



18-year-old WKU student Tony Mitravich has just broken into the Bowling Green drag scene. He appears “in face” on weekends at clubs and shows as Ambrosia Rose, the New York Queen in Bowling Green. Since being adopted into the Divine drag family, Tony is trying to make a name for himself. “For young ones like me, I have to prove myself.”



LEFT • Tony’s friend and Divine drag sister Tristan Snyder, aka Londynn St. Cyr., helps Tony get ready for an appearance in drag at You and Me Sorts Bar. The “painting” process take several hours as layer after layer of makeup is applied to make Tony appear more feminine. The harshness of the makeup is meant to compensate for the floodlights onstage.

FAR LEFT • “Oh where, oh where could my little ass be?” sings Tristan as he and Tony sort through four years worth of drag outfits, trying to find padding for Tony’s outfit. “Oh, here it is. And look, there’s money in it.”

# the entry level queen

photos and story by miranda barzey

“It’s your New York queen in Bowling Green, Ambrosia Rose!” With that Ambrosia steps out from behind the dressing room curtain in borrowed pink prom dress and blonde wig. Her father and step-mother watch from the crowd, seeing Ambrosia onstage for the first time. She stomps across the stage, channeling Courtney Love while collecting dollar bills from fans. On the last chord of the song she throws the money up and strikes a pose.

Earlier that day Ambrosia was Tony Mitravich, a WKU freshman living in Pearce Ford Tower and working through his general ed requirements while deciding on a

major.

It wasn’t until September that Tony got into the drag world. After going out in drag with a friend and experiencing “free drinks, the money, [and] the looks”, Tony continued to portray Ambrosia Rose. After her first show, she was adopted into the Divine drag family, one of three reigning families in town.

Since then Tony has gone out as Ambrosia to clubs, shows, and the Rocky Horror Picture Show. He’s shopped for outfits and wigs at consignment shops, bought massive amounts of makeup, and forged relationships with his

“drag sisters” in efforts to build a reputation in town.

He’s also been rebuilding a relationship with his father Anthony, who was gone for most of Tony’s childhood. Anthony supports his son and openly talks about Tony’s activities with friends and family. However, he’s still somewhat uncomfortable with the situation.

With two shows under his belt, Tony looking to land more gigs. In the meantime he’s learning from experienced queens and perfecting his performance. “I’m trying to get my foot in the door, waiting to be established, and build a reputation.”