



Buck Beal
Public Relations Director
World Gay Rodeo Finals®
Buck.PS@gmail.com
Tel. or Text 760 333-5664
www.igra-wgrf.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10-17-2018

Cowboys & Queens at World Gay Rodeo Finals®

Mesquite, Texas • October 25-28, 2018

Exciting competition at the tenth and final gay rodeo of the IGRA 2018 season concluded this weekend at the BigHorn Rodeo in Las Vegas. Now, a team of IGRA officials is working feverishly to tally points earned all year long to determine who qualifies as the twenty top-performing men and women in the world of gay rodeo. This will result in invitations to compete at the World Gay Rodeo Finals®, the weekend of October 25-28th at Mesquite Arena in Mesquite, Texas. Spectators, fans, and rodeo enthusiasts near and far can expect to see gay rodeo competition at its best. But wait - there's more...

Add a little glitz and glam – it is, after all, a *gay* rodeo. In addition to the best in gay rodeo competition the world has to offer, the World Gay Rodeo Finals® also includes a full schedule all weekend long of colorful, lively, and fantastically entertaining *Royalty* as part of the annual IGRA Royalty Competition. So, what is Royalty exactly? Please read on...

If you're unfamiliar, in short, Royalty at the gay rodeo is similar to mainstream rodeos where rodeo queens are dubbed *Royalty*. At the gay rodeo, there are a few levels of royalty beginning at the local rodeo chapter level and progressing to exalted status at the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA), the sanctioning body for gay rodeo nationwide. Royalty titles include Mr. (a cowboy with a sash); Miss (a female impersonator in drag); Ms. (a cowgirl with a sash); and MsTer (a male impersonator). Of course, there's much more to this and it's all a great deal of fun.

This year at the World Gay Rodeo Finals®, competition will be fierce for the coveted royalty titles of Mr. IGRA, Miss IGRA, Ms. IGRA, and MsTer IGRA. Mipsy Mikels, reigning Miss IGRA (International Gay Rodeo Association), said ten candidates from nearly every gay rodeo association in the nation will be on hand to compete for the top honor of being crowned Mr., Miss, Ms., or MsTer IGRA 2019.

The excitement rodeo weekend begins Thursday, October 25th, with the first event in Royalty Competition, which includes Western Wear and On-stage Presentation. Lively, fun Royalty competition will continue with additional events and appearances Friday and Saturday, culminating with investiture and crowning of new 2019 Royalty at a performance gala Saturday evening. Expect to see drag at its best in style, talent, humor, and more. It's sure to be a scream! And it's all under one roof at Mesquite Arena (1818 Rodeo Drive; Mesquite, Texas 75149).

Opening ceremonies for the World Gay Rodeo Finals® are Friday evening at 7pm, also at the Main Hall at Mesquite Arena. It's sure to be spectacular.

Saturday's schedule includes gay rodeo at its very best beginning 9am at Mesquite Arena. Solemn moments during Grand Entry (the half-time ceremonial interlude) include a posting of colors tribute to our nation where gay rodeo exists peacefully among all other athletics; and a brief but always stirring memorial to departed colleagues. Other entertainment planned Saturday will include DJ music all day, plus live performances by local talent 1pm-5pm.

Saturday night activities at Mesquite Arena start 7pm with the much-anticipated crowning of the top Rodeo Royalty contestants from Friday's competition as they assume their titles and roles for the 2019 gay rodeo season. Included also will be Royalty step-down from 2018, Twenty-five and Ten-Year Anniversary recognition, a fund-raising event, and more! A dance is scheduled immediately after crowning. A Texas two-step with a tall Texas cowboy (or cowgirl) awaits you.

Sunday will be the second and concluding day of competition at the World Gay Rodeo Finals® (beginning 9am). The entertainment program will be similar to Saturday's, with IGRA Royalty in all their finest, continuous music spun by a talented DJ, and live local performers 1pm-5pm - all in the Main Hall at Mesquite Arena. Also in the Main Hall and all weekend long, we are honored to have on display famed Section #93 of the original Sea-to-Sea gay rainbow flag. Acclaimed by many worldwide, it's a meaningful and inspiring icon for equality in the LGBTQ community.

After competition, a highlight Sunday will be the World Gay Rodeo Finals® awards banquet (7pm) and ceremony (8PM to Midnight), plus music and entertainment, also in the Main Hall at Mesquite Arena.

If you're a fan of rodeo, if you like cowboys or queens, if you love pageantry, live performances, outstanding country-western music, dancing, and more, there's a lot going on for you at the World Gay Rodeo Finals® in Mesquite, October 25-28, 2018. Come join the fun!