



CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL

CDI National Office P.O. Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061 212-213-3352
Serving the Special Needs of Special People



CROSS DRESSERS INTERNATIONAL CDI IS FOR YOU

Cross Dressers International, hereinafter called CDI, was founded by S. Kristine James now director of the group. Kristine acted after many requests and years of planning. Finally, there are week night programs!

CDI is a non-profit, non-sexual organization open to all who cross dress with a full feminine identity regardless of sexual practices or orientation.

CDI sponsors meetings, parties, dinners, shows and serves as a membership organization serving the educational, social, recreational needs of all cross dressers.

For members and friends, CDI provides friendship and a secure, non-threatening environment. A newsletter is published and supplied free to members. Members receive substantial discounts to all special programs and activities and often free admission. Members also receive discounts on services and merchandise. Karen Cioe is our New York Director and S.

CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION

For some time we have heard the saying "I don't want to meet at Sally's!" Yet, no one has been able to find a better place or give us a good reason why. The parking is easy, the neighborhood has gotten better, but still we hear it.

We have changed our location for the January and February meetings to the Days Inn on 57th St. The December meeting went quite well. We had a good turn out and with Alison Laing, we had some great instruction in voice.

February will find us in the same place, second floor, Mandarin Room, (use the elevators in the rear of the lobby) with Muriel Olive. We hope to see you there. The only problem with this location is that it costs more than Sally's. If we get the expected increase in attendance then it will be worth it. If not, maybe you have a better idea. How about Buster's 29 at 129 Lexington Ave., or Buster's II or ?????

BARBARA HERR - Thursday, February 18, 1993

Here is how the entertainers do it. We are fortunate to have Barbara Herr who is seen on many stages of Manhattans more famous clubs, come to our meeting. Barbara has been at the Excalibur in Hoboken, NJ. This will be a wonderful opportunity to discover how make-up is done in the theater and maybe even find out if you could also be on stage.

This will be a fun night so plan to attend. More details of location to come.

IFGE NATIONAL CONVENTION March 16 to 21, 1993

Our March meeting will be held in Philadelphia, NOT New York. Many of our members will be attending this great event so we are moving our meeting to Philadelphia. On Thursday evening, March 18, 1993 CDI will gather for dinner and the evening entertainment "On the Town" in center city Philadelphia. We will leave the Philadelphia Hilton at 7 PM and go to a local restaurant for some very special events. If you do not attend the convention, at least come for this event.

There will be 5 days of seminars, parties and fun planned for the beginner, experienced or just the curious. Several public programs are being offered including press briefings and educational seminars for the general public.

A complete registration program has already been sent to you. This convention is being hosted by the Renaissance Education Association, our sister group in Philadelphia. Alison Lang has been working very hard for a long time to make this a very enjoyable and enriching experience. She had a lot of interesting programs that she presented to us when she was at our meeting in December. Merissa Lynn at IFGE and her staff have improved the program to encompass a wide variety of events to broaden your experience and knowledge.

CALENDAR

Jan 21	Muriel Olive
Feb 18	Barbara Herr
Mar 22	Meeting at IFGE
Apr 22	Welcome Party

MURIEL OLIVE Thursday, January 21, 1993

How many times have you put on make-up, dresses, wig, etc. only to look at yourself and say "Something is not right, but I don't know what." Color coordination can be a big problem no matter what you are trying to do in your male or female life.

Muriel Olive, of Fem-Fashions fame has developed a unique method of matching color and style to body types and skin tone. She will give a demonstration at our January 21, 1993 meeting at DAYS INN, 440 W.57TH ST, Second Floor at 7 PM.

Should you wear a turtle neck to hide the Adams Apple? Long sleeves or short? All these questions and more will be answered on January 21. Call Karen 212-213-3352 for reservations.

At this convention you will have the chance to meet all of the important people in our community. Dr. Sheila Kirk will discuss hormones and the various medical concerns of our community. Dr. Richard F. Doctor will talk about the psychological aspects and the interpersonal relationships that we all have. Virginia Prince will share her wisdom gained from many years as a cross dresser and a bigenderist. There will be business meetings for the advancement of our interests and broadening our experiences. Special programs for spouses, Transsexuals, FTM and others will be offered.

All work and no play is not allowed. Therefore, there are parties planned, a casino night, fund raiser, awards banquet, formal banquet and non-denomination service.

Kristine will be our representative at the Congress of Representatives that will meet on Wednesday. If there is anything that you want the community to know or do, she is the one to talk to. Also Kristine and the board of directors of GNYGA will be the facilitator at a meeting on Thursday concerning club activities and programs.

As you can see, there is a lot to be offered. This event needs your support for one or five days.

Please register today and join your friends from CDI and others from all over the world for this wonderful event.

MOONLIGHT IN MANHATTAN - April 22 to 25, 1993

Our April meeting will be held on April 22, 1992 at the Days Inn, 440 W. 57th St, Second Floor (use the elevators at the rear of the lobby). We will host the early arrival party for the MOONLIGHT IN MANHATTAN weekend. This will be a lot of fun to meet many friends from out of town. Plan to come at 7 PM to have fun. We are working on a program, but may just make it a rap session. Stay tuned.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS YET FOR THIS EVENT?

Yes, I know there are two big events going back-to-back. But that's the way that it is.

If you miss this event, right in your town, then you have missed THE event of the year. The bar/restaurant tour on Friday evening is going to be a blast. The bus will be going around in circles from 10pm to 3AM. There will be free admission to Sally's and many other clubs. There will be special open menus at selected restaurants and a lot of friendship.

Saturday will be open for shopping trips or for seminars by Jim Bridges, Muriel Olive, Mariette Pathy Allen, Dr. Jeffrey Mechanick, Lillth Martin and others.

Saturday evening, April 24 will be the highlight event -- a dinner dance, Moonlight in Manhattan. A delicious banquet buffet will be served. If you go away hungry, it is your fault, not ours. A disc jockey will provide music of all types and you can dance your feet away.

Entertainment will be provided by the Imperial Court, the same people that do the Night of 1,000 gowns.

These events are being planned for your benefit. You can go to one event or to them all. Plans are already underway for 1994 so come this year to find out what is in store for next year.

Be sure to contact Lynda Frank, 330 W 45th St., #3H, New York, NY 10036 212-765-3561 right away.



FASHION TIPS FROM TERRI by Terri White

TERRIES TIPS

Now that winter has set in, it is time to look at your wardrobe. There is always the question of what image you want to portray as you venture out of your home and into the main stream of the public.

Winter colors are usually dark, but they need not be as conservative as they used to be. For dining a business suit or knee length skirt is in, mini skirts are not unless you have a great size 8 body. For mall shopping stirrup pants or slack with sneakers or flats are in, heels are not. A fancy sweater in a bright color or white accented with a scarf are in. Shear blouses or lingerie are in if worn under a jacket are in. Yes, you can wear that lacy camisole slip as outer wear. You can even show your bra top if you have a chest that is not showing hair. How about one of those net-top body suits sold by Karen's Closet? These make a perfect blouse if worn under a jacket.

There are a lot of colors that you can select for a jacket. This year, gold is the color to be seen in. This can be a light weight jacket, blouse or tank top. Yellow is very much in for a jacket with a black skirt. Plaid stirrup pants or plain color stirrup pants with flats will give you a great, slimming look and you will pass very well when shopping for your new wardrobe.

The best answer to the question of what to wear is to decide where you are going and what you want to do. If it is your objective to go to a restaurant or a mall, stop and think of what a woman would wear and then dress accordingly. You will pass in a crowd and never be noticed. I have done it often times and so can you.

In January Muriel will help you select the right colors to wear in combinations that will flatter you, your figure and your complexion. Come and see how you can make your objective.



MURIEL SUGGESTS...

by Muriel Olive

MURIEL SAYS:

SHAPING THE EYEBROWS

The eyebrows are a very expressive feature of the face. The correct brow line should be used to add emphasis to what the eyes tell emotionally.

It is very important to shape brows properly. It is possible to pluck the hairs that grow over the nose between the eyebrows.

Also the hairs that flow down toward the eye at the back of the eyebrow may be included in this initial plucking.

If the eyebrows are thinned out a few at a time they will not appear feminine to the masculine world. This thinning doesn't really change the shape of your actual eyebrows; it just makes them shorter and neater but easier to change the shape to a feminine style when making up.

They might look a little thick and bushy but then Brooke Shields has nothing on you! You too, will look natural. The "painted on" look is out too unless your into Punk Rock. As the hairs grow back you can remove them again, a few hairs at a time, as before. No one will be counting hairs as you may think, but do it subtly. Very few people will notice or remember slight changes. Some people may think you look different, but practically no one can put their finger on any one thing. It may alter your expression but certainly not your gender.

TEMPTATIONS AND DREAMS

Imagine, if you will, this mental picture of frustration. Imagine a diabetic chocoalohic working at Hershey's candy factory. Imagine a crossdresser sewing lingerie in factories at Playtex or Shirely's sexy outfits and must only wear male clothes because he fears loss of employment status. Get the picture?

What about a transgendered person walking about seeing ads of women in beautiful clothes and make-up? Imagine a TV husband seeing his beautiful wife putting on those wonderful garments and functioning in society as the woman he desires to be.

What about the professional make-up artist who glides his are on women faces everyday, but must hide his cross dressing because he might lose clients fearing his abnormality? The hairdresser coiffures women's hair into mounds of beautiful masterpieces, but he has short male hair, must not tell a sole of his desires.

Imagine a father with five daughters and one wife, no sons. Picture the male professional at work with 50 secretaries in the office. Take the school teacher working with mostly a female staff.

Then there is the male nurse working with a predominantly female profession.

How about the male student at a once women's college just after allowing males to attend. Class with 40 females, 2 males.

These extremes are cited for illustration. What about the average, good old TV couch potato at home. Pick up

an average magazine and page through all the ads showing make-up, nylons and clothes. Imagine the torture when we prefer to look through Glamour, Vogue, New Woman, etc. and rarely look through Mechanics Illustrated and Sports Illustrated. Television offers no relief either. See all the ads for Legg's panty hose, Playtex bras, Jockey underwear and panty shield. Try the Haines magazine ad. It can really can get to you with "Haines for Men" with a picture of a woman getting into a car, wind blowing her dress up above her head, showing her smooth shiny sexy legs and high heels. Could that be really be a man looking so famine. Nuts, is this a dream or is it a nightmare of temptations.

Crossdressers trying to express their femininity regardless if dressed in femme or male clothes is frustrating when we perceive friends not to accept us. It is like being in the candy store and we can't touch. We look at women in a different light beyond the role of wife, mother and sexual partner. Would it be any better if we lived in a society without of women? Erase that thought too. No way!

Some men are threatened when women take jobs that once were in their domain. Yet, some welcome them. The more the better. They may progress on our shoulders for all the signs that men have bestowed on women in the past. But, in return we idealize the time for our sisters' liberation for us to express the dream to be famine, on beautiful womanhood. Are we still dreaming or really being tortured in a male dominated world.

Via la difference. We don't want androgyny. We want men and women to look different so that we can cross the line into a different persona, to join a different camp. We enjoy the smoothness and curves of femininity, the kindness, the communications of feelings and the nurturing. Let men adopt these characteristics, maybe they will become more tolerant of us who can cross the edge of gender boundaries.

Our personal future depends on how we accept these differences and how we can cope in our masculine roles. Do we find this life too stressful? Must we change for those few hours and days to release our stress? Would a change for a lifetime through surgery answer that burning need for identity? It is not easy to combine the dual roles we find ourselves planning and dreaming about. We must watch when speaking about a fabulous meeting with "friends" over the weekend. We must not speak about certain friends, or make up stories about how we met them. Through it all, this helps us transform our duality into a new self, one of wholeness, to fulfill a void that has caused us frustrations of another time.

THE CURRENT PSYCHIATRIC VIEWS OF CROSSDRESSERS

Some of the latest views on transvestism of the psychiatric profession were presented at a ETVc meeting at the Chex Mollet, in San Francisco, by Dr. Paul Walker, a previous president of the Harry S. Benjamin Society and

He said, "Transvestism or crossdressing in of itself is not a mental disorder. It is a disorder it is causing stress or dysfunction."

Before proceeding, three definitions are needed here to clarify the subject:

Transgenderist (TG) is one who lives in the opposite gender, "as a man or as a women" depending on your genetic sex, a large part or most of the time.

Fetishism is the fixation or erotic interest on a part of the body or an article of clothing.

Eroticism is the love in any and all of its physical or mental manifestations.

Dr. Walker said, "almost all men who crossdressers are 'regular' transvestites. If it does not turn you on sexually however, you are not a transvestite. If the clothing augments sexual arousal and enjoyment, whether you are wearing them or your partner is wearing them, if the two people are still relating to each other as whole human beings, then there is no mental disorder.

Fetishistic transvestism, however, is considered a mental disorder. The rationale is that fetishistic sexual arousal displaces the human being...just takes part of the human being into consideration. People with a foot fetish are only making love to the feet, not the whole person. This is considered in the same ball park as someone who's sexual desires, urges, and arousal are focused on an article of clothing rather than the partner, the clothing displaces the partner.

The psychiatric professionals job is to look at why men are crossdressing and what role does the dressing play for the individual. For example: sexual or recreational is not a "sick" reason; tension reduction is not a "sick" person; however, displacing other people, avoiding other people, avoiding reality, escaping feelings is "sick". Drinking alcohol or using drugs is not sick in of itself, if you can handle it. But if 3/4 of your income is going to booze or drugs, you have a problem. If your actions are causing you jobs and spouses, you have a problem. Wearing a dress is not sick, but if all the family income is going to your wardrobe, there is a problem. If the whole wardrobe is costing you, your family and friends, there is a problem.

Transsexualism is classified as a disorder, first evident in early childhood and adolescence. It is the persistent desire for 2 years to get rid of ones' genitals. No reference is made here of crossdressing, no reference is made here of being effeminate, no mention of wanting to be a woman or look like one."

It is clear then that transvestites (TVs) and transsexuals (TS) are totally different. While a TS may wear womens' clothing, they are not a transvestite or crossdresser. (to be continued)

**HOLD THE DATE: JUNE 24,
1993**

All the details will be announced later, just hold the date.

February 26 - 28, 1993

Texas T Party, Tea for Two in San Antonio, TX.

Texas T Party

P.O. Box 700042

San Antonio, TX 78270

512-545-3668

March 16-21, 1993

IFGE National Convention

Philadelphia Hilton & Towers

IFGE P.O. Box 367

Wayland, MA 01778

March 26 -28, 1993

Night of a Thousand Gowns and coronation of our friend Coco LaChine, Celestial Dragon Empress of New York.

Roosevelt Hotel. Information contact Empress V. Razor

Sharp 212-794-8780 or Empress VI Saleen 212-529-4281

April 23-25, 1993

GNYGA Moonlight in Manhattan

Linda Frank

330 W. 45th St, Apt 3E

New York, NY 10036

212-765-3561

May 20-24, 1993

Dignity Cruise IV - Royal Caribbean's Bahamas

\$545 without air transportation or \$698 with air transportation from most cities.

Contact Dr. Peggy Rudd

1811 Crutchfield

Katy, Texas 77449

July 9-10, 1993

W.A.C.S in conjunction with Tri-Ess presents S.P.I.C.E.

(Spouses/female Partners International Conference for Education.

Dallas Texas

Cynthia Phillips

P.O. Box 17

Butverde, TX 78163, 512-438-7604

For all the information on what is happening in the community, join CDI by completing an application and sending it to CDI, P.O. Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061. For information call Karen or Kristine 212-213-3352.