

2026
America's
King & Queen
Contestant Handbook

www.americaskingandqueen.com



- From the Promoters -



I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to an exciting competition. We have been working diligently to make sure that you have an amazing experience. There are so many possibilities to continue to grow America's King and Queen Divisions. We are excited you have chosen to join us.

This upcoming year will be about you continuing what our amazing Queen, Sasha V King, and King, Chamo De Lour King, did all year, promoting and showcasing their talents all over the country. We don't want you to fill their shoes; we want you to bring your own, so you can make your mark on not just the system, but the world. So be ready to put in the work. We look forward to seeing you at nationals!

This is your handbook. Please read it in its entirety and structure your plans around the information. If you have any questions that you do not find the answers to here, please email or contact me.

Ken Dartanyan
Co-National Promoter
Cell: 813-763-7874
Email: blaquepearlent2020@gmail.com



Welcome to another great year of pageantry. We are so glad you chose to compete in America's King and Queen. It is my pleasure to welcome those of you, first timers here with us, into the family, and welcome back those returning.

What a great year this has been, and its success has been hugely in part to our reigning court August Edwards and Leche Diamonte. This week will have its struggles, as all national pageants do, for the competitors as well as for the national staff. Our goal is to make it as painless as possible, and for you to enjoy your time here and gain a family you never knew you needed or had.

I would like to thank David Bridgman for having the faith in Ken and me to take on these two divisions for our third year and for helping us succeed and grow. It truly takes a village, and David holds this village together.

I also want to thank Andy Lewis for coming back for a third year and managing the operation of the pageant for us. Anyone who had a chance to meet him last year knows he means business, but he truly cares about each and every one of you.

There is a lot of work still to do with each of these divisions. The groundwork has been laid out already with our inaugural year being such a success, and then the success of Sasha and Chamo, and now the great job our reigning have done this year. There is still a lot of work to do. So, we are excited to welcome our next set of royalty to the history and legacy we are creating.

This is your handbook. Please read it all the way through and then re-read it. There will be a lot of information in here to digest, and it will answer most questions you may have. If you find you have a question that still needs an answer after reading this handbook, please reach out.

Michael Stoker a/k/a Lady Jasmine
Co-National promoter
Cell: 812-470-1689
Email: akaqpageants@gmail.com

From the Queen!



Welcome, contestants! By now, you've survived the preliminaries, dodged a few costume malfunctions, and officially secured your spot at Nationals. Consider this your formal notice that "blending in" has been officially canceled.

In this industry, we don't just walk into a room; we stage a hostile takeover of the atmosphere. My own rise to the crown wasn't achieved by following the handbook—it was achieved by rewriting it in glitter. Your goal this week is simple: show up with intention and show out with enough personality to make the judges forget their own names.

Be beautifully, aggressively yourself. If you aren't leaving a trail of sequins and a bewildered look on the faces of the beige-clad observers, you aren't doing it right. Own your destiny, embrace your brand of deviance, and let's make this pageant one for the history books.

The stage is yours. Try not to blind the front row with your brilliance—or do. We won't judge.

Stay shiny,

Leche Diamonte
Americas Queen 2025

From the King!



Dear Esteemed Contestants,

On behalf of America's King and the entire Bearded Pageantry Inc. family, it is my profound honor to welcome you to this year's national competition. As the reigning America's King 2025, I extend heartfelt congratulations to each of you for pursuing excellence, creativity, and distinction on this prestigious stage.

The America's King Pageant celebrates not only performance and presentation, but the spirit of artistry, confidence, and authenticity that defines our community. Here, you join a lineage of performers who have embraced the challenge of competition and the opportunity to share their voice, talent, and vision with fellow artists and audiences alike.

Whether this is your first national pageant or another milestone in your journey, you stand among peers who bring diverse stories, dynamic performances, and bold expressions of male-presenting pageantry to life. Throughout this competition, you will have the opportunity to shine across multiple judged categories, including Personal Interview, Presentation, Creative Fashion, and Talent; each designed to recognize the breadth of your artistic capabilities and stage presence.

As you prepare to take the stage, I encourage you to embody not only polish and preparation, but resilience, generosity, and joy. Let your individuality inform your performance and your confidence illuminates every moment you stand before the judges and our community. This pageant is more than a contest, it is a shared celebration of empowerment, craft, and connection. From all of us, and especially from me, thank you for bringing your passion to America's King. I look forward to witnessing the remarkable talent and unforgettable moments we will create together.

With admiration and support,

August Edwards

SUNDAY - September 27th

Last Chance Preliminary held at Club Reflections in Fort Worth, TX.

(not required to attend but can watch, and enjoy the pageant or perform.

Reach out to August or Leche for information about performing)

Meet and Greet cook-out at the host hotel starting at 7:00 pm

Schedule of Events

September 28th - Monday

Check In Times

10:00 AM	Registration	Rose Room
12:00 PM	Interview Check-in - Queen Group 1	Rose Room
12:00 PM	Talent Rehearsal Check-in - Queen Group 2	Rose Room
1:00 PM	Interview Check-in King Group 1	Rose Room
1:00 PM	Talent Rehearsal Check-in - King – Group 2	Rose Room
1:30 PM	Interview Check-in - Queen Group 3	Rose Room
7:00 PM	Check-in	
	Queen – Groups 2 & 3	Rose Room
	King – Groups 2 & 3	Rose Room
8:00 PM	Pageant Begins	Rose Room
	Queen – Group 3 Creative Fashion	
	King - Group 2 Talent	
	King - Group 3 Creative Fashion	
	Queen - Group 2 Talent	

September 29th – Tuesday

11:00 AM	Interview check-in King - Group 3	Rose Room
11:00 PM	Talent Rehearsal Check-in Queen - Group 3	Rose Room
12:00 PM	Interview Check-in for Queen – Group 2	Rose Room
12:00 PM	Talent Rehearsal Check-in King - Group 3	Rose Room
12:30 PM	Interview Check-in King Group 2	Rose Room
7:00 PM	Check-in	
	Queen – Groups 1 & 3	Rose Room
	King – Groups 1 & 3	Rose Room
8:00 PM	Pageant Begins	Rose Room
	Queen - Group 1 Creative Fashion	
	King - Group 3 Talent	
	King - Group 1 Creative Fashion	
	Queen - Group 3 Talent	

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September 30th – Wednesday

11:00 AM	Talent Rehearsal Check-in Queen - Group 1	Rose Room
12:00 PM	Talent Rehearsal Check-in King - Group 1	Rose Room
1:00 PM	<i>Promoter Meeting</i>	Rose Room
7:00 PM	ALL Contestants Check-in	Rose Room
8:00 PM	Pageant Begins	Rose Room

Presentation **ALL** Contestants

Queen - Group 2 Creative Fashion

King - Group 1 Talent

King - Group 2 Creative Fashion

Queen - Group 1 Talent

Top 5 - Q & A

Crowning

2026 America's King and America's Queen

ALL contestant entry forms must be submitted online

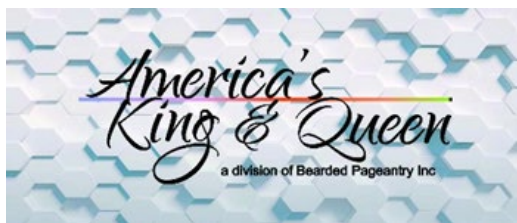
FOR KING - www.americaskingandqueen.com/king-entry-form

FOR QUEEN - www.americaskingandqueen.com/queen-entry-form

CREATIVE FASHION cards must also be submitted online

FOR KING - www.americaskingandqueen.com/king-creative-fashion

FOR QUEEN - www.americaskingandqueen.com/queen-creative-fashion



- RULES AND REGULATIONS -

1. Contestants must be at least 21 years of age by registration of the National Pageant and must be able to show proof of age. You must be able to travel freely throughout the United States of America. If you do not have a Government issued ID or a Passport you will not be allowed to enter.
2. Judging for America's King and Queen will be on a point's accumulated system. Any ties will be broken by the contestant with the highest talent score.
3. Contestants will be judged in the following categories:
 - Presentation
 - Personal Interview
 - Creative Fashion
 - Talent
 - Top 5 - On Stage Question & Answer (at the national level only)
4. Talent presentation will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Prop setup and knock-down time will be limited to five (5) minutes in total. Talent presentations will be timed at rehearsals. Presentations over seven (7) minutes will have administrative points deducted.
5. Any type of talent presentation is acceptable, except those that may cause injury to the audience or any other person. No excessive body or facial glitter, fire of any kind, water or liquids or confetti (including confetti cannons) may be used in your talent presentation. No live animals or reptiles may be used in any talent presentation.
6. The use of or dispensing of illegal drugs or marijuana will not be tolerated while participating in the America's King and Queen Pageant. Immediate disqualification could result for those caught breaking this rule.
7. Any contestant, contestant's dancer(s), helper(s), etc. who is caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another person's possessions will be immediately disqualified and removed from the location of the contest.
8. Bearded Pageantry Inc and America's King and Queen does not discriminate against contestants with any form of body-altering surgery, silicone, and/or the use of testosterone or hormones.
9. Bearded Pageantry Inc reserves the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered by these rules and regulations.
10. America's King and Queen will be required to sign a contract with Bearded Pageantry Inc before any prize money is paid. Failure to sign the contract will mean forfeiture of the title.
11. Any contestant in the top 5 not staying on stage for the entire crowning ceremony and picture taking will forfeit their placement and prize money.
12. Within 7 days of winning the contest, America's King and Queen must maintain a social media page, email address, and cell phone for the entire length of their reign.



CATEGORIES and SCORING

PRESENTATION –Extraterrestrial Royal Attire

Presentation music will be chosen by the reigning court.

SCORING – this category is worth 1 – 10 points

PERSONAL INTERVIEW –

Contestants will meet individually with the panel of judges who will question them on anything from personal issues to their professional lives. Nothing religious or political will be allowed in a Personal Interview unless a contestant brings it up first. This timed category will allow up to 10 minutes per contestant (if necessary).

SCORING – this category is worth 1 – 10 points

ON-STAGE QUESTION – AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL ONLY

This category will only be limited to the top five at the National Contest. It is not a category at the state or regional level.

SCORING – this category is worth 1 – 30 points

CREATIVE FASHION –

Creative Fashion is open to anything from a full-length creative avant-garde, creative fashion show-worthy look, traditional “suits” style fashion molding into a creative modern twist, or anything creative fashion-wise, or fashion created with unconventional materials. Judges will be current with fashion and open to all types of creative fashion.

SCORING – this category is worth 1 – 10 points

TALENT –

Any type of talent presentation is acceptable as long as it does not cause injury to anyone on stage or off stage. Using fire, glitter, or fluids of any kind is not allowed. You will be allowed up to 7 minutes to present your talent presentation. You will have up to 5 minutes to set up and remove any props used in this category. Music must be on a flash drive. No other media will be accepted. Video is allowed if the venue has it available.

SCORING – this category is worth 1 – 40 points



CATEGORIES and SCORING

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PRIZE PACKAGE

America's King

Winner:

- **\$2000.00** (*half at crowning, half at step down*)

- **Crown**

- **Medallion**

- **Sash**

-

- *Accommodation for*

America's Bearded Queen

November 10th & 11th in Dallas, Texas

- **Sponsored Photo Shoot**

1st. Alternate

- **\$500.00**

2nd Alternate

- **\$250.00**

PRIZE PACKAGE

*America's
Queen*

Winner

- **\$2000.00** (*half at crowning, half at step down*)

- **Crown**

- **Sash**

-

- *Accommodation for*

America's Bearded Queen

November 10th & 11th in Dallas, Texas

- **Sponsored Photo Shoots**

1st Alternate

- **\$500.00**

2nd Alternate

- **\$250.00**

PRESENTATION THEME –Extraterrestrial Royal Attire

America’s King & Queen: Out of This World — Extraterrestrial Royal Attire

Step beyond the boundaries of Earth and into a realm where royalty reigns across galaxies. **Out of This World: Extraterrestrial Royal Attire** invites contestants to embody cosmic sovereignty through visionary design, futuristic elegance, and interstellar imagination. This theme challenges each King and Queen to merge the opulence of traditional regality with the mystique of the unknown—channeling alien royalty, celestial deities, space emperors, and galactic rulers.

Expect bold silhouettes, unconventional materials, and avant-garde craftsmanship that defy gravity and earthly norms. Metallics, holographic, bioluminescent elements, and other worldly textures should transform the stage into a universe of its own. From ethereal star-born monarchs to powerful rulers of distant planets, each look should tell a story of dominance, beauty, and identity beyond human limits.

This is not just fashion—it is a declaration of power, imagination, and cosmic excellence. Contestants are encouraged to push creative boundaries, presenting garments that feel both regal and radically unfamiliar. In this universe, the crown is earned by those who dare to be visionary. Welcome to the galaxy of greatness—where royalty is truly Out of This World.

TALENT -

Talents may be any type of entertainment presentation as long as it does not create any danger or injury to either the contestant or anyone else. No animals or reptiles may be used in your talent presentation. ***You may not use fire of any kind, confetti or confetti cannons, water, liquids, or excessive glitter or facial glitter in your talent presentation.*** Talent presentation is limited to seven (7) minutes in length. Prop setup and tear-down time is limited to seven (7) minutes. There is no restriction on the number of people or props that are allowed in your Talent presentation.

Music or Videos for talent, along with your crowning number, may be submitted in advance. Submit to akaqpageants@gmail.com any time before registration begins.

All files must be saved using the following naming convention:

Contestant_Name_Talent Contestant_Name_Crowning

If you plan on using video, **format as MP4 or MOV using the naming convention above.** Other formats will not play and cannot be accepted. Optimal screen dimension: 16 x 9 widescreen. If you are using a simple graphic on the LED screen, please format the size as 3148 x 1102 pixels. Make sure the TEXT FONTS used are BOLD to be seen and read clearly.

MP3 (**music only**) files may be emailed directly while video files (MP4 or MOV) will need to be shared with akagpageants@gmail.com through Google Drive. Contestants are advised to make a back-up copy of music/videos on a flash drive and to bring it as a safety precaution to rehearsal at the pageant. **Again, if you submit your music or video in advance, it must be submitted before registration begins.** If you find that you need to change your talent, substitutions may be made, when necessary, by submitting music/video on a flash drive prior to your scheduled rehearsal. That will be the only time you may make changes to your talent music/video.

TALENT REHEARSAL -

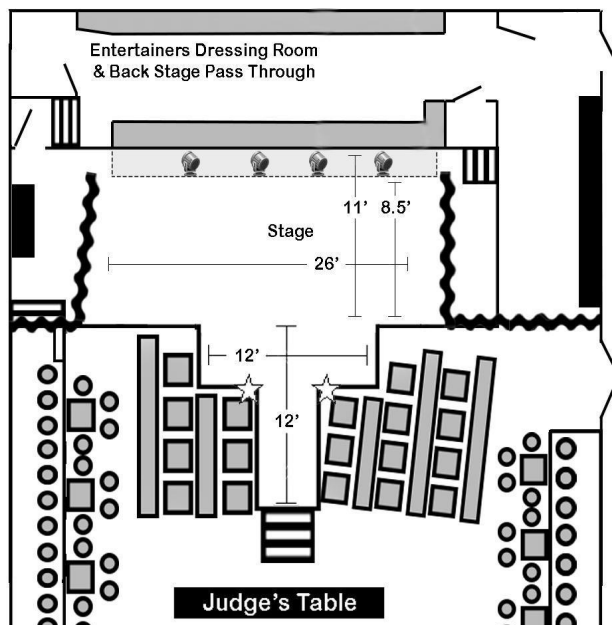
Each contestant MUST attend Talent rehearsal. We have allowed a limited time in the schedule for individual contestant sound checks, blocking, and any curtain, fan, or lighting cues. A technical form will be available at rehearsal for you to complete for the Pageant Director. Be sure you are well organized for this rehearsal as time is limited. We will also be timing the length of your talent presentation during rehearsal.

STAGE DIMENSIONS -

Competition for America's King and Queen will be held in the Rose Room at S4 (left). The competition area is 11' deep (8.5' accounting for stationary motion lights along back) and 26' wide. The ceiling height is 12' high. The runway is 12' long and 4' wide at the end. At the base, the runway is 12' wide. The fans are built into the stage and marked in the diagram with stars.

Any props used must be free-standing and may not damage the wood floor.

There are stationary motion lights on the stage along the back wall. Account for 2.5' clearance



when staging as these lights and the LED screen **MUST** not be touched.

When making costume changes or setting props, keep clear of the lights as they are very hot.

For Contestant Registration and rehearsals at the Rose Room inside Station 4 (S4) you MUST use the back entrance (back parking lot) as the front doors will not be open until 7:00 pm each evening. After entering the back door (patio) go up the stairs and in the side entrance to the Rose Room (glass doors). THIS IS THE ONLY TIME YOU

WILL BE ALLOWED TO USE THE BACK ENTRANCE.

YOU MUST ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT ENTRANCE ALL OTHER TIMES including check-in times for contestants each night of competition!



3911 Cedar Springs Rd. | Dallas, TX 75219

OFFICIAL JEWELER

Fierce Drag Jewels by John Griffin



www.fiercedragjewels.com

ADMISSION

Monday – Admission - \$20.00

Tuesday – Admission - \$20.00

Wednesday – Admission - \$30.00

Dresser Pass - \$50.00 - each contestant is required to purchase one dresser pass

Dancer Passes are \$50.00 per dancer

Family and Friends Pass

Guests and Family can pre-purchase a 3-day pass for \$60.00

Available until the close of registration

Station 4 (S4) and the Rose Room is an 18 and over club. All persons entering the venue **must have** a valid Government or state-issued ID – **NO EXCEPTION.**

If you are under 21 you will be given a separate mark identifying you as under 21 years of age. If this mark is removed or you are caught drinking you will be removed from the venue and the pageant and not allowed to re-enter ANY night of the event.

Host Hotel –

This year's' HOST HOTEL for the 2026 America's King contest and 2026 America's Queen pageant will be the:

TownPlace Suites by Marriott

900 West Walnut Hill Lane

Irving, TX 75038



ALL contestants must stay at the Host Hotel to ensure fairness to all contestants. *Even local contestants must stay at the Host Hotel.* Those not staying at the Host Hotel will have administrative points deducted!

The America's King and Queen rate will be **\$84.00 (plus tax) per night for a queen room**. You must book your hotel stay directly using the link below.

www.americaskingandqueen.com/host-hotel

paying for your hotel stay but will not be in attendance, they **must** contact the hotel and make arrangements before the event begins. Otherwise, you must personally use your credit/debit card for the room as well as the incidental hold.

PLEASE NOTE – Bearded Pageantry Inc OR America's King and America's Queen will not be responsible for any damage to the host hotel OR any of the hotel's linen. PLEASE make sure to bring enough makeup towels to this year's America's King and America's Queen. We will NOT tolerate any contestant or anyone in their party doing ANY damage to the Host Hotel. We will help the Host Hotel prosecute anyone who damages the Host Hotel in any way!



Commemorative Program Book

GLOSSY full Color 8.5 x 11

**CONTESTANT PRICE is only \$40
for one full page.**

*Make sure to get your friends, family, sponsors, home bar, work, etc to
place their ad supporting your trip to Dallas to compete
For America's King or America's Queen*

DEADLINE – SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

2026 Commemorative Program Book

*America's
King & Queen*

Advertise in our beautiful 8.5 X 11 Full Color
Glossy Commemorative 2026 Program Book

Center Page (2 Page Spread) 17 x 11 - \$250.00
Back Cover 8.5 x 11 - \$200.00
Inside Front Cover 8.5 x 11 - \$150.00
Inside Back Cover 8.5 x 11 - \$150.00
Full Page 8.5 x 11 - \$100.00
Half Page 8.5 x 5.5 - \$65.00

ALL ads will have a .25" bleed around the artwork

DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

Contact
David Bridgman
214-815-7695
beardedpageantryinc@gmail.com

Distributed nightly
September 28 - 30
in the Rose Room
Dallas, TX

Celebrating
Leche Diamante
and August Edwards
America's Queen
and
America's King

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