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World Gay Rodeo Finals® **IGRA Royalty 2018**

So... what exactly *is* Royalty?

It's similar to most mainstream rodeos where rodeo queens are referred to as "Royalty." But at the International Gay Rodeo Association, there are several different official royalty positions filled by dedicated ambassadors promoting Gay Rodeo and the western lifestyle. These men and women can be seen wearing sashes or crowns; and naturally draw lots of attention at the rodeo and elsewhere when attending a variety of events and fundraisers in their respective cities as well as rodeo-sanctioned venues in the host city of the World Gay Rodeo Finals®.

To rise to the level of IGRA Royalty – an International Title – a candidate must first win a royalty position in his or her local Gay Rodeo Association; then compete for the International title at the World Gay Rodeo Finals®.

Royalty positions typically consist of "Mr.," "Miss", "Ms.," and "MsTer". They are described as follows: "Mr." is a title typically held by cisgender male cowboys; "Miss" is a title typically held by men who are female impersonators; "Ms." is a title typically held by cisgender women cowgirls; and finally, "MsTer" is a title typically held by male impersonators.

Royalty, at the local, national, and international level, are usually the individuals asked to undertake the bulk of fundraising for their local associations as well as the IGRA. Funds raised support gay rodeo across the country as well as local and national charities. Sometimes jokingly referred to as "Cash Cows," royalty is phenomenally successful at raising large sums of money for IGRA and affiliate associations. Many of our honorable royalty are accomplished rodeo competitors, as well! For example, "Miss" IGRA 2017, Kelly O'Neil (stage name), from Texas, competes in highly competitive speed events (when not in drag) and is an incredible horseman having won multiple buckles and ribbons. Outside of the rodeo arena, Kelly also is an amazing entertainer on stage. Over the years he has helped IGRA, along with the other royalty team members, raise much needed funds to support IGRA.

We look forward to seeing you at the 32nd Annual World Gay Rodeo Finals® in Mesquite, Texas. Come for the competition; stay for the fun!