to arrive for all meetings and rehearsals approximately ten (10) minutes before their scheduled time. Contestants who arrive for a meeting or rehearsal after their scheduled time will lose administrative points. The Mr. Gay USofA contestant registration will be held on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at Club Crystal. At contestant registration, you will draw a contestant number, receive your contest ID card, and receive a backstage pass. Contestants for Mr. Gay USofA at Large will have their contestant registration on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at Club Crystal. You will be given one backstage pass for a dressing room assistant. The backstage pass does not give entry into the club. It will, however, allow one person to enter the dressing room with you to assist. No extra helpers will be allowed in the dressing area. If you have more than one assistant, only one may enter at a time and must use the same backstage pass to enter the dressing room.

### **General Information –**

It is very important to remember to bring plenty of towels from home to remove your make-up. Any contestant that uses the hotel towels to remove make-up will be fined \$10.00 **per towel** and lose 5 administrative points **per towel**, so bring your own. Remember to bring this handbook with you to the contest. It has all of the information that you will need. I would like to mention a point I want every contestant to take to heart. We all gather once a year to select a new Mr. Gay USofA and Mr. Gay USofA At Large. The staff and I want your week to be a pleasant experience. I would like to state that no damage to the Host Bar or Host Hotel will be tolerated. I want everyone to understand that I will help the Host Bar or the Host Hotel prosecute any person or persons causing damage to either place. Let's have a good, safe time! Each contestant is responsible for ensuring that each person in his party has proper identification. Club Crystal is an 18 and over club. **Everyone must have a valid ID for entrance into the Host Bar.** Please do not ask for special help. Each bar owner is responsible to his state liquor board to follow the law, which includes each person having the proper identification. **You must have a valid state issued ID for entry to the club.** All persons, including contestants, will be required to have your hand stamped at the door.

## Presentation of Contestants –

All contestants are required to appear on stage, final night, for the Presentation of Contestants. The Presentation of Contestants is not a scored category of competition.

**Contestants for Mr. Gay USofA at Large** will be presented on Thursday night, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme for Mr. Gay USofA At Large is **1980 Prom**. You **must** have a date with you for presentation of contestants. Pictures will be taken as if you were at the prom.

**Contestants for Mr. Gay USofA** will be presented on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The theme for Mr. Gay USofA is **Zoot Suit Riot**. No white outfits/costumes will be allowed!

## Scoring –

### *Preliminary Competition (Mr. Gay USofA only)*

Scoring for preliminary night's competition of Mr. Gay USofA will be done on a cumulative scoring system. Each judge will give each contestant a score based on his performance in the category without regard to the other contestants. With this scoring system, more than one contestant may be given the same score. Scores are assigned as follows:

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Personal Interview             | 1 to 12 points    |
| Club Wear                      | 1 to 12 points    |
| Talent                         | 1 to 24 points    |
|                                | -----             |
| <b>Maximum possible points</b> | <b>48 points</b>  |
|                                | -----             |
| <b>Subtotal (x 5 judges)</b>   | <b>240 points</b> |
| Administrative Points          | +25 points        |
|                                | -----             |
| <b>Total Possible Points</b>   | <b>265 Points</b> |

There will be five Judges all week long. The Twelve Contestants with the highest scores will become the finalists.

### *Final Competition –*

The twelve (12) contestants with the highest cumulative score from preliminary competition will be scored comparatively for their final night scores as follows:

|                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Personal Interview                | 1 to 12 points (From Prelim Scores) |
| Fashion                           | 1 to 12 points                      |
| Talent                            | 2 to 24 points                      |
|                                   | -----                               |
| <b>Maximum possible points</b>    | <b>48 points</b>                    |
| X 5 judges (high and low dropped) | -----                               |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                   | <b>240 points</b>                   |

The preliminary score sheets and judges comment sheets will be available to contestants following the announcement of the winners. The finalists will receive their judges comment sheets and a copy of the master score sheet after crowning. The top 3 will receive their prize money at a location to be announced

### **Additional Information –**

To obtain additional information regarding the Mr. Gay USofA Contest or the Mr. USofA At Large Contest please contact Craig Henderson by calling him at 713/947-9170 or 713/213-7350

### **Official Jeweler –**

The Official Jeweler of USofA Pageants is Rhinestone Art. You can contact them by email at [sales@RhinestoneArt.com](mailto:sales@RhinestoneArt.com) or by phone at 972/93-3552.

### **Host Club –**

This year the host club for the Mr. Gay USofA and the Mr. Gay USofA At Large Contests is **CLUB CRYSTAL** in Houston, Texas.

Club Crystal is an 18 and over club. You **MUST PRESENT** valid identification to enter the club. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Club Crystal is on Highway 59 South at the Hillcroft exit. After you exit the highway stay on the feeder road and Club Crystal will be in the strip shopping center located on the right side.

## **Schedule of Events –**

### **Wednesday – September 30th – Mr. Gay USofA**

|          |                         |              |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 12:00 pm | Contestant Registration | Club Crystal |
| 2:00 pm  | Talent Rehearsal        | Club Crystal |
| 2:00 pm  | Interview               | Club Crystal |
| 9:00 pm  | Doors Open              | Club Crystal |
| 9:00 pm  | Contestant Check In     | Club Crystal |
| 10:00 pm | Club Wear Competition   |              |
| 11:00 pm | Talent Competition      |              |

### **Thursday – October 1<sup>st</sup> – MR. GAY USofA AT LARGE**

|          |  |              |
|----------|--|--------------|
| 12:00 pm | Contestant Registration                | Club Crystal |
| 2:00 pm  | Contestant Interviews                  | Club Crystal |
|          | TALENT REHEARSAL WILL FOLLOW INTERVIEW |              |
| 9:00 pm  | Doors Open                             | Club Crystal |
| 9:00 pm  | Contestant Check in                    | Club Crystal |
| 10:00 pm | Talent Competition                     |              |
| 12:00 am | Club Wear Competition                  |              |

### **Friday – October 2<sup>nd</sup> – MR. GAY USofA FINAL NIGHT**

|          |                                 |              |
|----------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1:30 pm  | Opening Production/Presentation |              |
|          | Rehearsal – Contestants         | Club Crystal |
| 9:00 pm  | Doors Open                      | Club Crystal |
| 9:00 pm  | All Contestants Check In        | Club Crystal |
| 10:00 pm | Final night begins              | Club Crystal |

**Remember to bring this handbook with you to the contest.**