

Lipstick & Lace

Our biggest
monthly
issue yet!

More

inside!

Mariah

Our

March

Covergirl!

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Photography By Shandi

Presidentially Speaking

The coming year for Masquerade is shaping up to be a lot of fun for everyone!

Making plans for "Girl time" is sometimes not something we can easily do on short notice like we may find it easy to do for most other things in our lives so for the coming year we are planning to place events on the calendar well in advance.

We welcome Chantal, our new Event Co-ordinator, to the executive. Chantal has planned a number of events for the coming year, dinner and movie nights, bar-b-ques, pot luck dinners, games nights and more giving our members a whole lot of fun things to do wearing their favourite outfits. (Ever played Monopoly wearing a skirt??)

Shandi, our hard working "now monthly" newsletter editor, is doing a wonderful job keeping the group informed of upcoming events by posting them well ahead of time in Lipstick & Lace, then posting pictures of the events in the newsletter.

Rhiannon, our Program Co-ordinator, has done a wonderful job in the past year selecting programs and presenters for our meetings and we look forward to all that she can bring to our group in the coming year.

Our Librarian and Treasurer, Ardra, continues to keep the books (yes, both sets) in order. Our library is available at our meetings so take advantage of what we have to offer.

We also welcome Rosalie, our

new Vice-President and Linda, our new Secretary to our executive and look forward to their valuable input.

And most importantly, we welcome our members to each meeting and event. It's your group and we welcome your suggestions regarding programs and events you would like to see and participate in.

there will be events held in private, hosted at members homes, making them comfortable events for everyone to attend.

Perhaps the biggest question we've all had growing up with our feelings is just how to go about getting what we want out of life. Not knowing what solutions were available to us.

If those questions are holding you back from joining in the fun at our meetings and events, please know that you have a wonderful resource with the group to get those answers.

In the words of the famous Beatles song .. "We Can Work It Out"!

Come join in all the fun that awaits you!



The Girls of Masquerade are a fun group that simply want more out of life than being alone with the mirror and each of you help make it happen for each other! You GO GIRLS!

Taking that first step to reach out to a group such as Masquerade is a big step out for most and although it may seem that all the fun that is available to you is overwhelming. We were all there at one time. Alone, wanting more out of life.

Although some of our events will be held at mainstream venues for those who are comfortable going to them,

Sabrina



Making plans for "Girl time" is sometimes not something we can easily do on short notice

Shandi's Corner

Our focus the past few issues seems to be on "passing". I want to first of all assure those who read this that the focus of our group is not on passing, but on acceptance.

Here in Masquerade as we begin our new year with some new faces on the executive we need to stress that belonging to our group will give you that acceptance that we all need.

So often we just need to know that there are other "real" people out there that dress, and putting a person to the photo you see on the website can make all the difference.

Accepting yourself for who you are is the next step, and from there you can decide just where and how you continue to express your feminine self. We are here as experienced guides to let you explore it in a fun and safe environment.

I have been fortunate to find acceptance all over, and that is because of the strength I have gained by being a part of this wonderful group.

Recently I was asked to be my friends' wedding photographer. And I was told I could dress however I like for the event. They are the same fun and open minded people who invited the Masquerade Girls to their wedding social last fall.

So needless to say, I am thrilled to be doing something I love to do, dressed as I love to dress!

Those are friends. Wonderful people, but are there more like them out there? Yes indeed there are.

F o r
exam-
ple,
t w o



weekends ago my sweetie and I were checking out the Payless Shoes in the McGillivray Mall. Kristine had mentioned that they stock a lot of larger sizes in shoes. And always on the lookout for shoes we went to see what they had. No sooner had we walked in with our daughter than a friendly sales lady said "Hi" and told us of the sale that was currently running, and she mentioned to me that they stocked the largest selection of large size women's shoes in the city, and hoped to improve it.

Now, just so we are clear here, I was in drab at the time. Now instead of panicking as some might, I said "Thank you! And I

know some other people who would be very interested in ladies shoes in larger sizes."

We had a look over the selection, and being that it was during a sale, and a little before their next shipment was due to arrive, we left empty handed. The sales lady told us when new stock was expected, and we said we'd be back.

I went back the next weekend, dressed. Two nice sales ladies greeted me, reminded me of the sale, and I spent the next half hour trying on shoes! Right in with other customers carrying on conversations, discussing the different shoes with the salesgirl, basically having a blast! I bought two pair! (They were on sale you know!!) The sales girl pointed out a few that I hadn't even considered, gave me tips on what they could be worn with. Nice people that gave me a nice experience. I seriously urge you all to shop there! It's a place you can go, even in drab, and have the help of understanding people.

In closing I just want to point out that I did not have this kind of confidence before joining Masquerade. Had I been looking at ladies shoes before, I would have panicked had the sales person suggested that they were for me, and I never would have consider shoe shopping while dressed. I have learned to accept myself because of the experiences here in Masquerade, and I'm lovin' it!

Love always,

Shandi

I would have panicked had the sales person suggested that they were for me,

Upcoming Events!!

Hey Girls! You don't want to miss out on these!!

March 18th - Dinner and a Movie Night

- dinner at 7 pm location TBA at the March meeting followed by a movie @ Grant Park theatre for around 9 *depending on movie start time*

March 24th -Mr. & Ms. Gio's Stepdown!

-Shandi & Skip to perform! Show starts at 9!

March 25th - Bring in the Spring Season!

-breakfast/brunch party - location and time to be announced at the march meeting

Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Meetings!!

April 11, 2006 Meeting Begins - 7:30 PM

Program - An evening of discussion about overcoming the fears associated with "Walking out the door". Answers to all your questions about everything you've wanted to ask yet didn't know who to ask. With Masquerade we each have the wonderful benefit of learning from "Big Sisters".

Make-up/Dressing tip of the month -

Ever worry about your hairpiece blowing in the wind. Sabrina will show you how she keeps her hair on straight!

Membership draw -Gift Certificate for Lady Godiva Boutique!

Magazine Swap - Bring your old "Girl stuff" magazines to swap with other girls!

May 9, 2006 - Meeting Begins - 7:30 PM

Program -An evening of Girl Talk about our favorite topic "Shopping & Fashion"!

We'll share our ideas about "What to Wear with What", how to "Shop for that special outfit" and share our experiences about shopping in drab and en femme.

And much much more!

Membership draw—Gift Certificate for Lady Godiva Boutique !



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Friends of "The Girls of Masquerade!"

Demons! By Sonya Pink

Imagine if you will, a demon. The sort of demon, that hides in the deepest dark-



est corners of your mind. Banished by a young boy, it stays in it's dark cell waiting, grinning with anticipation. Now imagine what were to come, if ever this demon were to escape. After decades of silence, my demon has! Loose in my mind, the creature now seeks it's freedom. I can feel it inside me. It's thoughts, it's desires, fill my mind. I feel the adrenaline fill my veins, like poison. It plans to take control. Every time I close my eyes, I can see it's face.

It's shimmering blue eyes stare through

me. The blood red lipstick gleams as it smiles devilishly. My mind trembles, as I fixate on it's overfilled, tight pink sweater. And just as I think there could be no more, the demon turns as if to display it's perfect denim covered buttocks.

Instantly a cold chill covers me like ten thousand pins and needles. I try to look away, but I can't. The demon hold is too



powerful. Then, like a soft whisper in my ear, the voluptuous beast begins speaking to me. Repeating over and over in my head, Let me out...Let me out.

Aggravated by my persistent attempts

to fight it, the voice gets louder. Let me out now!! Completely drained, My hands hit the floor as I fall to my knees. I can't fight it anymore. I can feel I've lost control. My head falls back as the tears fill my eyes. Suddenly, from somewhere deep inside me, an overpowering scream explodes from my mouth.....I AM SONYA!!!

-To be continued-

Sonya



Vanessa

is Masquerade's Official Mary Kay Cosmetics Representative.

She sells the complete line of quality Mary Kay products.

New catalogues are available quarterly!

Her March Special is 50% off any order

placed before the April Meeting!

See her at the meetings or email her at

vanessa_myles@hotmail.com



In Stores Now!

Fashion Shopping Notes from Tess-Leigh!

This is the season to shop for 14" skirts; they are plentiful on the racks now, and by mid-summer they will be difficult to find. Mariposa has mostly frilly skirts; The Bargain Shop has a variety of off-brand denim skirts and mini-skirts; Sears has mostly light imitation-wool and fabric skirts. Dots has hundreds of light-weight longer skirts. Warmer long skirts are scarce now, but you could try Rietman's. Full-length denim skirts are out of stock nearly everywhere. This is not a good time to shop for dresses, with the exception of fancy gowns (Laura, Mariposa), or black polyester dresses (Sears, The Bay), or light spring dresses (Dots). Pay-less Shoe Source still has a small selection of leather-like boots in sizes up to

12, at very reasonable prices. Other locations for true or imitation leather boots include The Bay (some 9 and 10), Quarks (up to 10), and ShoeNet (to 8 in ankle boots, to 10 in fancy shoes and mid-calf boots, to 14! in tall dancing boots.) Store discovery of the month is the Afitoba Boutique (Kennedy between Portage and Graham), which has a nice collection, mostly imported from Africa, some in polyester but most in cotton or linen. This is one of the few places with real dresses or longer denim skirts. The owner is infectious warm and very helpful -- and some of the clothes are fabulous. I've never had a more pleasant x-shopping experience! Open 7 days a week, to 18:30 weekdays. Store rediscovery of the month is Redeemed (Academy at Waterloo). New and used clothes, most in

excellent condition. All of the clothes appear to be good quality, and it is not uncommon to find designer clothes at a fraction of the original price. Skirts, dresses, blouses, jackets, pant suits, outer-wear, from \$10 to \$10,000, but mostly in the "That's practically giving it away!" price range. The staff is always respectful, and if you venture out of the change-room with your trial apparel, the other customers will often offer advice about what looks best on you. Open 6 days a week, usually to 18:00.

Tess Leigh

tess-leigh@hushmail.com

These Girls Rock!

I have to be honest, I thought being the new girl was going to be tough. At first, I was really worried about being accepted by the other girls. With my "beginner" image and my shy personality, I wasn't sure if this was the place for me. I was wrong! After only two meetings, I have realized that these girls ROCK! Not only are they friendly, but everyone has a different story to tell. It is amazing to watch so many strong women, overcome such difficult adversities and still have the strength to assist others with their transitions.

Having the opportunity to listen and learn from the other girls, has helped me to both understand and appreciate myself a lot more. I now see, that I am not alone in my new journey. I consider myself to be extremely lucky, to have found such a group. Not only have these girls accepted me into their world, but they have also opened their arms to my partner. Now she too enjoys their company.

The girls of Masquerade, have shown us that

they are a strong, determined, and confident group of women. My wife Candace and I are proud to be considered part of such an exquisite compilation.



Candace and Sonya
at the February meeting!

her she can be a part of my new life, rather than simply standing by in confusion. We anticipate further socializing with the girls, and hope one day we can help them as they have helped us.

Recently, I experienced my first "chicken out" situation. I'm not proud of it, but I can at least

As for my wife, her timid position has been altered to a state of comfortable acceptance. I have watched as she has taken her own steps towards understanding me. She attributes many of her personal victories to Masquerade, for showing

say that I tried. I like many, went shopping dressed and only made it as far as the parking lot. I consider the attempt to be a step forward, but the uncertainty taking control, was a humiliating defeat. I spoke of my experience with some of the girls. There seemed to be an amazing amount of support in their reactions. Comments such as "Just call me when you want to go" and "I love shopping, we can go together if you'd like", seemed to come from everyone. These offers just might be accepted. Not only to help me with my own fears, but for the fact, we like hanging with the girls. Thank you Masquerade!

Sonya and Candace

P.S. Special thanks to Linda and her partner for meeting with us, we enjoyed your company and appreciate your support.

Editor's note:

Last issue I had put the name "Sylvia" under Sonya's photo of her and Charlene. Sorry! My fault for rushing!

Shandi

My Best Friend's (a) Girl!

Showing your feminine persona to your friends that know you only as a male for several years is quite risky. Not knowing how they would react to the situation is always a concern. Would they act differently to you? Would they break off the friendship? Would they think that cross dressing has something to do with your sexuality?

I decided to come out to my best friend with whom I've known for close to 9 years, been roommates with and worked with for most of those years. Those previous questions raced through my mind as I made the decision to show this side of me. I decided that the October Halloween Black & Blue Ball would be a good time to bring it out to him, seeing that he's been wanting to check out the event for awhile.

The second decision was whether to tell him before the day of the ball or give him a good shock by showing him when he comes over to my house to car pool with me to the event. I had him visit me a few days before the ball and told him what I plan to be a kinky hockey player as I showed him my customized hockey stick/ paddle. But if you know me I love to have the shock factor so I chose the showing him just minutes before going to the ball.

So here is the experience of a night that most of us fear! Usually Vanessa and I car pool to the Black & Blue and the pre ball dinner at Papa Georges, so I arranged for my friend to meet us at my house once we were ready. I told him to call me before he started his travel across the city . When he called I told him to delay for ½ hr cause Vanessa was still getting ready. So to kill the time he visited Discreet Boutique to glance over some bdsm stuff and get a glance of what he may encounter while at the Ball so he wouldn't be too shocked at what goes on there. Anyhoo, while waiting for him I decided to open the curtains to the front window to show a statuesque of my feminine form to the outside views. I seen his car pull up and grabbed my jacket, purse and shoes. Vanessa opened the door for him when he knocked . We all stared at each other for a few seconds till I said "hey <his name>, are you ready to go to the ball"....

BAM what a look he gave as he was surprised to hear my voice coming from a cutie's mouth. "Damn, now I wasn't expecting this"

was his reply. I asked him what he thought of Vanessa and I before I greeted him with my voice. His response was that he thought I "had tall girlfriends waiting for me to get out of the can." So, seeing that we were rather tardy for the Papa Georges meet, we rushed out the door and into my car.

We joked a bit on the way to the destination. "How does it feel to actually have hair?", was the question he asked that broke my nervousness. Some other questions had me wondering if he'd like to try cross-dressing. Some of those questions were "How long does it take to get ready?", "Do women seem to be attracted to you more?", "How do you walk in those heels?!" I'd kill myself if I tried!"

What really got me thinking that he totally accepts this part of me was when we were walking down Osborne to the restaurant and a few car drivers turned their heads and stared at the three of us and whistled and honked their horns. He said "I guess I got to get used to that when I'm around you now eh?" (Giggle! Now that was so awesome!)

I introduced him to the people that were at the pre Ball dinner. While we dined, they asked him a few questions on how he felt seeing me this way. All his replies were positive. After the dinner we walked to the Black & Blue. He walked behind us and watched the reaction of men on the street. He had quite a chuckle about the way they were drooling over us.

We stood in the line waiting for entrance into the Ball. I could tell he was getting quite excited noticing what a few people were wearing. Once entering, we made our way to the washrooms to change. I took my skirt off, tossed on my hockey jersey, white stockings, garter belt and a different pair

of heels while he changed into his "horny priest costume" that I helped him shop for.

After changing I took over to our usual tables and introduced him to a few TG friends. Then we took a stroll around the Ball with me showing him the dungeon and the kinky toys on display. As we walked around he noticed how much more sociable I am while dressed than when I'm not. After checking out the surroundings we ended up back at the usual spot near the dance floor with the other Masquerade girls . I asked him what he thought and he replied "Its sort of what I thought it would be but a bit more casual, it's so cool!"

He seemed to be enjoying himself laughing it up and socializing all night, so I relaxed and became my flirty self which is my usual at the Ball. Near the end of the night, he caught up with me and Vanessa as we watched the fashion show until we decided to head home.

As of today, 4 months later, our friendship is not only surviving but seems to be stronger due to my being more open and truthful. The fact that I dress doesn't get in the way of our hanging out as we are used to. As a matter of fact, he was expecting me to show up at the Gwen Stefani concert in a short mini skirt! But I didn't have the desire to dress that night, to his dismay. He believes that when I'm prettied up I'm more out going.

I'm so glad that I came out to him because it's now less stressful when he comes over to my house. Before I used to rush and hide all my feminine goods when he came popping by to hang out. *THANK GAWD* cause I hated the aftermath of trying to find something in the hurried mess I created.

Luw Chantal



In Touch With Central America!

Hi Girls

I just wanted to say how terrific it is to see this mail come to the group from Central America with her comments about Lipstick and Lace helping her and her wife. (Pats on back for Shandi's hard work)

I think this would be a great item to include in the newsletter and I'm sure it will make her day. Yet more so to show local girls her just how lucky they are that they have Masquerade right in their own "Front Yard".

I've been thinking about her question regarding "Honorary membership". We have members across Canada and the only thing I can see is extending the same offer outside. Or perhaps a subscription/non-voting type membership extended for a reduced rate to cover mailing/web costs.

Perhaps we can offer an Honorary/Non-

Voting membership to those who contribute to Lipstick & Lace, or an International Associate Membership at a reduced rate. Perhaps Masquerade Chapters all over the planet! Any thoughts??

HUGS

Sabrina

Dear girls:

This e-mail brings a warm hug and a kiss to all far down from Honduras, in Central America. Through your website, my wife and I have learned to explore a crossdresser's view of life, and have been able to reach the conclusion that it is something I have lived with since I was 12, like many of us CDs.

Even though she already new, reading the articles in "Lipstick & Lace" has allowed her to be a lot more open, after seeing how supportive wives can be when living with special persons

like us.

We are planning to save money in order to travel to a Crossdressing Conference, whether in the US or Canada. It would be great to meet all of you.

I want to become a member of Masquerade. Please let me know if you accept honorary members living abroad. It would be great to feel that I am part of a community, not alone.

Love,

Estrella (Star)

We can make a difference, just by being who we are!

-Shandi



HEY GIRLS!
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!
GET YOUR MASQUERADE PIN
TODAY!
ONLY \$6.00!
AVAILABLE AT EVERY MEETING!

Recent Event Photos!



The Ladies in Red from the February Meeting, Laura, Vanessa, Ardra, Sabrina, Rosalie, Paula, Shandi & Liz



Too hot!



Laura & Roslaie doing "girl talk"!

*Girls,
just
having
fun!*



Shandi photo girl!



Michelle says "cheese"!!



Sabrina gets in on Rosalie's photo with her camera!



All the girls from Photo night!



Special Birthday presents for Vanessa!



And cake too!!

Submit your stories and photos to shandi_strong@hotmail.com.
Every issue needs interesting stories and photos
about our members and their own experiences!



EVENINGS > LATE NIGHTS > EVENTS

WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY

Members Night - Really cheap drinks
(a valid 06 mbshp card must be shown)

TUESDAY

Sorry, we are closed

WEDNESDAY

Karaoke - Starts at 10:30
Great Prizes!

THURSDAY

* NEW * Gio's Hip Hop Night
Cheap domestic beer & bar shots.
DJ Ryan at 10pm

FRIDAY

All night fun, late night
dancing with DJ Danno

SATURDAY

Weekly events*

SUNDAY

We are open! 4 - 12 p.m.*

from top to bottom...
we've become **VERSATILE**

New colours, new meeting room, new attitude...
The first phase of our renovation complete...
We've come out of the shadowy darkness...
the possibilities, and we finally know who we are,
We're **MORE** than a club or bar. We **ARE** our members
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SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAR 4th

> **Womyn's Night** <
Everyone welcome, DJ Ian at 10pm

SATURDAY, MAR 11th

> **Martini's and LIVE Entertainment** <
Join us for some great new martini's & finger food.
Live Band starting at 9:00pm See www.gios.ca for details

SATURDAY, MAR 18th

> **Rainbow Harmony Project Fundraiser** <
The Rainbow Harmony Project will be in the house
looking to the community for some fundraising support!
Drink specials, and silent auction. All the fun begins at 8pm

FRIDAY, MAR 24th

> **In & Out of Town Show** <
Come to the club and see some of your in-town favorites
shake it up as well as some great out of town performers.
Protocol at 8pm-8:30pm Show at 9:00pm

SATURDAY, MAR 25th

> **Chocolate, Booze and Greasy Food** <
Celebrate with us and say goodbye to Tatiana & Will
and hello to our new bar titles Mr. & Ms. Gio's 2006/07
Protocol is at Gio's from 4pm - 5pm
Stepdown starting at 9 'ish

Masquerade

c/o Lady Godiva Boutique
832 Corydon Ave.

Winnipeg, MB R3M 0Y2

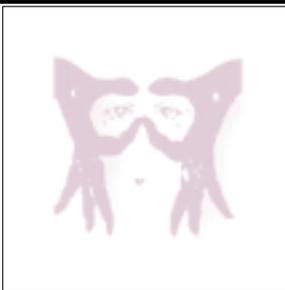
Phone: 204-452-1100

Email:

girlstuff@masquerade.ca

For the girl inside us all!

www.masquerade.ca



ABOUT MASQUERADE

*We are a FUN LOVING support group for
cross-dressers, and transsexuals.*

*Our purpose is for people with like/common interests to
associate and socialize.*

It is not for the purpose of soliciting or engaging in sexual activities.

*All gender gifted individuals, who are 18 years of age or older, and are
prepared to respect our bi-laws, are welcome.*

*Spouses and significant others are encouraged and welcome to attend
meetings and functions and join if they wish.*

We regularly meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

The meetings begin around 7:30 p.m. and go until 9 or 10.

Socializing and dancing are done afterwards!

*We endeavour to maintain a fun, friendly, laid-back atmosphere. We
are all there for the same reasons-a place to go to that is accepting,
private and relaxing. Change facilities are available. Dressing for the
first meeting or two is not required, but encouraged!*

Special Girls!

Happy Birthday!

Tina March 11th

Kendra March 13th

Chantal March 19th

Darlene March 28th

Jacilynn March 30th

Welcome!

New members!

Stephanie from MB

Alice from SK

Legal Stuff: Lipstick & Lace is the official newsletter of Masquerade. Edited by Shandi.

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