



crowned Queen of the Ball started out in a fabulous and creative costume – Japanese-style make-up, black tape over his nipples and a huge red fan. For some reason he changed into a lace top, short black skirt and fishnets, like a quick knock-off of the Madonna of the early eighties for the crowning of the king (more on that later) and queen of the ball.

The “Seeing Stars” theme for the evening morphed into a “Pop-stars in their Mid-Eighties Incarnations” theme. We saw a one-gloved, red-jacketed Michael Jackson who gave a very convincing performance on the stage, and a be-hatted Prince in gold paisley.

The kings at Drag Ball aren’t generally what might be called “fabulous,” rather, they tend

to fall into the “hot-T!” category. This year a group of them treated the audience to a striptease, dancing to that old favorite, “You Can Keep Your Hat On” of *Full Monty* fame. (Sadly Vermont law doesn’t allow that sort of thing, so they had to keep a bit more than that on.)

The locally famous Lluvia Mulvaney-Stanak was crowned King of the Ball, and she was definitely butch and boyish – every bit as boyish as the queen – first in a white sailor suit for the strip number then in a newsboy outfit to accept the crown.

What do the judges look for in a King and Queen of the Drag Ball? Slimness and youth? Recognizability? Smooth faces? Maybe those in wigs and gowns had gone home by the time the

judging began. Well, who can complain? Most years the Drag Ball – a benefit, by the way, for the Vermont People with Aids Coalition – is promoted with the line “Drag – whatever it means to you.” This year it was, “Come as your favorite star or just as you are.”

The show was hosted by the House of Lemay. There were singers and performances throughout the night. The highlight was dj Elliot Matos who kept everyone dancing until their shoes fell apart, and ultimately, everyone had a ... ball. ▼

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FD 36224 10/03