



# BLUE RIDGE PRIDE PAGEANT 2018 HANDBOOK



HONORING  
MISS BLUE RIDGE PRIDE 2017 - ANNA TOMICAL

ADVOCATE | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE | SERVE

# The Blue Ridge Pride Pageant

*Asheville Community Theatre | September 7, 2018*

Welcome to the 10th anniversary of the BLUE RIDGE PRIDE pageant! This is a very important year for us. Blue Ridge Pride is shaking things up a bit.

We love traditional drag as much as anyone. But our mission is to represent and support the entire LGBTQ community. In the spirit of inclusion, we are opening up the pageant this year to anyone seeking to offer an artistic interpretation of gender.

We want everyone in our beautiful community to feel that they are welcome to share their art form. We want our audience to witness the wonderful diversity that we contain.

This year, any drag-style entertainer is welcome to compete for this prestigious title. That includes but is not limited to Femmes, Queens, Transgender Entertainers, and Kings. The winner will reign as the face of Blue Ridge Pride.

Drag has long been at the forefront of the national conversation about sex and gender. It has grabbed media attention and educated an ever-growing audience. It has changed hearts and minds and sparked a nationwide conversation about gender norms. It has enabled many performers a chance to express their full humanity.

Blue Ridge Pride wants to build on that legacy. We honor those who have brought us this far. We want to see drag to continue to lead the way towards a more inclusive and expressive culture. We look forward to expanding the stage this year – and the national conversation.

If you think that you have what it takes to be the next face of Blue Ridge Pride, we welcome you! May the best HUMAN winnnn!

## **Ginger Von Snap**

Miss Blue Ridge Pride 2016  
Blue Ridge Pride Pageant Director



# HISTORY OF THE CROWN

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2009  
**Coco Couture**



2010  
**Tyra Couture**



2011  
**Eureka O'Hara**



2012  
**Odette Dynasty O'Hara**



2013  
**Manhattan**



2014  
**Eureka O'Hara**



2015  
**Ida Carolina**



2016  
**Ginger Von Snap**



2017  
**Anna Tomical**



2018

# CREATIVE PRIDE COSTUME OPTIONS

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As we plunge into the 21st century, our world of Pride is growing in diversity and understanding. This has inspired an ever-expanding family of flags – all of them variations on the iconic Rainbow Flag. But no matter how many flags we develop, they can never fully capture our richness and diversity. Individual hearts have such an amazing variety of facets to express.

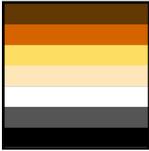
We are designing this year's pageant around five flags. We invite contestants to take visual cues from them. We hope that these selections inspire you to bring a singular vision to your Creative Pride Costume for this year's competition. Each of these icons has a unique history and set of interpretations for the various colors that we encourage you to discover.



The classic Rainbow Flag is a symbol for those whose sexuality and gender fall outside of established norms. A staple of Pride Events and Pageants, we look forward to what new and exciting ways it can be interpreted.



A very popular symbol within the community, the Transgender Pride Flag represents those whose gender identity varies from what was assigned at birth. A contestant for Miss Blue Ridge Pride 2016, Chartreuse, modeled a vintage gown based on this flag and helped to inspire the pageant's new approach.



The Bear Brotherhood flag is a beloved symbol of the hyper masculine gay subculture. With its rugged appeal we look forward to meeting those with the grit to model in these colors.



Pansexuality, its nature, and definition are often discussed in the world of Pride. We certainly encourage courteous and rigorous discussion of what it means to be LGBT+, but we also want people to feel safe to identify themselves as they will and wow the judges with this bright color combination.



Last, but not least, is the Genderqueer Flag. This banner represents those whose identity cannot be confined or explained by a binary understanding of gender.

If we could, we would include the full selection of pride flags. But we must consider the sanity of the judges! We hope that, by expanding the variety of categories, we give voice to the beautiful diversity our community brings to the world – and that everyone in it can let their inner beauty shine.

Respectfully,  
Ida Carolina  
Miss Blue Ridge Pride 2015

## **PRIZE PACKAGE**

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The winner of the Blue Ridge Pride Pageant will enjoy a fantastic prize package. The package includes:

- The (Miss, Mr., or Mx.) Blue Ridge Pride full-round Crown or Medallion (Valued at \$175)
- \$200 at Crowning
- \$100 at Give Up
- \$100 at Pride Festival
- A guaranteed three (3) bookings at Scandals Nightclub, three (3) bookings at O.Henry's and one (1) booking at Ole Shakeys. Valued at \$75 per booking (a \$525 value)
- A photoshoot with Roxy Taylor Photography (One Headshot)

The winner will be given the opportunity to choose two things:

- Their honorary: Miss, Mr., or Mx. Blue Ridge Pride
- Their regalia: a unisex crown or medallion to wear throughout their reign.

## **CONTESTANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

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Contestants must meet the following criteria in order to participate in the Blue Ridge Pride pageant:

1. Contestant must be at least 18 years of age. Proof of age is required by a valid driver's license, state ID, passport or any other government issued photo ID.
2. Contestant must reside within a 100-mile radius of the Asheville, NC 28801 zip code. Distance will be confirmed.
3. Contestant must pay a registration fee in order to compete in the pageant. The fee must be submitted at the time of registration. The 2018 registration fee is \$45 for online pre-registration, and \$75 for day-of registration. This fee is nonrefundable. Contestants can pre-register by contacting the Pageant Director ([pageant@blueridgepride.org](mailto:pageant@blueridgepride.org)) or the current reigning.
4. Previous winners of Miss Blue Ridge Pride are not eligible to compete in future pageants.
5. As we have opened up the pageant to all walks of life, anyone is eligible to win. Just be larger than life, have fun, and enjoy the festivities!

## **PAGEANT RULES & REGULATIONS**

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The following rules and regulations will apply for the Blue Ridge Pride pageant:

1. JUDGING: Judging will be based on a modified version of the National US of A Style Ranking System.
  - a. The Pageant Director will establish judging criteria and scoring guidelines and will nominate a slate of judges. These will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director and Board of Directors of Blue Ridge Pride.
  - b. The maximum amount of points a contestant can receive is 300. The points are:
    - INTERVIEW - 50 points max
    - ON STAGE QUESTION - 50 points max
    - CREATIVE PRIDE COSTUME - 100 points max
    - TALENT - 100 points max

c. In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected by the overall Talent winner.

d. The pageant will have an auditor chosen by the Board of Directors. The role of the auditor is to collect the scoring sheets from the judges and to perform the scoring tally.

2. REHEARSAL: Each contestant will have up to fifteen (15) minutes to rehearse their talent on a closed stage, in order to get a comfortable feel of the space.

3. CATEGORIES: All contestants will be judged in the following categories:

a. Interview

- Each contestant will have a private interview with the judging panel.
- The interview will be up to five (5) minutes.
- Each contestant shall interview as their stage persona. Dress shall be business professional.
- The entire package (hair, make-up, nails, gown, shoes, accessories, etc.) will be judged.
- The contestants are expected and should be prepared to communicate a vision of themselves as a Pride representative.

b. Creative Costume

- This category requires attire based on the Pride flags. Contestant should come dressed in the colors of the pride flag that best describes them.
- The contestant may bring their own music track or they may use the standard track that the Pageant Director designates.
- Each contestant will have up to two (2) minutes to model.
- The entire package (hair, make-up, costume, accessories, etc.) will be judged.
- Contestants will be judged on their ability to present a clean, complete, and cohesive look.

c. On Stage Question

- After modeling Creative Costume, the Contestant will be asked a question on stage by the HOST and will answer for the judges.
- The question will be revealed onstage when selected at random by the contestant.
- Once the contestant has read and absorbed the question, the HOST will read the question twice on the microphone and then hand the contestant the microphone to answer.
- The contestant will be judged on the content of their answer, their ability to communicate, and their overall presentation.

d. Talent

- Any type of talent is acceptable, except those that are illegal or which may cause personal injury to the audience or any other person, or that may cause property damage.
- The pageant is held in a family-friendly environment.
- Talent will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop setup will be limited to two (2) minutes; breakdown time is limited to one (1) minute.
- Talent presentations will be timed. Should a contestant go over the time limit, an automatic 5 points will be deducted from contestant's final score.

- Music will be submitted during registration in the form of a flash drive. Each contestant should include Costume Music, Talent Music as well as Crowning Music. Music should be named accordingly.
  - Each contestant will be allowed an unlimited number of dancers. However, dancers will pay a discounted admission fee of \$5. Dancers will not be admitted backstage until the time of performance.
  - The entire package (hair, make-up, nails, gown, shoes, accessories, etc.) including the dancers, will be judged.
  - **Fire, liquids, loose glitter, confetti and oily substances are NOT permitted.**
4. The use of any illegal substances is prohibited and is grounds for immediate disqualification.
  5. Theft of, or intentional damage or destruction to any contestant's property or any theft of, or intentional damage or destruction to the venue's property will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate disqualification and ejection from the premises.
  6. Contestants are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Any violent or threatening language or behavior will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate disqualification and ejection from the facility.
  7. Each contestant will be allowed one (1) dresser. The contestant's dresser will pay a discounted admission fee of \$5, and obtain a pass for backstage entry.
  8. Any contestant that is not at an appointed place at an appointed time may be disqualified.
  9. Blue Ridge Pride prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age\*, national or cultural origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or health status. (*\*Exception: contestants must be 18 years or older.*)
  10. The Blue Ridge Pride Board of Directors will request a background check (confidential to the board) for the winner of the crown. Whether any findings present cause for rescinding the title is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.
  11. Blue Ridge Pride reserves the right to prohibit a contestant from participating, for any reason.
  12. Blue Ridge Pride reserves the right to make a decision concerning any matters not covered in these rules and regulations and/or the contestant agreement.
  13. Contestant will not hold Blue Ridge Pride responsible for any injuries or hardships that may occur from contestant's participation in the pageant.

## **CONTESTANT MEDIA RELEASE**

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Listed below are the Media Release conditions for The Blue Ridge Pride Pageant:

1. Contestant authorizes Blue Ridge Pride to use the following personal information:
  - Their picture – including photographic, motion picture, and electronic (video) images.
  - Their voice – including sound and video recordings.
2. Contestant hereby grants to Blue Ridge Pride, its subsidiaries, licensees, successors and assigns, the right to use, publish, and reproduce, for all purposes, their name, pictures of them in film or electronic (video) form, sound and video recordings of their voice, and printed and electronic

copy of the information described in sections (1) and (2) above in any and all media including, without limitation, cable and broadcast television and the Internet, and for exhibition, distribution, promotion, advertising, sale, press conferences, meetings, hearings, educational conferences and in brochures and other print media. This permission extends to all languages, media, formats and markets now known or hereafter devised. This permission shall continue forever.

3. Contestant further grants Blue Ridge Pride all rights, title, and interest that they may have in all finished pictures, negatives, reproductions, and copies of the original print, and further grants Blue Ridge Pride the right to give, sell, transfer, and exhibit the print in copies or facsimiles thereof, for marketing, communications, or advertising purposes, as it deems fit.

4. Contestant hereby waives the right to receive any payment for signing this release and waives the right to receive any payment for Blue Ridge Pride's use of any of the material described above for any of the purposes authorized by this release. Contestant also waives any right to inspect or approve finished photographs, audio, video, multimedia, or advertising recordings and copy or printed matter or computer generated scanned image and other electronic media that may be used in conjunction therewith or to approve the eventual use that it might be applied.

5. Contestant will not hold Blue Ridge Pride responsible for any liability resulting from the use of contestant's name, likeness or images, including what might be deemed to be misrepresentation of the contestant, contestant's character or contestant's person due to distortion, optical illusion or faulty reproduction that may occur in the finished product.

## **TITLEHOLDER'S OBLIGATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

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Listed below are the expectations, obligations, and responsibilities of the crowned Miss Blue Ridge Pride:

1. The winner (hereafter, "Titleholder") of the pageant will assume the title of (Miss, Mr., or Mx.) Blue Ridge Pride for the 2018 season and shall retain the title until the following pageant. Titleholder is obligated to and agrees to the following:

- a. Appear at up to three (3) events chose by Blue Ridge Pride.
- b. Volunteer ten (10) hours of community service with Blue Ridge Pride. This is in addition to the event attendance above.
- c. Assist the Pageant Director in the planning of the next pageant, including scouting out prospective contestants and locations.
- d. Perform on the Blue Ridge Pride Festival Main Stage as the reigning titleholder. Performance date and time to be determined.
- e. Attend a Meet & Greet at the Blue Ridge Pride Festival.
- f. Participate as the reigning titleholder in the Asheville Mardi Gras Parade.
- g. Act as an ambassador of the community and will work with the Pageant Director to seek out ways to advance Blue Ridge Pride's mission and goals through community outreach.

2. Titleholder agrees to hold the respective title, the (Miss, Mr., or Mx.) Blue Ridge Pride and Blue Ridge Pride brands in highest esteem. While appearing, entertaining, or otherwise representing the title of (Miss, Mr., or Mx.) Blue Ridge Pride or Blue Ridge Pride, itself, during the reigning year, the Titleholder agrees to the following:

- a. Not to engage in the use of illegal substances or engage in any illegal activity.

- b. Not to participate in malicious gossip.
- c. Not to undermine the mission, vision or values of Blue Ridge Pride.

3. Titleholder will provide a satisfactory publicity photograph with the crown within ten (10) days of assuming the title, for use by Blue Ridge Pride. Contestant Media Release shall apply, substituting Titleholder for Contestant in all cases.

4. Titleholder will maintain contact with Blue Ridge Pride during the year of reign.

5. The winner will represent Blue Ridge Pride solely for the term of this agreement and no other Pride crown or title of any other bar, club, city, state, or region, unless prior written consent has been obtained from the Pageant Director. Blue Ridge Pride does not restrict competing and winning in State, Regional and National pageants.

## **BLUE RIDGE PRIDE REMEDIES**

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In the event Titleholder is unwilling or unable to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities outlined above, or if the Titleholder defaults on any of the provisions included in this contestant agreement, Blue Ridge Pride retains the right at its absolute and sole discretion to the following:

- 1. Revoke or rescind the title from the Titleholder.
- 2. Pass the title to the 1st runner up from the pageant.
- 3. Refuse bookings and appearances of any official nature to the Titleholder.
- 4. Demand the return of all prize monies and/or any other awards given during the period under reign.
- 5. Refuse entry into any future pageants.
- 6. Other remedies, not listed above.

## **HOLD HARMLESS**

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Contestant/Titleholder agrees to indemnify Blue Ridge Pride, Inc., its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, and other agents, and hold them harmless with respect to any defense that they shall be required to make in connection with any claim or action arising out of Contestant's/Titleholder's involvement/participation with the pageant, parade or festival, including the payment of reasonable attorney's fees.