



STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE Stracey Aurelien, Yolanda Victor, Cidnee Lassiter, Kyana Brown, Andaiye Gibson and Natalia Gonzalez practice their Hurricane Steppers dance routine before the show outside the green room. *Photo by Allie Salvucci*



MUSICAL AIR As the drag queen Mary Poppers, sophomore David Caldarella plays a violin rendition of Material Girl by Madonna. *Photo by Allie Salvucci*



SPOTLIGHT TIME Feminist Flight Club composed of Lauren Colaco, Kat Cocson, Tram Huynh, Bradon Zhang and Kate Ortnier finish with a dance to a K-pop song, MONEY by Lisa. *Photo by Allie Salvucci*

RISING

from the ashes

The annual event hosted by SpectrUM raises money for the LGBTQ+ community amid glitter and song

Story by Shea Halpenny Design by Mia Rivas

The DragOut event, hosted by student organization SpectrUM, brought the art of drag to campus, allowing members of the LGBTQ communities and allies to express themselves. Famous drag queens, kings and students put on drag and performed in typical drag fashion: with lip-syncing to songs and over-the-top dancing. The stage was set up in the Shalala ballroom for performances and fundraising for both SpectrUM and SAGE, a non-profit organization that supported elderly people in the LGBTQ community.

Participants and organizers of the event spoke about the intent of holding DragOut. Sam Hinds, a sophomore and the Secretary for SpectrUM, said DragOut “helps educate students, but also let’s queer students know that they’re not alone and helps them find a sense of community.” Hinds, along with the rest of SpectrUM, provided students with the opportunity to explore their sexuality and identity, helping them build bonds with other queer students.

The DragOut event was intended to create a safe space for queer and non-queer students to express themselves with colorful outfits, artful makeup and styled wigs. Sophomore David Caldarella, drag name Mary Poppers, also spoke about his experience as a performer at the event. “DragOut is a showcase of talent, a spot for all sorts of performers to share their skills in front of an energized and supportive audience,” he said.

DragOut was known as an event full of self-expression for performers, a facet of entertainment for peers and an opportunity to raise money for charities.



IN THE ACT During her time on stage, student drag queen Inita Man brings the audience to the stage by dancing with faculty member Vanessa Kania. *Photo by Emma Gladden*



GROUP SHOT Once DragOut ended and the audience members were exiting, all the performers, both students and professionals, along with the volunteers gather at the back of the stage to commemorate the work they put into the event with most of the people preparing for the event since the early morning with set up, sound check, dress rehearsal and more. *Photo by Emma Gladden*



STRIDING DOWN THE CATWALK While dancing to the song Tequila by The Champs, Adrianna Marrero as Jack Hauff gives a subtle, yet fun musical number. *Photo by Emma Gladden*

BEHIND curtains

From backstage help to event planning, SpectrUM members were busy preparing for a night of glitter, heels and excitement



IN BETWEEN Tiffany Fantasia also works as the MC with the help of a script made by SpectrUM’s president Nathaly Gonzalez, although that didn’t stop Tiffany from putting her own twist on things. *Photo by Emma Gladden*



ASK AWAY SpectrUM hosts a panel with a professional drag king, Spike Van Dykie, and two drag queens, Tiffany Fantasia and CC Glitzer, with sophomore Veronica Geoghegan moderating. *Photo by Ryan Hires*



TEN OUT OF TEN Dr. Andrew Porter, Dr. John Clochesy, Dr. Barbara Hoffman and Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter spend their night judging student performers and deciding the winners of DragOut 2022. *Photo by Emma Gladden*



PACKED TO THE MAX A wide variety of students fill the seats in the Shalala Grand Ballroom to witness the first live performance of DragOut after two years since the start of the pandemic. *Photo by Emma Gladden*



COLORFULLY COMING OUT After entering the stage with a black dress, CC Glitzer reveals her proud-to-be-pride outfit with applause from the audience. *Photo by Allie Salvucci*