

"IMPERIALLY YOURS"



Newzy
Letta of
I.Q.K.

Imperial Queens & Kings

of Greater New York

Vol. 29, No. 9 - "SUMMERTYME '97"

██████████, Manhattan, NY 10011

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"La Cage aux Queens"

New York City Police Dept.'s Gay Officers' Action League ("GOAL") again sponsored the "Gay Celebration of Pride" at Police Headquarters.

On display was the 1969 blue Cadillac "Stonewall Car". Police Commissioner HOWARD SAFIR acknowledged its historic presence.

Event hosted by Gay actor/writer/author HARVEY FIERSTEIN. "HARVALA" is gaily shown above with (L-2-R) NY Imperial Queen ALLYSON ALLANTE, Countess CLOVORIA and Queen CINDY CHAN.

* * * * *

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★ COMMISSIONER LYNN & THE QUEENS

Our special guest speaker for May was the NYC Department of Transportation's excellent Commissioner, Christopher P.R. Lynn. He is also the proud, highest-ranking, openly Gay official in Major Rudy's City Hall Administration. Pictured with C.P.R.L. are (L-2-R): Queen CHRISTY LYNNE, Queenette TINA RAPPORT, Queen ALLYSON, Grand Duchess RAYETTE, King STORME and Squires JAZMIN.



CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF GENDER EXPRESSION

Issue #79 Summer 1997

Transgender *Tapestry*



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On Stonewall the Rebellion,
the Movement, the Movie

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Queen Allyson Allante

From Stonewall the Rebellion to Stonewall the Movie – & All Parts in Between



Queen Allyson Allante. Monarch. Performer. Activist. Stonewall veteran. Movie star. Party girl. TG mover and shaker. President of The Imperial Queens and Kings of New York, the Big Apple's oldest all-inclusive TG group. (Other IQ&K chapters can be found in Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.) The IQ&K was, ironically enough, founded twenty-nine years ago at the Stonewall bar, not long before the rebellion.

A TG social and support organization, the IQ&K includes transsexuals, heterosexual crossdressers, F2Ms, and drag queens, plus their families, friends and supporters. Its founder and current President, Queen Allyson, earned her position and imperial title the hard way: as a veteran of the original Stonewall rebellion that launched the gay and lesbian rights movement in 1969. The events of that night, as they did for the gay and lesbian community at large, were to turn a somewhat mouthy drag queen into a full-fledged political activist. A self-identified "gay male crossdresser," Queen Allyson comes across on the phone as a TG Fran Drescher. Brash, brazen, uninhibited and possessed of a laser-sharp mind, a phone call with Queen Allyson is like twenty minutes with the Marx Brothers, Einstein, Gloria Steinham, and Mae West all rolled into one. Unlike other TG activists, Queen Allyson doesn't hope for an occasional audience with the politicians whose votes and actions affect the future of the TG community. She hob-knobs with them on an almost daily basis. Most recently, she was asked to testify before the New York City Council, and has had Bronx Boro President Fernando Ferrer appear before the IQ&K to detail his position on the domestic partnership laws and TG rights. Now the hyper-kinetic Queen appears to be branching out into the movies with a short cameo before the opening credits of *Stonewall*, a fictional dramatization of the events leading up to the Stonewall rebellion. Though a whirl-wind of motion, Queen Allyson paused long enough to gather various reigning members of her court around her for a cover shoot by *Transgender Tapestry* Staff Photographer Mariette Pathy Allen and an interview with Editress-in-Chief, Jean Marie Stine.

TRANSGENDER: We understand you were at the original Stonewall bar the night of the rebellion that sparked the gay/bi/les/trans movement.

QUEEN ALISON: Yes, on June 27, 1969, that's when the Stonewall rebellion started. It was a Friday evening. I was there, as well as other members of the Imperial Queens. I was one of the ones, unfortunately, that were apprehended at the scene. That's the main distinction. And I did fight back. I fought off three cops, as a matter of fact, at the same time. The protests lasted for a week. I was there only the first night of the rebellion. I was in shock subsequent to that.

TRANSGENDER: From your point of view, what triggered the events of that evening?

QUEEN ALISON: It started because of the pattern of extortion and harassment against gay and transgendered people by the New York police. The cops would get regular payoffs from gay and TG clubs in Greenwich Village. If the club didn't make their payoff, then the cops would raid it! In other words, the cops were paid off not to raid it. It wasn't just the Village, either. It was a pattern, a citywide practice with gay bars, including Queens and Brooklyn. Years later, former mayor Koch indicated to me in a letter that the city of New York owes eternal gratitude to the Imperial Kings and Queens of New York and other organizations and individuals, who fought that pattern of harassment and forever changed the police department of the city of New York. Today, even the police acknowledge that, too.

TRANSGENDER: So, you're saying that the Imperial Kings and Queens was already in existence at the time of the Stonewall Rebellion?

QUEEN ALISON: It was formed before the rebellion, Halloween of 1968, at the Stonewall club. That was where a lot of TG people gathered, drag queens, transvestites, transsexuals. TGs came from Long Island and outer boroughs of New York, from New Jersey, even Connecticut because it was a dance club. We went there for the dancing, for the music. It was a fun place. One day some of us decided to form an organization, and that became the Imperial Queens and Kings. Since the Stonewall was the best place for people to get together because it was a central place to meet in Greenwich Village, we held our meetings there. One of the Mafia owners at the time, his name was Zucci, would say, "Will you girls stop having your meetings here?" I'd tell him, "Zucci, number one, we're not having a meeting; and number two, if we were, it's bringing in business." And he'd say "All right, all right."

TRANSGENDER: What actually provoked the rebellion that night?

QUEEN ALISON: It was the first weekend of summer, Friday night, the colleges had just finished for the year, the students had gotten out, the Village was jumping, and Judy Garland's funeral was that day. It was all over the front pages of the newspapers. And the club that evening was, festive, but melancholy. A lot of the girls were saying, "Let's have another drink to Judy," and were getting rather intoxicated over it. It was very mixed up. There was a tension in the air the whole evening. And then the cops invaded. Zucci must have forgotten to make the pay-off. It wasn't just NYC cops, either. There were elements of the First Division detectives, the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm agents, and the NYPD. It was really an invasion, a well-planned invasion. But they just picked the wrong night, the wrong place, the wrong village, and the wrong city."

TRANSGENDER: There seems to be a feeling that the Stonewall rebellion led to the movement for gay and lesbian rights, and also to the movement for TG rights. Is that your sense of events?

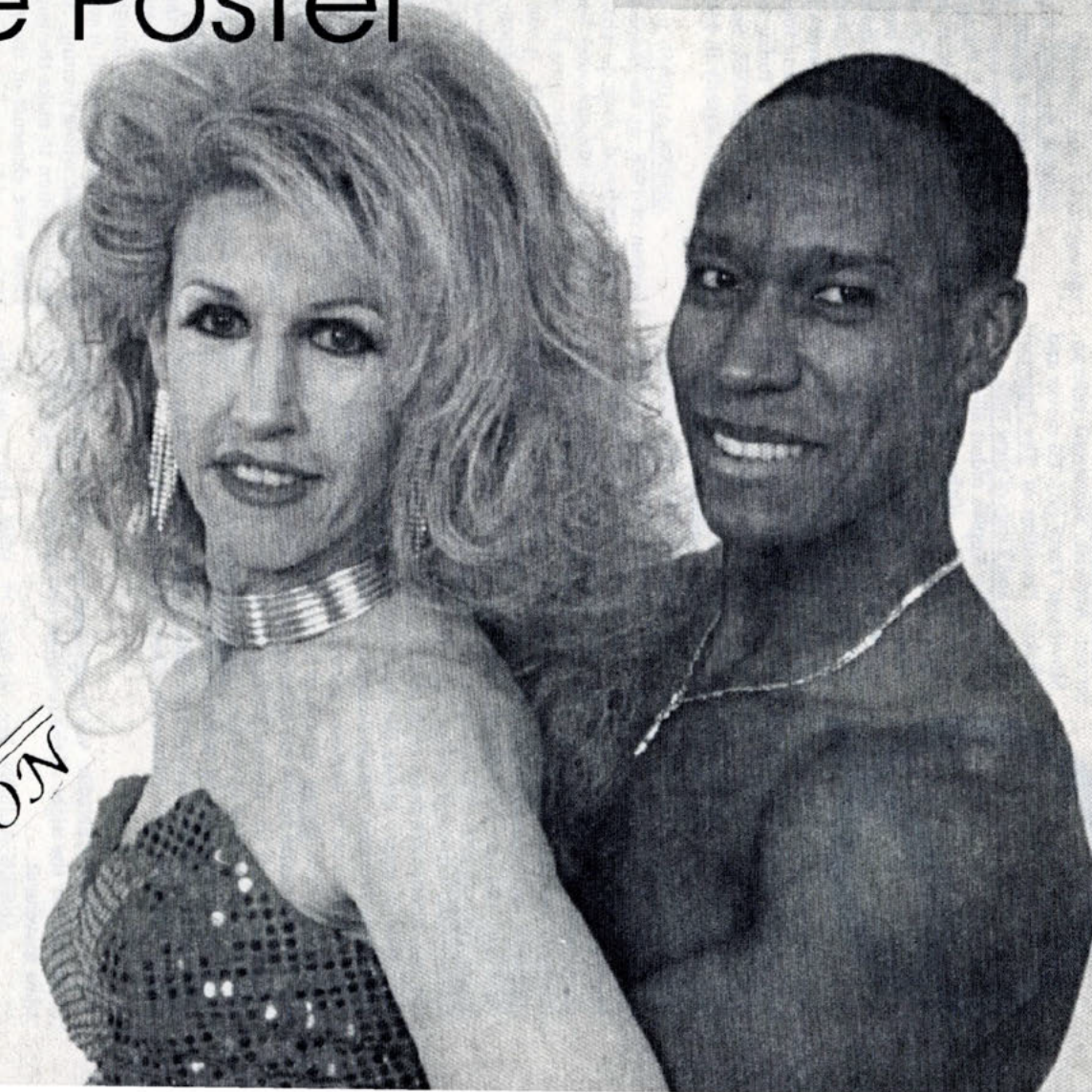
QUEEN ALISON: Absolutely. Gay and TG people stopped

continued

STONEWALL

The Poster

Photograph: Mariette Pathy Allen



Queen
ALLYSON

STONEWALL: The Movie

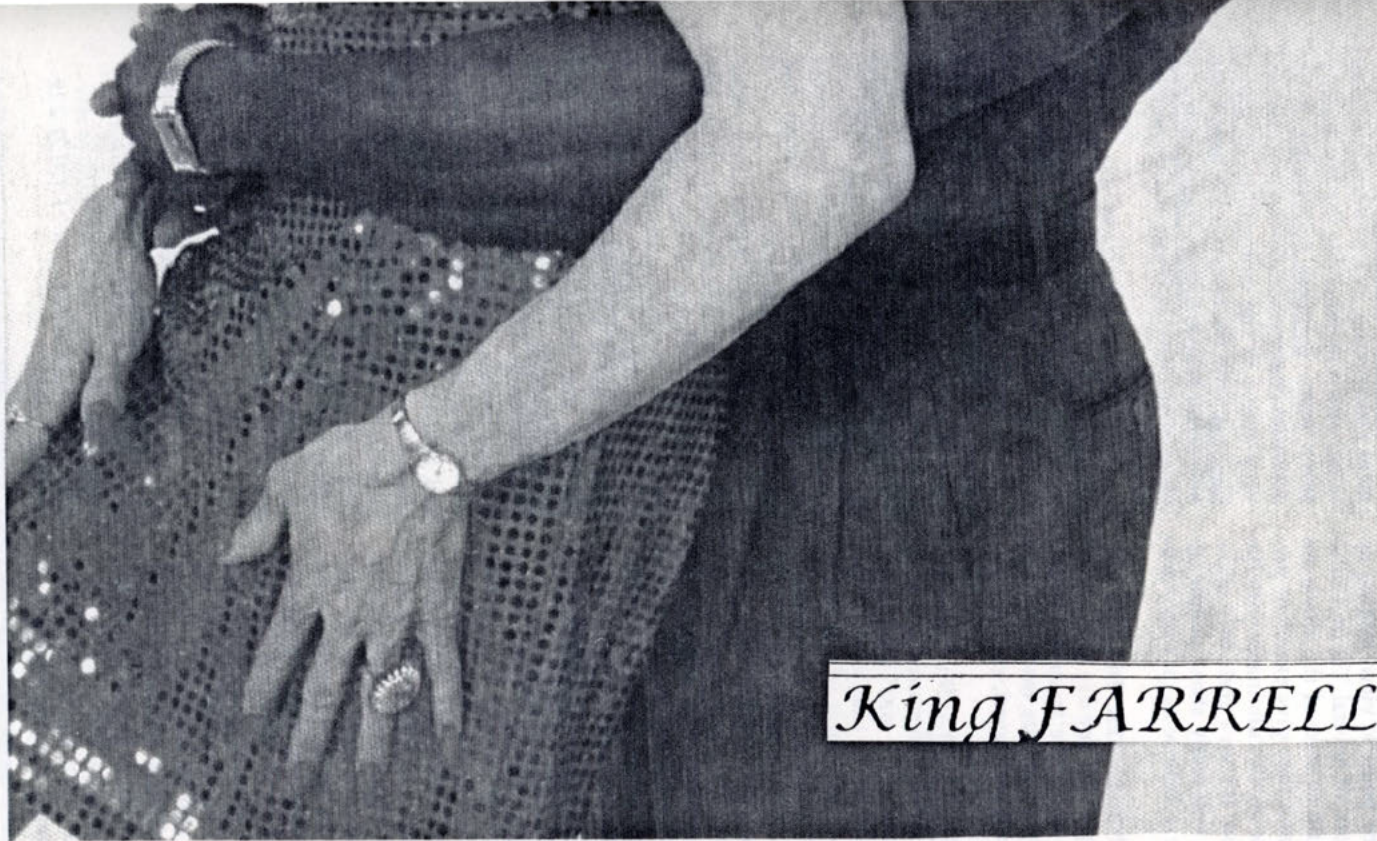
Stonewall is a modern cult classic that captures transgender reality on film. The movie, now available in video stores, expertly weaves poignant civil rights, with romance, humor, history, TG and gay culture, understanding, pain and political advocacy.

In one sequence a "straight" male had a clandestine love affair with a African-American DQ named Bostonia.

Their slow breaking-out-of-the-closet, multifaceted relationship reaches an unforgettable explosive culmination that is one of the film's most illuminating moments.

Stonewall nostalgically and movingly recreates the way TG and gay life used to be a quarter century ago from the shocking oppression and police raids to the colorful nights of love, lust and celebration.

A tune-filled soundtrack of songs popular at Stonewall during the late 1960s enhances the story and is available on soundtrack.



King FARRELL



continued

taking harassment, abuse and being relegated to being second class citizens. Within weeks of the Stonewall rebellion, the gay activist alliance formed, and after that, other political and social gay groups proliferated. We began to have organized unity where all the voices made a difference, particularly with the City Council of New York. Just two years later, the gay rights law was introduced. Prior to the Stonewall rebellion, if you had mentioned that there was going to be a gay rights law, it would have been laughable. As of the Stonewall rebellion, gay and transgendered people acquired minority status. Which is a big plus considering what things were like before.

TRANSGENDER: Did you or the Imperial Queens and Kings play any part in this?

QUEEN ALISON: Oh, absolutely. We have been instrumental in the Gay Pride Parade every year. We started the first parade. It was to the police station. The Pride Parade, which is copied throughout the world now, commemorates the Stonewall rebellion. That's why it's always the last Sunday of June. The Imperial Queens and Kings fought with the city council and public officials at that time, right through the '70s and the '80s, and really to this day. And the struggle is not over. We've made tremendous progress, but it's not over. One of the highlights of the '70s for the Imperial Queens was that we organized the coalition against Anita Bryant's homophobic gay-bashing campaign. And, as you know, that became a national issue. She was on the cover of *Time* and *Newsweek*, and we were mentioned in those articles as the group that started the protest.

TRANSGENDER: We understand that you remain as politically active as ever and that last month you spoke before the New York City Council.

QUEEN ALISON: I was invited to represent the TG community on the subject of the Domestic Partnership Law. This law states that any unmarried partners, whether they are gay, heterosexual, or transgendered, will have the same legal rights in regards to each other as a married couple. It pertains to survival rights, insurance, hospital visitation, and other matters. Without this law, if, say, one partner is in a hospital in critical condition, the other partner will be denied visitation rights because legally they are restricted to "immediate family only." I was the only TG person asked to testify. They picked me because they wanted someone who was knowledgeable, well-spoken, articulate, with some position and prestige in the community, and because I'm known to be a walking encyclopedia of modern gay his-

tory. It was an honor for them to ask me, and I returned the honor by accepting. Also, I wore a black sequined cocktail dress.

TRANSGENDER: Is it true that you appear as Queen Alison in a new feature length-film about the Stonewall rebellion?

QUEEN ALISON: The movie went into limited release last year. However, the film, which is titled *Stonewall*, by the way, is about to be released on video worldwide. There is a sequence before the opening credits, where they have actual Stonewall veterans talking about their memories of the rebellion. Again, I was the only TG veteran asked to appear in the sequence. *Stonewall* reflects gay and transgender life at that time. And it shows the events from the point of view, leading up to the rebellion, of several TG individuals. The star and co-stars of the movie are drag queens, and they give excellent performances. The movie culminates with the actual rebellion. It's very real, very accurate. The end will really shake people up when they see it. Believe me, it's very dramatic.

TRANSGENDER: Did you ever dream, years ago, that one day they would make a movie about the Stonewall rebellion, that the protagonists would be drag queens positively portrayed, and that you would be in it?

QUEEN ALISON: No. There had been so many raids at so many clubs over the years, that to us, it was just another raid. But I remember that even a few months later, we thought it would mostly be forgotten. You know, when you're in the middle of a fire, you don't realize all the ramifications that are taking place elsewhere in the burning structure. But the rebellion happened to be something that had positive, long-lasting results. Sort of like the civil rights marches of the 1960s.

TRANSGENDER: What are the Imperial Queens and Kings of New York, Long Island and Connecticut?

QUEEN ALISON: We are primarily a social organization, for drag queens, transvestites, transsexuals, drag kings, and their friends and admirers. Can't leave them out, because they're a very important part of our organization, and that includes the spouses of those who are married. Secondly, we are as you know, a politically aware and active organization. We get to enjoy the social freedoms we now have, as a result of being public, of being visible, and being out there. Over our whole history, and as recently as today, we call public officials, we educate them, we educate the public at large. I guess education is our third function.

We also reach out to TG people who are just coming into the transgender

world. We get calls from them constantly. That leads to our fourth function, which is as a support group. Fifth is our fundraising efforts on behalf of worthwhile causes within the gay and TG communities.

TRANSGENDER: Tell us something about the members of the Imperial Queens and Kings who were with you at the photographic session.

QUEEN ALISON: There is myself, of course. I'm one of the co-founders of the organization, a member of the Board of Directors, and the elected President. Cindy Chan, our Treasurer, is married with four children. Queen Chrisy Lynne, in the lime dress, our General Secretary, is also married with a supportive spouse and a child. Kontessa Kit Holiday, our entertainment chairperson, is a professional entertainer and a member for the last twenty-seven years. Baroness Beth-Hellen is our activities chairperson. She's a gay man and very active in the community. Countess Clovoria, with the long maroon hair, is our newsletter *hack*. King Farrell Armstrong, Chief-of-security, is a body builder and my partner in life.

TRANSGENDER: There's one photograph that shows you surrounded by your Executive Committee. What is its function?

QUEEN ALISON: The Executive Committee make policy decisions and does general planning for the organization. It's a very harmonious group. We never have altercations or anything. The Imperial Queens and Kings is unlike some other organizations that are torn apart by internal battles and jealousy. We have never had that problem. It's unique.

TRANSGENDER: Some New York TG community members have described you as being "a crazy-ass control freak." How would you respond?

QUEEN ALISON: (chuckles) How can I put this nicely? That was never the case, and the proof of it is, that the Imperial Queens and Kings is run *extremely* democratically, with annual elections. It strongly invites the participation of everyone. I'm an excellent Executive Director, and that is a quality and a skill which should be *complimented* not derided. I believe that if a male leader had the qualities I had, they would be praised as strong-willed and dynamic. But some in the TG community are jealous, and will try to deride anyone with qualities of strength.

(*Allison Ann Allante is President of the Imperial Queens & Kings of New York. She can be reached via this publication or c/o IQ&KNY, 70-A Greenwich Village Ave., #120, Manhattan NY, 10011 (212) 229-1968/627-1969.*)



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Rudy



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Rudy



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one standard"
mean something
...again.

* New York City is now the safest large City in America with major reductions in all crime categories...including a decline in the incidence of bias crimes against gays and lesbians.

* Rudy has long been a national leader and voice within the Republican Party on gay and lesbian issues and is an outspoken advocate on behalf of the Lesbian & Gay Civil Rights Bill and the Bias-Related Crime Bill in Albany.

* As Mayor, Rudy renewed Executive Orders guaranteeing employee benefits to domestic partners of lesbian and gay City employees.

* During Rudy's administration, New York City obtained more Ryan White funds to fight AIDS than any other administration in NYC history with funding growing from \$44.5 million in 1993 to over \$92.5 million in 1997. Total funding for the Division of AIDS Services was increased by 116%, ... from \$60.1 million in FY '93 to \$129.8 million in FY '97.... and a major restructuring of DAS, now the Division of AIDS Services and Income Support, has resulted in improved delivery of services to all DASIS clients.

* Rudy adopted the first, citywide AIDS housing plan designed to increase the number of available units.

* Rudy made the highest level government appointment of an openly gay person in NYC history by naming Christopher Lynn, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Transportation.

* Rudy fulfilled a long-standing, but previously ignored, \$1 million commitment to fund critical repairs to the Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

* And the Giuliani administration has just awarded a \$150,000 grant to the Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project to combat same sex domestic violence, the largest award for a single program ever received by this organization

This advertisement was paid for by the campaign to re-elect Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

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(alphabetically)



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THE CENTER Meeting
Every 1st Fri., 8:15 pm
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Imperial QUEENS & Kings of Greater NYOfficial IQKNY Calendar of Events 1997

Date	Day	Official Events
1/3	Fri.	IQKNY election meeting
1/8	Wed.	Hedda Lettuce Show
1/23	Thu.	* New York City Council "Hearings"
2/7	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: T/G photographer Mary Klein
2/27	Tue.	New York Times interviews
3/1	Sat.	* Tapestry Magazine photo session
3/7	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: Bronx Boro Prez. Fernando Ferrer
3/12	Wed.	* "Prime Time Life" t.v. show
4/4	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: Gender Identity Project
5/2	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: D.O.T. Christopher P. R. Lynn
5/10	Sat.	Gay Center "Prom Night" Dance
6/1	Sun.	Queens Gay & T/G Pride Parade
6/6	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: Judge Karen S. Burstein
6/8	Sun.	Long Island Gay & T/G Pride Parade
6/14	Sat.	Brooklyn Gay & T/G Pride Parade
6/18	Wed.	* "Prime Time Life" t.v. show
6/20	Fri.	"Stonewall Symposium XXVIII"
6/22	Sun.	"Barry Z Gay Pride" t.v. special
6/23	Mon.	"Garden Party" at The Gay Center
6/26	Thu.	* NYCPD's GOAL Pride Celebration
6/27	Fri.	* Mayor Rudy's Breakfast w/ Gay Leaders
6/28	Sat.	"Midnight Madness" Show @ Spike
6/29	Sun.	N.Y.C. Gay & T/G Pride Parade
7/11	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting
7/26	Sat.	IQK D/Q Show at Rome Club >>> entertainers, buffet & drinks
8/1	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: Councilman Antonio M. Pagan
8/16	Sat.	Evening at Cherry Grove, Fire Island
9/5	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: Mariette Allen's T/G foto slide show
10/3	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting Queen Allyson's Birthday Dinner
10/21	Tue.	Shirley Bassey Concert
10/31	Fri.	Village Halloween Parade
11/7	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting GS: Hair, Skin & Make-up demo
11/14	Fri.	Beaux Arts Society Costume Ball
11/27	Thu.	IQK Thanksgiving Dinner
12/5	Fri.	IQKNY monthly meeting Nominations 1998 IQK Officials
12/21	Sun.	IQK Holiday Dinner Party

* IQKNY Officials only GS=Guest Speaker

Please attend the next
Social & Business Meeting of the

Imperial Queens & Kings

on

Friday, September 5, 1997
@ 8:15 p.m.

The Lesbian & Gay
Community Services Center
208 West 13 St.
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Greenwich Village, NY
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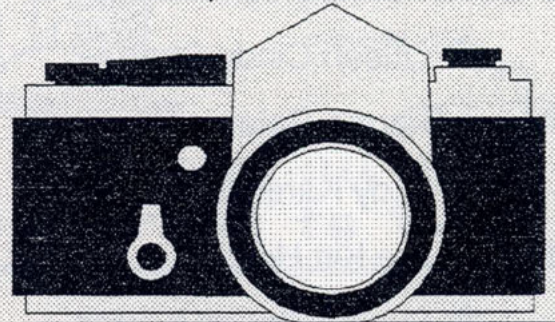
I.Q.K.N.Y.'s

Special Guest:

Mariette Pathy Allen
Staff Photographer
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Tapestry Magazine

Author of "Transformations"

Slide Show Presentation
Photos of Cross Dressers
History of T/G Community
IQKNY Tapestry Mag. Pix



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Imperial Queens & Kings of Greater NY

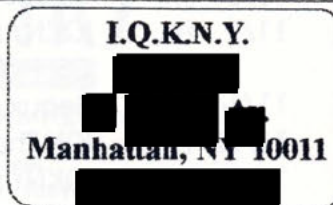
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Next IQKNY Meetings: Sep. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 -- all Fri. @ 8:15 pm