



Rio Grande Leather Contest September 19, 2010

INTRODUCTION

This packet has been developed for Rio Grande Leather Contest contestants and includes the 2011 schedule, contestant information, and titleholder responsibilities.

The Rio Grande Leather Contest is in its seventh year. It was started to create a New Mexico leather event which has grown to include entertainment, workshops and a contest to select Mr. and Ms. Rio Grande Leather 2011. This year the Contest will be separate from the Weekend activities, but the winners of the contest are expected to take part in the Weekend activities in October, 2010. The contest is open to anyone over the age of 21, any gender (self identify), orientation, or role within the Leather/kink/fetish Community who identifies as part of the Leather/kink/fetish Community. The titleholders will serve for one year as the leather representatives in and for the New Mexico Leather/kink/fetish Community.

Leather titleholders are public figures who serve as leaders and spokespersons for the community on a wide range of issues. They are not the only voices heard in a community but are often the first contact the larger community has with the Leather/kink/fetish Community. They are considered representatives of the community.

These are the definitions that we will use for this contest:

Leather Heart

Those who chose to live in one of the mindsets of B&D, D/s, M/s, S&M, fetish and/or kink who live by an active set of values; and those who are an active and positive member of the Leather/fetish/kink community by means of community service

- A. **fetish** – a sexual responsiveness to an activity or object.
- B. **kink(y)** - sexual practices that transcend what are considered "vanilla" sexual boundaries as a means of heightening the experience between participants.
- C. **leather** - People who may live a particular lifestyle, and may typically wear leather clothing, sometimes as a means of signaling interest in or preference for sadomasochistic sexual activity.

Anyone who identifies with any combination of the above definitions is already a member of the larger Leather/kink/fetish Community.

Titleholders will also have an option to compete at regional, national or international contests of their choice during their title year. This could include (but is not limited to) International Mr. Leather, International Ms. Leather, International Mr. or Ms. Bootblack, American Brotherhood, Olympus, Southwest Bootblack or other regional titles.

If a titleholder chooses not to compete at another level and just represent the New Mexico Leather/kink/fetish Community, he or she will be expected to travel during the year to events outside New Mexico as ambassadors for the New Mexico community. At these events, they could be asked to judge contests, present workshops, hold fundraisers and support other Leather/kink/fetish events. They would also announce upcoming New Mexico events and distribute literature as the state titleholder. This experience allows the titleholder to meet people from other communities and gain in experience and friendships over the year.

THE WEEKEND

Contestants will be judged in 8 categories, described in detail below, and should begin working on each area as soon as possible. The categories are **Interview** (300 points), **Presentation** (100 points), **Fantasy Performance** (100 points), **Leather Image** (casual leather, everyday leather) (50 points), **Leather/kink/fetish Hot Wear** (jockstrap, fantasy wear etc.) (50 points), **On-stage Speech** (200 points), **On-stage questions** (100) and **Leather Heart/attitude** (demeanor, personality, teamwork etc.)(100 points), for a total of 1,000 points. Those who are the only contestant for either the Mr. or Ms. title would need to receive at least 60% of the total score to be awarded the title.

SCORING CRITERIA

Contestants will be judged in the following eight categories:

Leather heart/attitude (demeanor, personality, teamwork etc.) (100 points) – The judges will begin watching you from the opening reception throughout the weekend until the end of the contest. How do you interact with others, do you introduce yourself, have you met all your judges? How do you work with the staff, volunteers and each other? Do you carry yourself well as a leather person/person of integrity?

Interview (300 points) – A panel of five judges will ask you a variety of questions that will include inquiries about your leather/kink/fetish life, why you want the title, what you plan on doing with the title and may ask you questions about the New Mexico Leather community and Leather History. Be honest, be open, and answer as best you can but don't be afraid to say you don't know but can find out. Dress neatly and wear what you feel comfortable in to meet the judges. You could be asked personal questions including why you picked what you are wearing. Interviews will last about 20 minutes. You will be judged on the clarity, conciseness and content of your answers.

Presentation (100 points) – You will make an educational presentation on the topic of your choice. You have 15 minutes for your presentation and 5 minutes for questions by the judges and audience. You will be judged on your knowledge and skill on your topic and your ability to educate your peers

Fantasy performance (100 points) – Your fantasy is a performance presentation. It can be showing work that you do a fantasy or anything else. You want to entertain, educate and make a connection with the audience and judges. Keep the props simple and make sure you're the center of whatever it is you are doing. Fantasy can be no longer than 5 minutes. Be aware of safety and staging since you want the audience to see what you're doing.

On stage speech (200 points) – You have ninety seconds give a speech. You may tell us who you are, where you're from, why you are running for the title and what you plan to do if you win, or speak on the topic of your choice. You will be judged on content, presentation, and how comfortable you are speaking to the crowd.

Leather image (casual leather, everyday leather) (50 points) – This is concurrent with your On Stage Speech. What you wear out in the community to show you're into Leather/kink/fetish – you will be introduced on stage for this part and then give your introduction/speech. You will be judged on neatness, image, and how comfortable you are in your leather/kink/fetish wear.

Hotwear (50 points) – What turns you on or makes you hot? This can be any kind of Leather/kink/fetish wear but must meet the legal requirements of the state. Nipples must be covered for anyone who is listed as "Female" on their state issued id, no genitalia can be seen and a 1" strap/covering must cover the ass crack. (Jock straps were traditional fair for men in the old bar contests.) You will be introduced on stage and given about 30 seconds to show your stuff while a portion of your application is read. Have fun with this and work the crowd.

On-stage questions (100 points) – after your hotwear introduction, you will be asked two questions, one humorous and one serious, regarding the Leather/kink/fetish community and/or about yourself. These questions will be answered on stage and in front of the audience. You will be judged on creativity, content, and the ability to express yourself.

THE SCHEDULE

Each contestant must complete and submit their application by September 13, 2009. The website (www.riograndeleather.org) has all the information to download. ***There is no cost to compete.*** However, there is a \$25 processing fee that should accompany your application when it is submitted. You will receive a confirmation that the application has been received within four days of its submission. ***As part of the winners package, each winner will receive a weekend package to attend the event that will permit attendance to all weekend activities and the Saturday lunch.*** Be on time for meetings. Being late or missing a meeting/deadline will result in points being deducted from your leather attitude score.

Saturday, September 18, 2010

7 pm - 9 pm - Meat and Greet - MANDATORY for Contestants! Your contestant number will be drawn during the Meat and Greet.

Sunday, September 19, 2010

9:00 am – Contestant registration and meeting at *Sidewinders*. Bring any props, CDs (Bring 2 copies labeled with your name and contestant number – be sure only your performance number is on the CD – no multiple tracks) that you need for your fantasy at this time.

10:00 a.m. - 11:45 am – Interviews – (your contestant coordinator will let you know what you need to do during this portion). When not in interviews, you can practice your fantasy.

noon - 2:00 pm - Contestant Presentations

2:15- 3:30 pm - Contestant rehearsals – CLOSED. Rehearsal/Stage Manager meeting – walking through the contest, using the microphone, etc. then released until 7:15pm. You will be able to walk through your fantasy at this time so have everyone who is in your fantasy at this meeting. Plan time to get your costumes together, eat and get some rest. It is a busy day and should be fun, not a chore to compete.

7:15 pm- Contestant Call in dressing room

8pm - 10 pm – 2010 Rio Grande Leather Contest

10 pm – Victory Celebration, Sidewinders

Requirements of Titleholder:

Rio Grande Leather is growing and seeks some assistance from titleholders, who are the most public face of RGL. RGL also expects titleholders to develop community leadership, organizational, and fund-raising skills. RGL has set a goal for each titleholder to help raise \$500 during the title year that can help keep registration fees for the RGL Leather Weekend event as low as possible, fund scholarships, and provide funds for expenses that arise throughout the year, such as participation in Pride events, or contributions to other organizations (e.g., NMLL Spring Pandemonium) and charitable organizations (e.g., NCSF, NMAS, Leather Archives). The titleholder can help raise these fees by participating in other fund-raising activities organized by others, staging their own fund-raisers (which could also benefit their own Travel funds), or soliciting sponsorships, “selling” advertising, or other creative ideas. RGL producers do not benefit financially from any RGL fund-raising – the community and Titleholders are the direct beneficiaries of all RGL activities and fund-raising.

I understand that, if I am selected as an RGL titleholder, I agree that I will raise a total of at least \$500 during the period of my title year in order to support the ongoing functions and activities of Rio Grande Leather. These obligatory funds are separate from the Titleholder’s Travel Fund and are used at the discretion of the RGL Producers to support the activities of Rio Grande Leather. I understand that I will be expected to raise at least half of that amount (\$250) by April 1st of my title year in order to retain my title and continue to represent myself as an RGL titleholder at public events. I also understand that I will be expected to raise the remaining amount (to total \$500) at least one week prior to the RGL weekend event in order to formally step-down and complete my title year at the RGL weekend event.

The main stage dimensions are approximately 10 ft. wide by 12 ft. deep. There are stairs from the back and front areas. Judges will be seated on either side of the front walkway. You are not permitted to attach anything to the stage, back wall, ceiling or staging materials. Your fantasy or performance must be contained within the main stage area.

Lighting

There is a very basic lighting system used. We have one follow spot. Other than the most basic lighting and spot, we will not be able to accommodate complex lighting requirements.

Sound

We have a sound system capable of playing CDs ONLY. Be sure to bring **two** copies of your fantasy music/sound to be given to the sound technician. Label your music with your name and contestant number (if applicable). The music for your fantasy must be the only track on the CD.

Props

You are encouraged to keep your props small and simple. There is only a small backstage area to store props. Props must be picked up after the show or they become the property of RGL LLC.

Special Equipment

We do not supply any other special or technical equipment, such as projectors, fog machines, strobe lights, etc... You must rent or bring these with you and be responsible for their set up and security.

We can help you find a local vendor for your rentals.

Restrictions

Fantasies may not be longer than 5 minutes. Fantasies that run over 5 minutes will have points deducted.

Any messy scenes must be cleaned up, and remember there is only about a minute for cleanup.

(Bring your own tarp if there is to be mess- be it fluid or confetti.)

Lighted candles may not be allowed to stand alone.

(Bring your own tarp and use it if there is any risk of wax hitting the stage.)

If needed, you may receive one free ticket to the contest that is valid for someone participating in your fantasy that is not able to attend the rest of the RGL Weekend.

(Any additional fantasy members will need to purchase a ticket for the contest if they don't have a package for the weekend.)

If you have any addition questions, please contact the Contest Coordinator:

Daddy Ruben Gallegos – 505-463-7760 or Fitbear@aol.com .

Contact Information

Daddy Ruben
Contest Coordinator
505-463-7760
Fitbear@aol.com

Mauro Montoya
Co-Master of Ceremonies
505-917-8308
RGLOrganizer@aol.com



For and in consideration of my being allowed to compete, perform, or otherwise appear upon stage during the Mr/Ms Rio Grande Leather Contest:

PHOTOGRAPHIC RELEASE AND WAIVER

I, the undersigned, hereby give permission to use, reuse, broadcast and/or publish any and all Photographic Pictures of me, which shall be taken during the Rio Grande Leather Weekend. The term “Photographic Pictures”, as used herein shall include portraits, or reproductions thereof, including audio and video tapes, made through any media. Further, such rights shall include the right to use such Photographic Pictures in conjunction with my name, and through any media, for any purpose whatsoever. I HEREBY WAIVE any rights to inspect or approve the finished Photographic Pictures, or the method of their eventual use, including any related audio or printed copy which may be used in conjunction therewith. I HEREBY RELEASE, discharge and agree to save harmless Rio Grande Leather LLC distributing the finished product, in whole or in part, from and against any liability or claim as a result of the use or publication of said Photographic Pictures, including from any distortion, blurring, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, either intentionally, or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking, processing or reproduction of the Photographic Pictures, their publication or distribution. I HAVE READ the foregoing Release and Waiver before signing my name below. I warrant my full understanding of its contents, and that I am of legal age to give my consent in this state.

INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS

I certify that I have attained at least twenty-one (21) years of age and that I, based upon mutual covenants and considerations (including granting me the privilege of attending and participating in Rio Grande Leather Weekend), will not hold Rio Grande Leather LLC—nor its individual or collective owners, officers, agents, and employees thereof liable for any injury to my person or property during the period of the Rio Grande Leather Weekend, and I further agree to indemnify and save harmless and hold harmless Rio Grande Leather LLC, the individual and collective owners, officers, agents, and employees thereof from any and all liability, injury or economic loss or other damage.

Signature: X _____ Date: _____

Contestant full legal name _____
(written signature—DO NOT PRINT)

Witness Signature: _____ Date _____

Witness Name (Please Print) _____
(written signature—DO NOT PRINT)

You will be required to submit a photocopy of your legal, government issued I.D. along with your contestant application. Also be prepared to show your I.D. at contestant check in.

Fantasy Technical Sheet for _____ Contestant # _____

Descriptions of Changing Rooms and what to bring will be provided at orientation.

Water and snacks will be provided during the contests.

Be ready to answer the following questions during rehearsal:

What will the lighting be like at the beginning of my fantasy?

When does the sound begin? On what cue? How loud?

Is the follow spot used?

During the fantasy, does the lighting change? On what cue?

Does the music change? On what cue?

What will the lighting be like at the end of my fantasy?

Does the music end on a cue or fade out?

Do you need to use a live microphone during your fantasy?

You will fill out a diagram of the location of your props/set pieces on stage for your fantasy at the Sunday contestant meeting. You can change this on Saturday if needed but try to have the fantasy complete and ready to go so you feel confident about your performance. Label this diagram with your name and contestant number. We have a limited number of stage crew and will need assistance placing large props.