

RULES and REGULATIONS

1. Contestants must have reached the age of 21. Bring a current form of identification with you to Registration, and the pageant.
2. Judging will be based on a total points accumulated system. Score sheets are furnished by L&T Entertainment Ties will be broken by the answering of questions by the persons involved.
3. Contestants will be judged in the following categories: Evening Gown, Personal Interview (Male Attire), On Stage Interview and Talent.
4. The use of marijuana or the dispensing of any drug will not be tolerated while a contestant is participating in the Official Pageant. Immediate disqualification will result for those who break this rule. Contestants are responsible for their helpers and dancers.
5. Talent presentations will be limited to seven (7) minutes. No score will be given in the talent category for any presentation over seven (7) minutes in length. All talent presentations should be on a high quality CD, labeled with your name and the name of your talent presentation. A back-up CD will be required should your original be misplaced. Prop set-up time will be limited to three (3) minutes. Prop set-up time is not included in the (7) minute limit that contestants are allowed for talent competition. Twenty-five (25) points will be deducted from the administrative score if prop set-up is over three (3) minutes.
6. Any talent presentation is acceptable except those presentations that might cause injury to the audience or to other contestants. Pyrotechnics are not allowed! **NO FIRE OR WATER IS ALLOWED!**
7. Any contestant caught in the act of stealing will immediately be disqualified and removed from the location of the pageant.
8. Any contestant whose actions are interpreted as demeaning to the title of Miss Gay Mid America will be disqualified.
9. Any contestant that is not at an appointed place at an appointed time will have points deducted from a cumulative administrative score. Punctuality is a must at this pageant. No excuses will be accepted for being late to any function.
10. Any contestant that does not participate in all pageant activities or who is consistently late for rehearsals or appointments will have points deducted from a cumulative score.
11. The use of any type hormone is not allowed. Absolutely no breast implants, cosmetic or body enhancing implants below the neck or silicone (or any other similar type product-chemical) injections, excluding the face, will be allowed before or during the contestant's reign.
12. All contestants must be able to prove positive identification and must sign statements to hold the promoter Miss Gay Mid America, Inc., The Coliseum and L&T Entertainment harmless in any and all accidents that may occur during the pageant.
13. All entry forms and information sheets must be completed in full.
14. All dancers, assistants, etc., must have a ticket for the pageant.
15. All contestants must agree to follow the Standards of Conduct of Contestants and Titleholders. They are as follows: (winner and first alternate of Miss Gay Mid America must adhere to these guidelines). Titleholders must:
 - Present themselves professionally while representing their respective titles at all times.
 - Never demean the pageant or title they represent
 - Never cause substantial problems for their promoters or for those for whom they perform
 - Never become "too" intoxicated while representing their respective title
 - Never participate in any type of argument, except as a mediator, while representing their title
 - Try to resolve any problems with their promoter and/or co-performers in a peaceful manner and in good faith. Problems may be mediated through the Miss Gay America Board of Advisors. All complaints must be documented in written (typed) form for an opinion.
 - Never lecture the audience, only provide quality entertainment.

Violating the Code of Ethics for Titleholders may result in the disqualification of the title and/or jeopardize the winner's/first alternate's standing with Miss Gay Mid America and L&T Entertainment

Scoring System

Male Interview~~~0-150 points

Evening Gown~~~0-150 points

Talent~~~0-300 points

All scores will be multiplied by the number of judges on the panel. The Pageant committee will be responsible for deducting administrative points.

Talent

300 points possible per judge

Showmanship and set design~~~0-60

Physical coordination and stage presence (including dancers)~~~0-80

Quality (lip-sync, live vocal, and or other entertainment)~~~0-80

Value of presentation as entertainment~~~0-80

Talent is the highest point category in the Miss Gay America Pageant. Contestants will be judged on their lip sync, live vocal, or other entertainment. Judges will be looking to see if the contestant knows the words to their song and finishes each word. Just knowing the words is not enough. The contestant should look as if he is actually singing the song. Is it believable? If it is a live performance, is the talent of good quality? If there is choreography, the dancers should know the steps and the steps should flow. Do not attempt to do something that is beyond your talent. If you use dancers or actors in your presentation, do not let them upstage or out dance you. You are responsible for their performance. If a member of your troupe does not know his/her part, points will be deducted from your score. Quality of set design and construction will be judged, not QUANTITY. Do not put something on the stage that you are not going to use or does not have relation to something you are going to present. Contestants are responsible for their sets. If it falls apart or falls down on stage, points will be deducted from your score. Costuming and set design should go along with the mood you are trying to establish. Always examine your presentation for entertainment value. Does it please, cause laughter, sadness, or stir some emotion. Always try and make your talent presentation something that is not seen in an everyday show.

Male Interview

150 points possible per judge

General appearance~~~0-20

Personality~~~0-30

Ability to communicate~~~0-50

Answer content~~~0-50

The purpose of male interview is to put the contestant in a situation answering different types of questions and judging how he reacts to their diversity. The context of the answer is important, but more important is how the contestant comes across with honesty, and his manner of speaking. Eye contact with all the judges is very important. When responding with an answer, don't make eye contact only with the judge who asked the question, but with all the judges. Answer the judges' questions and do not get so involved in getting the opinions of the judges. You are being judged on your thoughts and how you present them. The contestant should look comfortable in properly fitted attire, but not to the point of sloppiness. Points will be deducted for ill-fitting jackets, pants too long or too short, socks that do not match the colors in the outfit, scuffed shoes, wrinkled, torn or soiled clothing, too much jewelry, buttons missing, and anything that distracts from the outfit to make it unsightly. The contestant is judged on the look he has chosen for himself. Usually, trendy outfits do not appeal to the judges, as they would not appeal to the average interviewer. The key word is average in appearance. The contestant will be trying to impress and appeal to different types of judges, and the flamboyant look may not appeal to every type of judge. Remember, you are interviewing for a "job".

On-Stage Interview

50 possible points per judge

Scoring is based on personality and poise, the ability to communicate on a microphone in front of an audience, and the context of the answer in relation to the topic given.

Opening Presentation (No possible points per judge)

Opening presentation gives the judges their first view of the contestant. Your presentation, whatever it may be, should meet all the criteria of all other categories in that it should be wrinkle free, stain free, no visible tears or strings. Remember, this is the first time that the judges will see you on the competition night. You should make an impression that will stay with them for the remainder of the competition.

This year's theme is "Mardi Gras and A New Orleans Lady" in honor of the hometown of Raquel Chevallier, Miss Gay America 2005 All Contestants will be required to wear a gold, green or purple cocktail dress (fabric or sequins/beads are acceptable). No head-dresses will be allowed to be worn by the contestants. Contestants will also be required to have a "hand-held" mask (mask on a stick). A cash award will be given for the best hand-held mask. The former Miss Gay Mid Americas will be wearing anything in connection with the theme of this contest, including head-dress.

Evening Gown

150 possible points per judge

Suitability for evening gown~~~0-30

Suitability of hairstyle~~~0-20

Presentation, modeling technique, poise, smile, etc.~~~0-40

General appearance~~~0-60

Evening gown will be the most elegant outfit you will wear during the pageant. It should compliment your figure and be a statement of your style and taste. The dress and accessories should be in perfect condition. No strings should be anywhere on the dress (this includes sleeves, neckline, hem, along the zipper, or at any seam). There shouldn't be any tears in any part of the fabric. The dress should be stain free and wrinkle free. It is the contestant's responsibility to take care of the gown and keep the gown in perfect condition for the duration of the pageant. The hem of the gown should be even, unless the style of the gown is an uneven bottom. The gown should be lined or have a slip underneath. The judges should not be able to see through any part of the gown unless that is the style of the gown. The gown length should be either to the top of the toe part of the shoe or approximately 1/2~1 inch above the floor. There should be no break in the gown (it should hang straight). The sleeve should be no shorter than the wrist, and no longer than an inch below the wrist unless the design of the gown sleeve is longer. A v-neck is fine, but if it is cut to low, it looks manly. Jewelry should accessorize and not be over powering. A beaded gown doesn't need anything more than earrings to complete a look. Shoes should match the outfit and complement it. Shoes should not be scuffed, worn at the toe or heels, and not seen to bend under the weight of the contestant. Modeling should be a slow easy pace, touching the three points that form a triangle. (If a judge wants a closer look, he/she may motion the contestant to the judges' table). At each point of the triangle, the contestant will make a slow turn, facing the back of the stage, pause, and turn to the front of the stage. If you feel it necessary to use your hands, one hand on the hip while turning is acceptable. Do not point out accessories or features of the gown while the description is being read. The judges will be listening to the description and noting any features. Practice turning and walking in the shoes you will be wearing during this presentation. Hair should be appropriate for eveningwear and go along with the style of the gown. Hair should not be unkempt, and should not be frizzy unless style warrants. Hair that is put up looks neater if long tendrils of hair are not going down the back of the neck, but if no hairline is showing this is acceptable.

**Entry fee of \$150 is payable to L & T Entertainment
by check or money order**

**If application and entry fees are received by March 1, 2005 at:
5372 Sportsman Dr, Nesbit, MS 38651,
the entry fee will be \$125.**

Dressing room policies

Listed below are the policies that all contestants and their helpers or dancers will be required to adhere to in the dressing room at the pageant. Violations of these policies will result in point deductions from the administrative points given at the start of the pageant. Contestants are responsible for their helpers, hairdressers, etc. These policies apply to everyone.

1. NO smoking or drinks will be allowed by anyone in the dressing room. There is an area outside the dressing room available. Violators will be breaking a pageant rule and will lose administrative points given at the beginning of the pageant.
2. Contestants are only allowed one (1) helper at any time in the dressing room. Each contestant will be issued one (1) dressing room pass. You, as a contestant, will be responsible for seeing that your helper has their dressing room pass. Persons who do not have a pass will not be allowed in the dressing room.
3. As per L&T Entertainment rules, **no alcoholic beverages may be taken into the dressing room.**
4. Dancers in talent presentation will be allowed in the dressing room two (2) contestants before them. (Example: When contestant two (2) starts talent, dancers for contestant four (4) may enter the dressing area.) When your talent is over, your dancers must leave the dressing area as soon as possible to make room for others.
5. Cover charges will be charged to **ALL** dancers and helpers – **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

You should bring a make-up mirror in case you need it.

These policies have been made to help the pageant run as smooth as possible. We ask your complete cooperation, and violators of these policies will lose administrative points given to them at the beginning of the pageant.

Miss Gay Mid America 2005

Pageant Schedule

Registration at Backstreet Coliseum, Memphis TN – 2:00 p.m.

Male Interview – Immediately following registration (3:00 p.m.)

Roll Call at Backstreet Coliseum – 8:30 PM

Pageant begins promptly at 9:00 PM

(if more than 10 contestants, evening gown will most likely be prejudged at 8:00 p.m.-this will be determined on the day of the pageant)

**Please make sure that you are on time for both Registration *and* Roll Call
Administrative points will be deducted for tardiness.**

Contestant Release Form

I, _____, a contestant in the Official Miss Gay Mid America Pageant, do hereby hold harmless and waive all rights of any type of lawsuit against: The Coliseum and or it's employees, L&T Entertainment, or the Official Miss Gay Mid America Pageant and it's representatives. I also release myself from rights to any videotaping, photography, sound recording, still camera photography, or motion pictures of this pageant. I understand I have no rights to any of the recording (audio or video) that I may appear in or the future sales thereof. I enter all activities during the course of the pageant at my own risk and expense. I understand the winner and first alternate agree to represent the title of Miss Gay Mid America and appear as requested with advance notice. Should the winner be unable to fulfill the commitment as Miss Gay Mid America, the title will revert to the first alternate.

I further agree any of my actions which are deemed as demeaning to the crown (as determined by the president of Miss Gay Mid America) or The Miss Gay Mid America Pageant during my year as Miss Gay Mid America are sufficient grounds for immediate and complete revocation of the title of Miss Gay Mid America, crown, all prize monies (un-disbursed or disbursed,) and all performance fees received as Miss Gay Mid America. I agree to honor the ruling of the president of Miss Gay Mid America as the final deciding authority. I further agree I will abide by and be held accountable to follow the "Standards of Conduct for Titleholders" as adopted for use by the Miss Gay Mid America Pageant.

Contestant Performance Release Form

By entering the Miss Gay Mid America Pageant, I, _____ agree, should I be selected as the Official Miss Gay Mid America, I will be obligated to conform to the standards of acceptance for personal bookings whether it to be to perform, entertain, emcee, or otherwise appear at any show, contest, benefit, function, parade, or gathering. Any and all said performances and appearances will be approved in advance through the corporate office of Miss Gay Mid America. I also agree that I will not utilize silicone or other similar type of enhancement or injection below the neck during my reign as Miss Gay Mid America. Failure to comply with these rules will be cause for immediate forfeiture of the crown, title of Miss Gay Mid America, and all prize money awarded (un-disbursed or disbursed). A number will be performed immediately following coronation of Miss Gay Mid America. Furthermore, Miss Gay Mid America agrees to appear at the next Miss Gay Mid America Pageant, WITHOUT COMPENSATION. Only lodgings for the night of the pageant will be provided. I understand that I will be responsible for the prompt payment of all other expenses at the time they are incurred.

By my signature below, I certify that I have read, and understand, and agree to honor the terms of the Contestant Release Form, the Contestant Performance Release Form and the Rules and Regulations as stated above.

Contestant Stage Name:

Birth Date:

Social Security:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Telephone:

Contestant Given Name: _____

Witness: _____ **Date:** _____

Evening Gown Questionnaire

This will be read during modeling of gown

Contestant Name:

City:

State:

Zodiac Sign:

Age:

Are you single or married? If married, how long?

Favorite Color:

Favorite Food:

Favorite Actor:

Favorite Actress:

Favorite Movie:

Favorite Pet:

My most admired female impersonator and why:

My favorite literary character and why:

If I were elected president, I would:

Talent Questionnaire

This will be read during prop set up and take down, and during time needed for judging

Contestant Name:

Sponsors:

My best quality is:

The one thing people find surprising about me is:

My greatest accomplishment to date is:

My ultimate goal in life is to:

People use this word to describe me (and why?):

I spend my free time doing:

I should be Miss Gay Mid America because: