

Wessland Pageants Proudly Presents

Miss Wessland Grand Empress

&

Miss Wessland Closetball

2015

Contestant Information Handbook

Saturday & Sunday January 24th-25th

**The Jungle
2115 Faulkner Road, Atlanta, GA**

7:00 PM



August 2014

Dear Interested Contestant,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you as a potential contestant to Miss WESSLAND GRAND EMPRESS and Closetball Pageant. We at WESSLAND are enthused at the very thought of you joining our family.

This year our pageant will be held at the Jungle. Home of The Stars of The Century. Attached you will find a copy of the 2015 WESSLAND guidelines, host hotel information, pageant schedule and more. **Please be sure to examine the packet carefully** and contact the owner Diabolique Wess(Grand Empress) or Clarence Montgomery (Closetball) with any questions or concerns.

I encourage you to follow your heart and dreams and prepare yourself for this rewarding experience. Please know that I am here for you! Ready, willing and able to assist you on your path to success. Again I applaud your efforts and wish you much luck on your quest!

Sincerely,
D'wess & Clarence Montgomery

Who we are and what we are looking for

We are a fairly New system that is seeking individuals who are interested in helping us grow and **BRAND** our name. We are here to assist, teach, train and guide the careers of upcoming entertainers (Newcomers) and help brand and further promote the careers of the seasoned entertainers (Grand Empress & Mr. & Miss) who are fortunate enough to be crowned into the Wessland Family.

Wessland was created in 2009 as a prelim to Miss Gay USofA Newcomer. In May 2010 we held our first pageant. It branched off by adding a Mr. Division as a prelim to Mr. Gay USofA. Towards the end of 2010, Wessland **DROPPED** the Miss USofA portion and **CHANGED** it into its OWN National Newcomer System and added Mr. to it. After Mr. Gay USofA in 2011, we also dropped the Male portion of USofA System... I decided to expand on the Wessland Brand by adding a Plus Division in 2011. That Plus Division is Called Miss Wessland Grand Empress. In 2012 we added the very first Mr. & Miss Division and 2013 we added M.I. & Femme.

On the Newcomer level the focus is teaching, developing, and molding a future National title holder once they transition out of newcomer. On the Plus (Grand Empress), Mr. & Miss side the main objective is to give entertainers, **(Especially the Plus)** another avenue to display their talents, as well assist in the marketing and promotion of the Wessland brand and of themselves since they too are a Brand. **Accountability, Team work**, support, respect for self and Pride in the art you deliver are **KEY AT WESSLAND.**

Marketing, Promotion, Marketing, Promotion, Marketing, Promotion, Marketing AND PROMOTION!!! That is your main Duty!!! As a videographer who travels across the country, Marketing and Promotion is what I do best. Your MAIN JOB FUNCTION is to promote the system. **A Strong POSITIVE Facebook Presence is a MUST**..... It is important that the Wessland brand is known and seen. I do my part with the bookings and photo shoots and videos, so I expect you to do your part. It's important that you communicate, be approachable, and become an advocate for Wessland. Showcasing yourself and Wessland in the Best Light is vital. **You must act and carry yourself as a Symbol of Excellence.** Always remember that people are watching. You represent Wessland, but more importantly you represent yourself, and you should carry yourself in the manner that people look up to you, and want to be a part of anything your involved in.

It is my HOPES that you are willing to give WESSLAND 100% of your dedication and time.. I would prefer if you **NOT COMPETE for any other pageant while you are helping the Wessland Brand Grow, however I do understand that you may have other dreams and goals you're interested in obtaining. Because of this, I will allow the EMPRESS to compete in 1 other pageant. The WAITING PERIOD IS 3 MONTHS.... After April 25th, you will be allowed to compete. CLOSETBALL CONTESTANTS are allowed to compete in 2 other pageants**

Wessland 2015
Rules & Regulations
PLEASE READ VERY CAREFULLY

1. All contestants must be at least twenty (21) years of age males, with a valid state issued ID that will be presented at the time of registration. There are no residency requirements for this pageant.
2. **The NON- Refundable Registration fee for the pageant will be \$200.00 (Empress) \$100 (Closetball).** All registration fees for the pageant MUST be in the form of cash or money order. No personal checks will be accepted. Completed applications and registration fees can be mailed to: D'wess Productions, PO Box 725273, Atlanta, GA 31139. You can also send payment through Western Union or GreenDot.
3. Judging will be based on a 1-25 or 1-35 format. **Talent** is worth **35 Points**. **Interview, Presentation, Fashion and Q&A** will be **25 points**. In the event of a tie for the Top 5 placements, then the highest score received in talent competition will break the tie. There will be 5 judges. Judges score sheets and comments will be available to all contestants immediately following the pageant.
4. Talent will be limited to **(5) minutes**. The use of props for talent is permitted. Any talent presentation is acceptable except those that may cause injury to the audience or any other person(s). No excessive glitter, confetti, powder, fire, paint, water or nudity may be used in any talent presentation. No live animals or reptiles are permissible in talent presentations. And Lastly.....**GOSPEL**. No Solo Gospel talents are allowed. **If your gospel has more than 1 person in it, then THEY MUST BE ON STAGE WITH YOU FOR AT LEAST 90% of your production..** Prop set-up time will be limited to three (3) minutes. Prop set-up time is not included in the five (5) minute time limit contestants are allotted for talent competition. Talent presentations lasting over five (5) minutes and **30 seconds** will **have administrative points deducted**.
5. **All music must be placed on one (1) high quality CD with nothing else on it.** All CD's MUST be labeled with the contestant's stage name read clearly and legibly on the CD. You may not use commercial CD's that have multiple tracks. Contestants **will not** be able to choose or submit their music for Presentation or fashion. CD will be due after talent rehearsal.
6. Contestants must be prepared to start ALL CATEGORIES after the contestant before them has finished, or if they are the first contestant, they must be ready when announced. Any contestant not ready when called will have 30 seconds to hit the stage. **After 30 seconds you will have Admin points deducted from you. After 1 minute you will be skipped and receive a Zero for that category. We will not return to you.**

7. Contestants will be allowed one (1) free admittance for their dresser). Please see pageant promoter for your dresser's pass. Passes for back-up dancers will be available for \$20.00 each and will be collected from the contestant at registration. **Passes WILL ONLY BE GIVEN OUT DURING REGISTRATION.**
8. Professional conduct is required both as a contestant and as a titleholder. **Unprofessional conduct is interpreted by D'wess & Clarence and if found guilty will find you disqualified.** Any contestant, dresser, contestant's dancer(s), etc. caught in the act of stealing or tampering with another contestant's possessions will be **immediately disqualified and removed from the pageant premises.** Keep close watch of your dancers, and helpers. Their actions **WILL FALL ON YOU!**
9. Punctuality is required. Any contestant that is not in the appointed place at the appointed time will lose administrative points **or be skipped.**
10. Contestants are required to keep dressing area and passages clean and free of props. Discard all unwanted materials properly. Any charges or damages incurred by the Jungle due to your negligence will be your responsibility....
11. **Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Any contestant who walks off stage during the Crowning or required photo shoot afterwards, or causes a disruption or destruction of property backstage will forfeit the placement and prize money. You will also be banned from competing/attending any Wessland event in the future. If your actions warrant the authorities to be called, Wessland or The Jungle WILL prosecute if needed.**
12. Neither Wessland Pageants nor the place of venue can be held liable for any damages or injury to participating contestants, their assistants or backup dancers..
13. Winners will not be able to compete in ANY **PAGEANT on ANY LEVEL for 3 months** after crowning. Your number 1 priority is **Wessland..**
14. 1st Runner ups are eligible to compete next year with their entry fee Waived...
15. Wessland Pageants reserves the right to make any decision concerning any matter not covered by these rules and regulations

Categories

Personal Interview **(25 Points)** Each contestant will be interviewed individually by the judging panel. The purpose of the Personal Interview is to allow the judges some insight into the character of each contestant. During the interview, the judges are also afforded the opportunity to evaluate each contestant's basic qualities, such as intelligence, ability to communicate, attitude, composure, etc. The basic nature of the interview is intended to be casual and relaxed. You should dress as you would for a professional job interview. The interview is about yourself. No political questions will be asked, however you might be presented with a scenario. Interview will be 7 Minutes long. Contestants who choose to present themselves as a male must have the complete look and will be judged just as hard as their male counterparts. There is no in-between. Personal Interview will take place at the host hotel at 2:00pm. **Interview WILL BE recorded for coaching and training purposes. INTERVIEW IS ONLY FOR THE EMPRESS DIVISION!**

Presentation **(25 Points)** Presentation for the **EMPRESS** Division is Black and Green. Swimwear is not accepted. BOTH COLORS MUST BE ON THE GARMENT. No other color stones/beads can be used except black, green, or Clear. Silver can be used to **ACCENT ONLY!!! DO NOT OVERTHINK THE CATEGORY**, by adding or accenting everything in Silver. It cannot dominate the garment. Presentation for the **CLOSETBALL DIVISION** is Formal Wear as a Male. This will be any formal wear of your choice. Contestants will be given The opportunity to walk the stage and Showcase their fashions and introduce themselves. There will be NO SPEACHES, RIDDLES or RHYMES.

Evening Gown **(25 Points)** **Empress & Closetball** will be presenting an Evening Gown of their choice. Contestants need to make sure their garment is in perfect condition. Pay close attention to the fit and tailoring. Judges will evaluate the total look. Contestants will be shown the stage points to hit during their modeling at rehearsals.

Talent **(35 Points Empress) (25 Points Closetball)** Talent is limited to 5 minutes. **NO SOLO GOSPEL TALENTS** are allowed. SOLO refers to the amount of people on stage. If you choose a Gospel song by an individual artist, then there must be a choir, a dancer or a production behind it. If you have questions about gospel talents, please contact D'wess.. There must be more than 1 person on stage with an active part.. Please refer to number 4 in the rules and regulations for details. You will be given a 30 second grace time to close out your talent. Anything that is 5:31 and over will be docked....

Top 5 Q&A **(25 Points)** The Top 5 will be selected after the 4th category has been completed and scores tabulated. In the event of a tie for the 5th spot, the contestant with the highest Talent Score will be selected. If there is still a tie, then Interview will break it. There will ONLY be a Top 5. **Q&A is for THE EMPRESS division ONLY**

Prize Package

Winner: Empress

- \$1200 Cash (\$1000 Cash at crowning, \$200 at Give up).
- Crown, Pin, Sash, Award
- Complimentary Photo shoot the following day. (Colors are White & Green)

First Runner-Up:

- \$400.00 cash
- Award

Second Runner-Up:

- \$200.00
-

Winner: Closetball

- \$800 Cash (\$600 at Crowning, \$200 at Give up)
- Crown, Pin Sash, Award
- Complimentary Photo shoot the following day (Colors are White & Green)

First Runner-Up

- \$300
- Award

Second Runner-Up

- \$200

ALL CONTESTANTS WILL RECEIVE A FREE DVD OF THE PAGEANT

Please note that anyone walking off the stage or conducts themselves in an unprofessional manner will forfeit their prize package.

Your bookings/appearances/trips will be based on your dedication to the system. The more you do for Wessland, the more Wessland will do for you! You are not **REQUIRED** to be anywhere other than Continental, MBU and MBA for your walk and appearances. Wessland Newcomer, Femme & MI Pageant, Mr. & Miss, Renaissance and Sweetheart for performances. Everything else is based on your representation of the system as a King or Queen. We will only secure other bookings if your doing your job..

Host Hotel

**Microtel Inn & Suites
1840 Corporate Blvd NE
Atlanta, GA 30324
(404) 325-4446**

The Hotel rate is \$52.99 for a KING \$62.99 for 2 DOUBLE BEDS or \$72.99 for a Suite.... These rates are based on hotel availability. So you **MUST** BOOK as soon as Possible.. In order to get this rate you **MUST** tell them you are a part of the **WESSLAND** Group. The block starts from Friday the 23rd and checking out on Monday the 26th. All the hotel will need is a valid credit card to reserve the room. A hold **WILL NOT** be placed until you actually check in. You are charged when you check out. If you have more than 1 person staying with you, please make sure you place their names on the room as well, so that there will not be an issue with re-issuing keys in case you forget or loose the originals.

Hotel has free parking, free Wi-Fi in the rooms and lobby, business center, fitness center and pool.

Please bring any additional towels you may need for the removal of make-up. You will be charged for ANY and ALL damages to the room or other areas of the hotel. Please make sure that you and people in your party act responsibly and not cause any type of disturbance at the hotel. The Microtel takes noise complaints very seriously and after the initial warning, you may be asked to leave the property.

If you have any issues or questions with the hotel reservations, our contact over there is Chris in Sales. (404) 325-4446. You are also free to contact D'wess or Clarence with any rooming issues..

Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 24th, 2015

12:00 PM	Contestant Registration/Briefing & the Microtel
2:00 PM	Personal Interview

Sunday, January 25th, 2015

2:00PM	Talent Rehearsal if Needed
5:00 PM	<u>CONTESTANT ROLE CALL WILL BE TAKEN</u>
5:30 PM	Formers/Entertainers/National Walk Check In
6:00 PM	Doors Open to the Public
7:00 PM	Pageant Begins PROMPTLY

PLEASE make sure you are not late to Roll Call or ANY OTHER point in the night. Your **PROMPTNESS IS VITAL**. We will move the pageant with or without you. This goes for my entertainers and even my reigning King and Queen. So please be prepared to compete and have a great Night.

Admin Points Reminder Beginning with Interview, you must be at all places on time. There will be a 5 point admin deduction for each violation. Plan to be everywhere 10 to 15 minutes ahead of schedule.

Monday Afternoon will be your **MANDATORY** photo shoot. **COLORS ARE White AND GREEN**
Monday Night your first booking will be with the Stars of The Century. Although the Stars performance is NOT A PAID BOOKING from Wessland, it is **MANDATORY.....** Anyone unable to attend the bookings/shoot will be in **IMMEDIATE** contract violation and receive disciplinary action..
.....PLEASE HAVE A BACK PLAN IN PLACE, in the event you win..... **Performance on Monday IS FOR THE EMPRESS ONLY, but Closetball is Required to be there!!!**

Wessland 2015
Agreement and Release

I, _____, hereby agree to the rules and regulations of the WESSLAND 2015 pageant by signing my signature below. I agree to release and hold harmless D'wess Productions, his hosts, agents and employees, from any liabilities and/or responsibilities whatsoever resulting from, associated with or arising out of my participation in the WESSLAND pageant or the title I have registered for above, but not limited to personal injury, or loss or damage to my personal property, regardless of whether the loss or injury occurs before, during or after the pageant or any other related activities. Any damage that you cause to your personal dressing space or room will be your responsibility.

I also hereby release myself from rights to any videotaping (sound and/or video), photography, recording, still camera or motion pictures of the pageant. I understand that I have no rights to any of the recording that I appear in/on or future sales thereof.

I hereby agree that my name or any photographs taken of me during the pageant may be used for publication for promotional purposes or in advertising publicity.

By signing below, I affirm and attest that I have read and agree to the above terms of this application. I understand that this application is held in the strictest of confidence, to be utilized and analyzed only by D'wess Productions and/or Wessland Pageantry System, and will not be sold, suggested or transferred to third parties, unless otherwise notified.

Print Legal Name

Date

Signature

REGISTRATION FORM

Stage Name: _____

Legal Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

Current & Former Titles: _____

Why did you choose to participate in this pageant? _____

What Pageants do you plan on competing for during your Wessland Reign?:

Where do you perform/work? _____

Describe your package for the pageant:

Talent Description: _____

Props: Yes _____ No _____ Dancers: Yes _____ No _____