

# DOREEN

## FASHIONS

### BY IMAGE WORKS

#### TOP TO TOE GLAMOUR BY DOREEN FASHIONS

By Pandora De'Pledge

Doreen's fashions is a unique shopping experience providing a fabulous selection of clothes, underwear, hosiery, wigs, jewellery and shoes at unbelievably low prices. The team of Betty, Irene and the rest of the girls guarantee a friendly and helpful visit. If you want chic on a budget, then make them your first stop! Myself and the whole Image Works team would like to bid a fond farewell to Betty's late husband Les who passed away recently. Our hearts are with you. I have often wondered how the name Doreen came to pass because Doreen is not exactly a name to conjure with. Can you think of a single film star called Doreen? Ever? Doris Day, Dorothy Lamour, Dora - well at least there was Dora Bryan. These days people just don't know anyone called Doreen. In the popularity stakes, it's right up there with Mona, but even Leonardo balked at the idea of painting 'The Doreen Lisa'. For all we know that may have been the original model's name, and in one of those blinding flashes of parental stupidity perhaps the great man said 'I think I'll change the name of my creation from Doreen to Mona ...'

There was a real Doreen and the story is a little like one of those Ealing social comedies.

She was young; he was wealthy - and married. He wanted to 'be nice' to her, so he set her up in her own dress shop and Doreen Fashions was born in City Road, E1.

Shortly after this child of their illicit passion sprang into being, the lady herself upped and fled with another man, perhaps one who had a wedding ring to offer her - not just one he slipped off his finger into his pocket whenever they met.

Meanwhile, just around the time Doreen made her escape into domestic bliss - and into oblivion as far as this story is concerned - another young couple got married: Les and Betty. Betty is one of those names that rolls back in regularly like the tide, helped by the fact that it is the shortened version of two of England's best-loved Monarchs. Les was steady, with a dry sense of humour.

Betty was a little flighty herself in her way: a singer, trained in piano at Music School, a bit of a gambler by nature, full of energy. She might have taken her chance on the boards and kicked her legs up in a chorus line the way Betty Boothroyd, ex-Speaker of the House of Commons, once used to.

In spite of their contrasting temperaments Betty and Les shared a mutual ambition: to be masters of their own fates, come what may. Post-war austerity was officially dead. A new Elizabethan age was dawning, so they took the biggest gamble of their young lives. Using all the money

to their name, they bought the rest of Doreen Fashions' lease from the mistressly-challenged gent for whom the shop had now lost much of its charm.

And the rest, as they say, is history. 51 years of it! In a strange way there is a beauty about the name Doreen Fashions. It isn't fashionable, it isn't 'in'. It probably wasn't even back in 1953. It is timeless, without pretensions. And that allows each of the thousands of customers over the last five decades who have found a welcome in the present Lea Bridge Road shop to form their own associations. The paradox is that for most of them Doreen stands for glamour and sparkle, a touch of Marilyn or even Diana.

A little stardust. In a way, how appropriate that Doreen's is, and always has been, run by someone actually called Betty. Like Betty Grable, whose gorgeous legs adorned more pin-ups than any other woman before or since. Star quality comes in many guises, but only one that I know is called Doreen ...

Hair and Make-up - Pandora De'Pledge Image Works

Styling - Ms Debonair

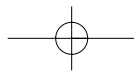
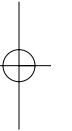
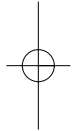
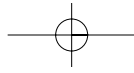
Clothes - Doreen Fashions (£20 - £140)

Photography - Bob Tanner for Image Works

Model - Lisa Budd x 7

Graphics - Titch for Image Works







Utterly **FABULOUS**

# House of Drag DIVA - Sasha

Picture with thanks to Georgina



**H**ello boys, girls and inbetweens! Well its been a very busy three months at House of Drag with many enquiries about our fabulous artistes and models – but more especially because after three venues, (since Dec 2000), we have found a new home for the FIRST Wednesday of the every month at Madame Jo Jo's in Brewer Street.

In April after problems with the licence at No3 Green Street we temporarily relocated to Dukes. Many thanks to Steve Gould, Shane for our years at No3 and thank you to Tony and Giuseppe for your great hospitality at Dukes. You guys are the great.

## 'CABARET EXTRAORDINAIRE' - at Madame Jo Jo's

On October 6th 2004 House of Drag will be joined by Pure Promotions in launching a joint venture to present 'Cabaret Extraordinaire' at Madame Jo Jo's in Brewer Street Soho - London's original home for trannies and drag queens for generations (see story page 16 & 17). For me it's like putting the cherry on the cake. Together with the beautiful and talented Miss Paula Pure I will be presenting two cabaret shows on the 1st Wednesday of each month, one at 11pm, followed by another at 1am. SO 6th October 2004 9pm till late (and the 1st Wed of each month following) will be a night of pure cabaret. Don't miss one of the best shows in town - after all "Life is a Cabaret old chum – come to the Cabaret"..

## MISS HOUSE OF DRAG

The coveted title of 'Miss House of Drag', (currently held by this issues cover girl Miss Lynn Danials), will be passed on to the new winner on 3rd November. The contest will be held at the second night of 'Cabaret Extraordinaire' at Madame Jo Jo's at midnight. The contest is judged on performance and costume. All entrants must register with me before the night. Prizes include £500 cash, £1200 photo shoot with Image Works, and Vip membership of The WayOut Club. Break a Lash girls..

## PERSONAL THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the drag and TG community friends who have helped produce this truly fabulous magazine, it's been lot of fun and a great experience. There are too many names to mention but you know who you are. Thanks from the bottom of my Bridgett Jones Drawers - you're the best !

Love always **Steffan xxx**

**Ray Rice** our love is with you always. You will never be forgotten. Chris we love you and are there for you. Big kisses, hugs and stuff Steffan & Kenny

write to Steffan Whitfield  
c/o P.O. Box 70, Enfield EN1 2AE  
Email [info@houseofdrag.tv](mailto:info@houseofdrag.tv)  
or text 07976 434 302  
(withheld numbers will not be answered)



**I**ntroducing the reigning Miss Malaysia. Her name is Sasha. And now she is here in the UK to complete her studies.

**A**fter her first visit to the WayOut Club when, unprepared, she entered the Star Search contest

**"** Rarely have I met anyone so talented and professional and at same same time so gracefull and pleasant to be with. **"**  
*Steffan*

**S**ince that night Sasha has performed in many House of Drag 'first of the month shows'. She has a sensational collection of gowns and outfits and her dance movements and mime are perfection wheter performing to World music or modern R&B or Chart.

**S**he is very worthy of the name DIVA proving that Diva can be a person of excellence not rudeness.



This photo and inset top right - with thanks to Sasha - taken in Malaysia at the Miss Malaysia contest  
More of these pictures in a feature in the 12th Tranny Guide Book



photos of Sasha with thanks to Rick & Chrissie



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