

MONARCH
APPLICATION
PACKET

Witti Repartee
Applicant for Empress XXVI
Submitted June 27, 2011

Michael Barret Jones
428 Bay Ridge Avenue, #3
Brooklyn, NY 11220

MsWittiR@aol.com
(646) 206-6360
Twitter @WittiRepartee

Titles Held and Awards:

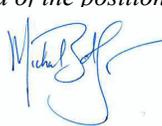
Events Participated In – Court Related (In town):

Events Participated In – Court Related (Out of town):

Events Participated In – Non-Court Related:

On Becoming a Monarch: *Tell us why you would like to become a Monarch for the Imperial Court of New York; what would you bring to the court; what are your goals and visions for the court; and any other information you would like us to consider.*

I certify that I am over 21 years of age and that the information I have provided above is true and correct. I agree to uphold the mission and purpose, and abide by the By Laws of the Imperial Court of New York, Inc. I fully understand the personal time and financial commitment that are required of the position for which I am applying.

Signed: _____  _____  _____ Date: _____

Please enclose at least two (2) personal letters of recommendation from persons not affiliated with the Court System.
This application must be returned to the President by **11:59 pm on Thursday, June 30, 2011**. Monarch Candidate interviews will be held thereafter. Approved applicants are expected to make a short presentation at the August 3, 2011 General Membership Meeting.

APPLICATION MATERIALS for WITTI REPARTEE

Candidate for Empress XXVI

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Thank you for this opportunity to present myself as a possible candidate for Empress XXVI of the Imperial Court of New York. For much of the last fifteen years I have watched Emperors and Empresses alike rise to the challenge of the monarchy, serve our community with grace, goodwill and a sense of humor, and would deeply appreciate the honor of your consideration to join their ranks.

Becoming Empress of the Imperial Court of New York would allow me to draw on two decades of gay activism, my professional life as a fundraiser and teacher, my history with organizations from a broad array of communities and continue building on the tremendous outreach and excitement to the Imperial Court of New York. I want to roll my sleeves up and work with the ICNY family to build on the amazing energy of our new members, the passions of our hard-working and dedicated corps, and re-engage less active members in a way that provides opportunities for everyone to give as much as they want to the work that we do.

In 1997, I was appearing in a production of *La Cage aux Folles* with (then) Princess Royale Victoria Weston. My earliest interactions with the court involved coordinating a group ticket sale with (then) Princess Royale Panzi. The night the ICNY attended that event was shortly after the beginning of Reign 11, and I can still see Empress Gianna sitting in the front row of the theatre. I had heard of *Night of a Thousand Gowns*, and the Imperial Court of New York while performing at events for the Gay Activists Alliance of Morris County (NJ), but had not yet seen them in action. I was twenty-three, and blown away by the grace, style and elegance of the Courtiers in Rahway, NJ. I was deeply impressed by the way their status, carriage and style made an impact on the crowd around them. Harnessing that spotlight for the good of the community seemed like an fantastic mission, and I pressed Victoria to tell me more. She invited me to perform with her that summer on Fire Island as part of her "Out of the Mouths of Live Babes" series at the Ice Palace, and I travelled to Cherry Grove for the first time to do a show with La Diva, Jacqueline Jonee, Rose Levine and others that I would come to know later. Fortunately, the Court has always had a kind spirit toward young members, and I was mentored and mothered after my first performance on the Island. I learned that no twenty-three year old should be singing "The Ladies Who Lunch." Note taken. I joined the Court family in September of 1997 with a wonderful drag mother in Victoria, and began mixing my passion for performing with my desire to be part of something greater. How was I to know how amazing my experience would become?

Today I come to you, my family, in hopes that you will support my interest in serving you as Empress.

I have three primary interests in reigning as the Empress of New York:

- 1) To continue mentoring new members and providing a safe, creative space for everyone to play this amazing game. In 2009 I resurrected *The Lords and Ladies Show* (now *The Nobles Show*) as a way to give voice and opportunity to our newer members, and have continued producing it. I recognize that each and every one of us have joined the Court for our own, varied and different reasons, and that we all get something different out of it. For some, it's a place to be pretty. For others, a place to perform. For many, it's a place where we can be accepted for who we are, over and above WHAT we are, and for most, it's a place to give back and serve our community. We have room in our family for all of these.
- 2) To continue our work building and strengthening bridges with different facets of the greater New York Community. I have done a lot of work in this regard: serving as the moderator of

GMSMA's Under 35 Group (and being invited to be a charter member of the New York Boys of Leather); guest starring with the Boys of Bearlesque; den-mothering members of Delta Lambda Phi, the gay fraternity at NYU; co-hosting Porno Bingo with Will Clark, a fashion show for Iris House, and will be doing so for Bosco's Birthday this year. The ICNY has done a tremendous job in the last few years reaching out to a more diverse community, but any group can always use more external collaborations. I've been part of some of the recent outreach, and would love the opportunity to use the spotlight of the monarchs to reach even further: to solidify our relationships with sister organizations, to find new avenues of expression, and to use our resources to help other organizations.

3) To help us focus a public spotlight on smaller organizations that don't have the budget or PR machine that they would need to be well known or popular. There are grassroots organizations in New York City with budgets under \$200,000 that need help raising awareness about their work and could use the Imperial Court's power as attention-getters as much as they could use our fundraising abilities.

I believe that I am well suited to serve as Empress of New York. I have served two terms on the Board of Directors of ICNY, once as its Secretary. I am just about to finish my second term as Minister of Protocol, and am well known and respected in that capacity around the Imperial Court System. I have attended out of town Coronations in Kentucky, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Buffalo, and have been given family titles in three of those four Courts, in addition to Massachusetts and Toronto. I served on the Board of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus for three years, and in 2002 was crowned Her Royal Majesty, Queen of the NYC Gay Men's Chorus. If elected, I would be the first person to have served in both of those capacities.

In my year as Queen of the Chorus, I reigned during a time of transition and change in leadership. It was challenging to act as cheerleader to a group of 250 men from different backgrounds with differing needs, but my "Butch" and I managed to have a very successful year! In addition to planning the annual No-Talent Show (a thirty number marathon!), after-concert parties and membership events, we also instituted several social outings and were the first reign to have an active table presence at the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Flea Market. Additionally, we arranged for one of Manhattan's numerous street fairs to benefit the Chorus and had a table at that event, including a performance space where we performed on 7th Avenue throughout the day. Our crowning achievement was at the Heritage of Pride Parade where we led the largest NYCGMC contingent in its history on a float celebrating "Peace through Pride" – our float and marching contingent sang all the way down the route and were rewarded with the "Best Use of Theme" award that year.

As an activist, I have marched on Washington twice, participated in rallies at New York City Hall, attended City Council hearings, demonstrated at the United Nations, attended political candidate rallies and fought for our rights. While in college I chaired our LGBT student group and led a contingent to the North East Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Association Conference in 1992. I served as a board member of the Gay Activists Alliance of Morris County (NJ) for two years, and it was during that time that Witt Repartee was christened.

I am currently the Director of Development at Iris House, an organization founded to serve women infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. I have been a fundraiser and "Chief Story Telling Officer" for nearly a decade, and since 2001, I have been responsible for raising more than \$6,000,000 in funds for arts, education and social service organizations. I was part of the strategy team behind ICNY's Trinity Place Shelter project, have reinvented our electronic communications with "The Herald's Report," written for the International Court Communique, and redesigned and rewrote the Court's own informational brochure in 1998. (I am honored that some of my copy still exists in our trifold today!) We've come a long way since then, but from my earliest days in ICNY when Panzi and Bill named me Press Secretary to the Emerald Empire, I've been involved in telling our story to a broader audience in print, electronically and from the stage.

Late in 2008, I bumped into Tony Monteleone who told me that he and Anne Tique were about to step up again for a second reign. He encouraged me to come to the Twelve Drags of Christmas. Having been away from ICNY for a few years, I was a little nervous about walking back into that room: I hadn't taken a hiatus out of anger, or left on bad terms, but I had stepped back and then away for a while. How would people react to my return? That night at Pieces, I was astonished. I was greeted with open arms, hearty hellos and a chorus of "Witti! Are you coming back?" I hadn't expected that reaction, and was overwhelmed by the sense of family that came rushing back to me. That is what the members of the Imperial Court of New York are to me: family. If elected, I will have a difficult time naming an "imperial family" because I already feel like so many of the members are "my family." Some have mothered and nurtured, some have been almost paternal. I've even grown to appreciate the crazy aunts and goofy uncles, because we're all family. We come together to celebrate our culture, to play this great game, to raise money for amazing causes, but we also come together because family always does. New York is unique -- we may not always love each other, but family sticks together and we defend our own, put on a great show and get busy with the work at hand.

People have asked me "When is Wittie going to be Empress?" and my response has been, "I will be Empress when and if the membership of ICNY tells me THAT is the way I can best serve them and our community." That was my answer to someone ten years ago, when I wasn't ready for it. However, I feel that now is the time that my skills and experiences can be called into play, and with the encouragement I have received from the membership, I put forth my application and would be honored to serve our court and our great city as Empress XXVI.

#

HONORS AND TITLES

(in reverse chronological order)

Winner, 2011 Empress Award for Excellence, Overall Member of the Year: Performance and Service

ICNY TITLES

- Mistress of the Robes to **Empress XXV Pepperica Swirl** and **Emperor XX Vanity Society**
- "Gypsy" Sister to TMIM, **Emperor XIX Jack** and **Empress XXIV Farrah Moans**
- Member, The Turkey Club
- Cugina Da Rimini to **Empress XXIII Anne Tique** and **Emperor XVIII Tony Monteleone**
- Member, Golden Horn Society
- Society of Jaded Women, **Empress XIV Victoria Weston**
- Metropolitan Muse Society, Muse of Cabaret, **Empress XIII Anne Tique**
- Press Secretary to TMISM **Emperor VIII Chet** and **Empress XIII Anne Tique**
- Press Secretary to TMISM **Emperor VII William** and **Empress XII Panzi**

OUT OF TOWN TITLES

- Out of Town Goddess of Right and Wrong to **Emperor XXX Fred E. Worsham** and **Empress XXX ShotZ with a Z** of Kentucky
- Sister to Empress XIX of Rhode Island, **Vienna Marriott**

- Sister to **Emperor and Empress 2011 of Connecticut, Nick De Sabella and Chanel Couture**
Data Nerd Sister to **Reign X of the Imperial Court of Massachusetts**
Wicked Dominatrix to **Empress XXIV of Toronto, Dusty Balfour**
- Sister to **Emperor XXIX of Kentucky, Clayton James Burchell**
Member, D.I.V.A. Society, Empress XXIX of Kentucky, Helena Handbasket
- Sister to **Emperor XVIII of Rhode Island, "Big Daddy" Austen Daniels**
- The Windswept Mayflower Sister to The Celtic Lion, **John Raimondo Reeves, Emperor Emeritus** and
Founding Baron of the Imperial Court of Massachusetts

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEW YORK ACTIVITIES (Items with an Asterisk* include Performances)

REIGN 25 (Vanity and Pepper - Through 6/26/2011)

April Birthday Show*, Joseph Koh's Birthday Party, Rhode Island Coronation (Coronation*, Victory Brunch), Easter Parade, Royal Wedding Show*, Investitures, Spanky Bialous Memorial Service, Disco Night 2*, AIDS Walk NY, Kentucky Coronation (In Town Show, Out of Town Show*, Coronation, Brunch), Google Pride Bingo*, Leather Pride Night, Folsom Street East*, Pride March

REIGN 24 (Jack and Farrah)

AIDS Walk, Glitter in the Garden*, Kentucky 2010 (In Town Show, 45th Anniversary Gala, Out of Town Show*, Coronation, Victory Brunch), Folsom Street East*, Pride Kickoff Celebration, Pride Parade, Christmas in July*, Tough Drag, Jersey Girls VI*, Bosco's Birthday Party, Sea Tea*, Candidate's Show*, Got Milk Weekend, Nobles Show*, Hearts and Voicesx2 (hosted)*, Red Ribbon Foundation/Bollywood Event, Thanksgiving at Gods Love We Deliver, Twelve Drags of Christmas*, VisualAIDS Postcards from the Edge, Holiday Party, Chorus and Court Coquette Cabaret*, Connecticut 2011, Prince and Princess Show, Out of Town Show

REIGN 23 (Tony and Anne)

Victory Brunch, Tough Drag, Glitter in the Garden, Folsom Street East, Leather Pride Night, 40th Anniversary Celebration at Stonewall, Christmas in July*, Meet the Candidates, NOATG Video Screening, My Big Gay Italian Wedding, Will Clark's Porno Bingo, Hearts and Voices, Halloween Drag Exchange, Diamonds are a Boy's Best Friend at Casa Frela, Twelve Drags of Christmas, Postcards from the Edge, Holiday Party, CT Coronation, Valentine's Day Dance at the Center (hosted), Prince and Princess Show, Intown Awards, Out of Town Show

REIGN 22 (Rob and Charlene)

Twelve Drags of Christmas, Prince and Princess Show, Out of Town Show, Night of a Thousand Gowns

REIGN 16 (Matt and Lita)

Night of a Thousand Gowns

REIGN 15 (Damian and Fiona)

Victory Brunch, AIDS Walk, Tough Drag, Leather Pride Night, Folsom Street East, Center's Garden Party, Prince and Princess Show, Out of Town Show, Night of a Thousand Gowns

REIGN 14 (Gary and Victoria)

Victory Brunch, Easter Parade, AIDS Walk, HOP Float Fundraiser*, SAGE Pride Party*, Leather Pride Night, Folsom Street East*, Center's Garden Party, Heritage of Pride Parade, Christmas in July, MCC Halloween Party, 12 Drags of Christmas, Gay Men's Chorus at Carnegie Hall, Prince and Princess Show, Out of Town Show, Night of a Thousand Gowns

REIGN 13 (Chet and Anne)

Victory Brunch, Easter Parade, GLAMA Awards, GL Business Expo, Buffalo Coronation, Investiture Dinner, Rhode Island Coronation, AIDS Walk, Stonewall Float Fundraiser*, Folsom Street East*, Garden Party, Heritage of Pride Parade, Fire Island Invasion, Christmas in July*, New Members' and Candidates' Dinner*, Monarch's Candidate Show, Emperor Chet's

Sea Tea, Center Halloween Party, MCC Halloween Party*, Heritage of Pride Awards, Lords and Ladies*, 12 Drags of Christmas*, Bailey House Christmas Party, Holiday Party, Membership Brunch @ Chez Suzette, Gay Expo, Prince and Princess Show, Out of Town Show, Night of a Thousand Gowns

REIGN 12 (William and Panzi)

Victory Brunch, Gay Men's Chorus (Spring), Easter Parade, Investitures, AIDS Walk, Lord and Ladies Show*, Louis XIV Evening at Mother*, Folsom Street East*, Heritage of Pride Parade, Christmas in July*, MCC Halloween Party*, Bobsie's Birthday Bash at Lips, New Members Dinner, 12 Drags of Christmas*, Holiday Party, Prince and Princess Show, Out of Town Show, Night of a Thousand Gowns

REIGN 11 (Tomas and Gianna)

Halloween @ the Center, New Member's Dinner, 12 Drags of Christmas*, GMC Holiday Concert, ICNY Holiday Party, La Diva's Farewell to the Heart and Torch Empire*, Prince and Princess Show, Out of Town Show, Night of A Thousand Gowns

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES / POSITIONS HELD

New York City Gay Men's Chorus	Singing Member	1998 – 2003
	Board Member	2000 – 2003
	Reigning Queen	2002 – 2003
Gay Activists Alliance of Morris County	Board Member	1995 – 1997
Gay Male S/M Activists: The Next Generation	Group Moderator	2004 – 2005
The Boys of Bearlesque	Guest Performer	March and July 2011
Delta Lambda Phi's Drag Race	Panelist and Judge	March 2011
Hannah's Lava Lounge	Host, "The Gayest Link"	2002-2003

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

The following pages include letters of recommendation from the following individuals:

- Erika Banks, Hearts and Voices / LifeBeat
- Nicholas Robertson Forge, Board Member and Volunteer Coordinator, Trinity Place Shelter
- J.D. Leggett, Mr. International Bear 2010; Creator, The Boys of Bearlesque, Mr. Stonewall Bear Contest
- Ryan Rockmore, Member, Delta Lambda Phi (Gay Fraternity at NYU)
- Annie Soriano, Executive Director, Friends House
- Carla Sutherland, Director of the International Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights Program at the Arcus Foundation
- Lolita Wolf, Leather Educator and Blogger, Little Miss Littles 2011



MUSIC FIGHTS HIV

March 22, 2011

To whom it may concern,

IN MEMORIAM

Bob Caviano, Founder
1950-1992

Mel Cheren
1933-2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mitch Slater
President

Daniel Glass
Founding Board President

Robert Reicher, Esq.
Secretary

Burton Goldstein
Treasurer

Bruno del Granado
Gary Dell'Abate
Arthur Fogel
Donna Futterman, M.D.

Emilienne Gray
Stephen Hill
Sonia Muckle
Denise Rich
Tim Rosta

Paul Schindler, Esq.
Lisa Sherman
Derrick Thompson
Van Toffler
Emil Wilbekin
Ross Zapin

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New York, NY 10036
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Fax: 212.846.1472
Email: info@lifebeat.org
www.lifebeat.org

Employer ID Number
13-3667778

I am honored to acknowledge Michael Barret Jones, Her Grace, Grand Duchess Wittl Repartee for her service to Lifebeat's Hearts & Voices Program. We are only able to do what we do because of the generosity and reliability of individuals such as this.

Lifebeat, is a 501c-3 national nonprofit organization that uses the power of music and the music industry to help educate young people about HIV/AIDS prevention, and to provide support to the HIV-positive community. I manage Lifebeat's Hearts & Voices Program, an ongoing concert series for people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. We produce an average of 250 shows annually, serving hundreds of people living with HIV/AIDS in the New York & Washington, D.C. areas with the healing power of music.

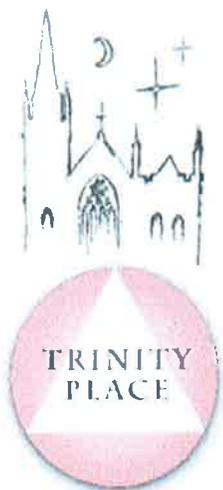
I've been managing the Hearts & Voices program since July of 2008 and I have interacted with Wittl Repartee on numerous occasions. She has both hosted and performed in Hearts & Voices performances put on by the Imperial Court of New York. She always puts on a fabulous performance and connects with every member of the audience. Her passion and commitment to both her craft and it's positive impact on the audience is inspirational.

I also had the pleasure of working directly with Wittl Repartee this year to secure a drag queen to perform at the NYC Pride StageFest, which Lifebeat is producing with Heritage Pride this year. At first she was going to perform herself, but when the timing didn't work out, she was very quick to find the perfect replacement. This type of partnership and commitment is exceptional and greatly appreciated.

I am clear Wittl Repartee has the powerful qualities of an effective leader and will make a fabulous Empress for the Imperial Court of New York.

Sincerely,

Erika Banks
Manager, Lifebeat's Hearts and Voices Program
Lifebeat – Music Fights HIV
676A Ninth Avenue, Suite 111
New York, New York 10036
212-459-2590
ebanks@lifebeat.org



A HOMELESS SHELTER
FOR L.G.B.T.Q.
YOUTH

164 West 100th Street
New York, New York 10025
(212) 222-7045

www.trinityplaceshelter.org

Facebook: trinityplaceshelter

Rev. Heidi Neumark
Pastor

Kevin Lotz, LCSW, CASAC, ACSW
Director

Lydie Raschka, M. Ed.
Outreach Coordinator

Anne Fry, MS, M.Div.
Treasurer

Kimberly Potter, LMSW, MPH
Social Worker

Overnight Shelter Coordinators

Max Hing
Wendy Kaplan, BA
Meeghan Mercurio, BSW

Advisory Board Members

Joy Chia, Esq.
Megan Wilen, LCSW

Nicholas Forge, MSW, MA
*Volunteer Coordinator and Advisory
Board Member*

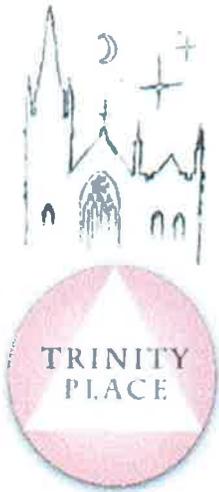
June 20, 2011

Dear College of Monarchs and the Membership of the Imperial Court of New York,

My name is Nicholas Robertson Forge and I am a board member and volunteer coordinator for Trinity Place Shelter, as well as a professor of social work at Mercy College. I am writing today to recommend Witt Repartee as a candidate for Empress XXVI of the Imperial Court of New York. It is both an honor and a pleasure to offer you my heartfelt recommendation to support her candidacy.

I first met Ms. Repartee in 2010 at The Nobles' Show, which was benefitting the shower project that Empress Farrah Moans had undertaken on behalf of Trinity Place Shelter. I was extremely impressed with Ms. Repartee's commitment to this project and was able to see how effectively she worked with Empress Farrah to design the fundraising campaign, which with a goal of \$20,000 was no small feat! This initial meeting with Witt was an important beginning not only for my relationship with her but also for my relationship with the Imperial Court. I must confess that although I had heard of The Court, in particular Night of a Thousand Gowns, I was not at all familiar with the organization. It was Witt that educated me on all things Court related, and she did so with extraordinary passion and enthusiasm.

Since our first introduction I have had many occasions to meet and socialize with Witt. In the spirit of community I introduced her to the NYU gay fraternity, Delta Lambda Phi, whose members have volunteered with our shelter for some time. This introduction led to their volunteering for Night of a Thousand Gowns in March 2011. In need of funding themselves, the fraternity held a fundraiser at a bar in the West Village, and I invited Witt to come along to support their efforts. In true spirit of collaboration and support Witt agreed to be auctioned off for a date (and was the highest bid of the night!). Furthermore, when Witt and I attended the fraternity's *Delta Lambda Phi Drag Race* event later on in the year, she made herself available when asked to be a judge for the event. It made for a very fun and entertaining evening! Witt had hysterical interactions and banter with both the contestants and the other judges and did so not only as Witt Repartee, but also with the carriage and class appropriate to her role as a member of the Imperial Court. This is an important distinction and it is clear that Witt takes her role in the Court very seriously and does so with style and grace.



A HOMELESS SHELTER
FOR L.G.B.T.Q.
YOUTH

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Advisory Board Members
Joy Chia, Esq.
Megan Wilen, LCSW

Nicholas Forge, MSW, MA
*Volunteer Coordinator and Advisory
Board Member*

Since meeting Witt last year our paths have crossed at various events and fundraisers. I have always been inspired by her outgoing character, her desire to assist others, and her ability to advocate for and inform others about the Imperial Court. We both work in the realm of non-profits and fundraising, and in tough economic times such as these, I have been so impressed with her desire to collaborate with rather than compete against. I whole heartedly recommend that the membership of the Imperial Court of New York vote and elect Witt as their next Empress. It is sure to be a reign that will not just benefit the Imperial Court, but each and every member of our community.

Respectfully yours,

Nicholas Robertson Forge

JD Leggett
796 Madison St #3R
Brooklyn, NY 11221

June 14, 2011

Imperial Court of New York
P. O. Box 613
New York, NY 10016-0613

RE: Wittl Repartee, Candidate for Empress XXVI

To the College of Monarchs and the Membership of the Imperial Court of New York,

I bid you hello!

I am writing to you today to strongly support the candidacy of Wittl Repartee (Michael Barret Jones) for the position of Empress XXVI of the Imperial Court of New York.

One of my primary focuses during my year as Mr. International Bear was on outreach and building bridges. I know Wittl shares this goal, and I have seen her in action on a number of occasions and believe she has the charisma, uniqueness, nerve and talent to be wildly successful. I have seen her work Folsom Street East on behalf of the Imperial Court, I know her to be connected with the beginnings of the New York Boys of Leather, and when she began seeking co-promoters for her upcoming "Gayest Link" show (in October 2011), she solicited my advice on where in the bear community she was likely to find eager and receptive voices. I have seen her talk to people from different generations and different backgrounds and make them feel like their perspective and experience is valid and welcome, even if their opinions and methods might differ.

Earlier this year, I asked Wittl to make a guest appearance in our Boys of Bearlesque show at the Stonewall Inn. I know from the myriad of questions that she asked me during that process that she has an eye for detail and a sense of performance professionalism that will serve the Imperial Court well. Not only did she turn out a fantastic performance for our show, but she brought audience members from the Court, from NYU, from TES (The Eulenspiegel Society) – gay, straight, young, old – they came to see her and support our show benefitting the Ali Forney Center. In fact, she was such a hit with the audience that I have invited her back to join us in July at an All-Star Extravaganza.

At her suggestion, I was a volunteer at Night of a Thousand Gowns this year. I appreciate her knowledge of the organization, how that event functions, and how well she seemed to understand the moving parts. As I watched her in action, I wondered when I would see her onstage as the Reigning Empress.

I have known Wittl for less than two years, but from my perspective as a Titleholder, Event Producer and member of the International Bear and Leather Communities, I know that she would make an amazing Empress. She will represent you and the City of New York well, and I hope you agree with me!

Sincerely,



JD Leggett
Mr. International Bear 2010
Creator/Director, The Boys of Bearlesque
Founder, Mr. Stonewall Bear



Delta Lambda Phi National Social Fraternity

Established 1986

Beta Xi Chapter at New York University

Established 2007

June 20, 2011

To The Esteemed Nomination Review Panel,

I am extremely pleased to write this letter of support for Witt Repartee who is under consideration as a candidate for the title of Empress XXVI of the Imperial Court of New York. I have known Witt since February of 2011 and I find her to be an upstanding and extremely caring member of the New York LGBTQ community.

As the immediate past president of the Beta Xi Chapter of Delta Lambda Phi and event chairman of the DLP's HOTT Drag Race, I experienced first-hand Witt's kind and giving attitude. When I met Witt at our fraternity's DLP Date Auction at Boots & Saddle, she was genuinely invested in helping our organization. At the end of the night, \$680 of the total \$2,000 raised were a direct result of Witt's bids and her encouragement to others. On our second occasion, at DLP's 2nd Annual HOTT Drag Race, Witt became a last-minute addition to our judging panel after another queen did not show. As a highlight and contrast to the other queens on stage that evening, Witt's commentary and charismatic personality entertained the crowd for hours. Over the course of my three years in this fraternity, I never experienced more joy or ease working with another professional like I did with Witt.

While reviewing Witt's outstanding resume and her goals for the upcoming year as Empress, one thought remained consistent – she is emblematic of leadership. She has expressed a keen interest in fostering higher membership from LGBTQ youth, bridging gaps within our community, and raising awareness for smaller organizations – all in the name of philanthropy and service. Witt does not rely on her numerous accolades, titles, and accomplishments to stand out and make a difference; rather, she employs this credibility to forge ahead in diverse, uncharted routes.

Witt Repartee is a natural leader whose commitment to our fabulous community is admirable. After Delta Lambda Phi's first interaction with Witt and the Imperial Court of New York, two of our alumni have joined and every one of our members has expressed excitement about a future relationship with ICNY. All of this due to Witt's persistence, attention, and care in creating a special relationship between our two organizations. Her application comes to you with my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rockmore
Delta Lambda Phi, Beta Xi Chapter President 2009 & 2010



June 15, 2011

Dear Board of Directors of The Imperial Court of NY,

I am the Executive Director of Friends House and it is no secret that we consider The NY Court part of our family! Friends House has long enjoyed a mutually supportive relationship with many of our dear court members.

Board of Directors

Jennifer Knight
President

Louis Benza

Martin D. Cofsky

Tom Coughlin

Edward Elder

Tom Gagilano

Jonathan Goldberg

Martha Hyde

John Loza

Executive Director

Annie Soriano, LMSW

I am writing in support of one of those member's candidacy to reign as Empress XXVI of The Imperial Court of New York. Witt Repartee has embodied the vibrant spirit that we as a supportive housing program for people with AIDS desperately needed over the years. Fabulous Duchess that she is, by performing for our residents in many shows, Witt has shown how deeply important the service aspect of being a court member is to our community.

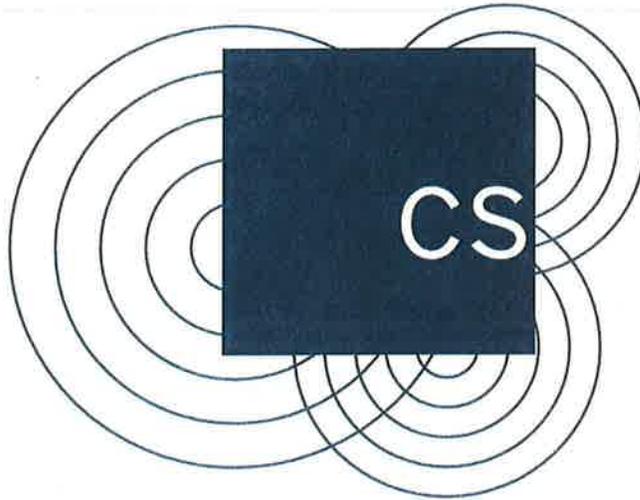
I know that she has many years and a wealth of experience as a respected member of The Court and in particular as an activist for the LGBT and AIDS communities. Professionally, as a Development Director for a sister agency, Witt has been a fundraising force! I know, I get all those emails!

The most important recommendation I can give to Witt is that I know she champions us little guys! She has a profound understanding and love for the grassroots agencies that are making a huge difference in people's lives even if no one else knows about it! Witt promotes a positive awareness of the smaller budgeted programs and advocates for The Court's support of them. Forever creative and dedicated to the cause, it's time for her to wear the big crown!

With much love, I respectfully recommend Duchess Witt Repartee to be our next Empress!

Sincerely,

Annie Soriano
Executive Director



24th June, 2011

The Imperial Court of New York
P.O. Box 613
New York, NY
10116-0613

Dear Imperial Court of New York,

I write in support of Wittie Repartee's application to be considered for election to be the XXVI Empress of the Imperial Court of New York.

My name is Carla Sutherland, and I am currently the Director of the International Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Rights Program at the Arcus Foundation. The Arcus Foundation is one of the largest funders of SOGI rights, both here in the USA and internationally. I am responsible for the development and implementation of an ambitious program to support SOGI organizations in more than 25 countries across the world, as well for high level advocacy work within the US State Department and the United Nations, I am writing in my personal capacity, but drawing on my considerable experience in this field.

I met Wittie through Kerry Ashforth who is a colleague of mine at the Arcus Foundation. With their encouragement I have attended a number of Imperial Court functions, including the most recent Night of a 1000 Gowns. I have enjoyed myself tremendously at these functions, and been impressed by the way in which Wittie has 'worked the

Carla Sutherland, PhD
145 west 71st Street
New York, NY 10023

room' to make people feel welcome and comfortable, while also being a great advocate and fund-raiser. She has always spoken in the highest terms of the organization and it is impossible not to be drawn in by her enthusiasm and commitment for the Court. I have spent some lovely evenings quizzing her about Court protocol and the history of the organization and found her an amusing and interesting spokesperson.

She is always impeccable attired, has a commanding presence while not being overbearing, is generous in her assessment of her colleagues, warm and welcoming to new comers, and clearly deeply committed to the work that she does.

In my role as a Director for an private Foundation I meet a great many grant applicants, and I can assure you that Wittl (if she worked on international issues) would have certainly caught my attention, and then my respect, if she ever had approached our Foundation for support.

I can think of no-one better to be an outstanding Empress of your Court.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further assistance or details.

Best,



Carla Sutherland

June 21, 2011

To the members of the Imperial Court of New York:

I am writing you today to support Michael Barret Jones (Witti Repartee) as a candidate for Empress XXVI.

I have known Michael for about eight years. I first met him at Gay Male S/M Activists (GMSMA) where I was an honorary member and he was moderator for GMSMA-TNG, the special interest group for members under the age of 35.

I have been active with the Leather Pride Committee since 1993 and I am the Volunteer Coordinator. Michael/Witti has been a reliable volunteer over the years.

It was because of my friendship with Michael and his partner, Kerry that I volunteered at Night of a Thousand Gowns in 2010. Because I enjoyed the experience, I did it again in 2011. I have also attended several Court functions in order to support him and Kerry.

I know how important ICNY is to Michael and I am very familiar with how much effort and passion he puts into it. I hope that he will be seriously considered to be Empress.

Thank you,

Lolita Wolf

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Lolita Wolf

<http://www.leatheryenta.com>

<http://www.phinli.com/Talent/Profile/lolita-wolf>

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