

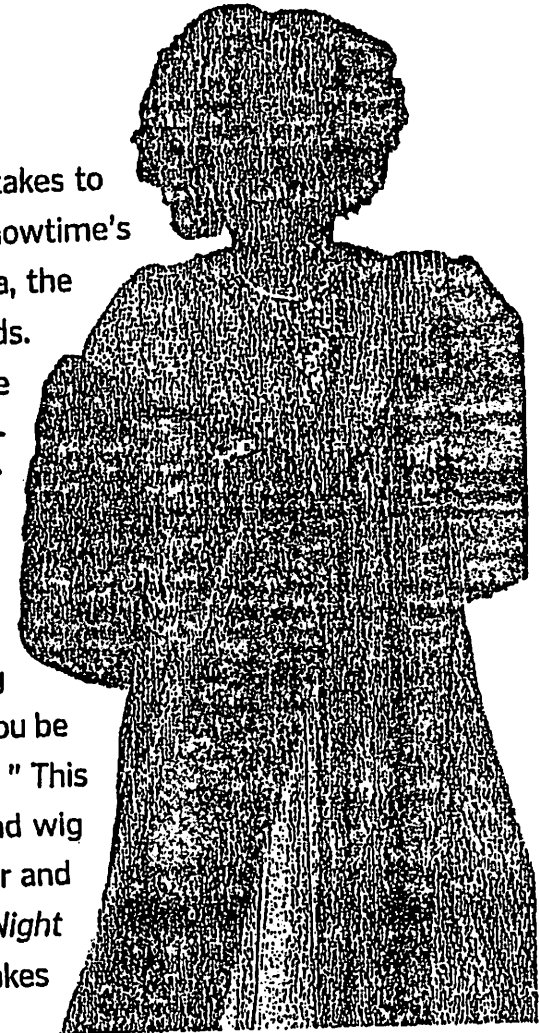
Intelligencer

By Marc S. Malkin

With Catherine Townsend
and Aric Chen.

Rudy's Rainbow Coalition

If there were any remaining doubts that Mayor Giuliani will do whatever it takes to help New York, this should put them to rest. Rudy has agreed to appear on Showtime's gay series, *Queer as Folk*, in drag. The catch? The Empire State Pride Agenda, the statewide gay lobbying group, must raise \$100,000 for disaster-relief funds. That's in addition to the \$100,000 that ten of its members raised during the group's recent tenth annual dinner and auction, which this year honored Giuliani, Governor Pataki, and a dozen or so out-of-the-closet police, fire, and EMT workers. "I was riding in the elevator with the mayor before his speech, and I said, 'We've already raised \$100,000 for your walk-on part,' " Pride Agenda co-chair Jeff Soref tells us. "I think Howard Koeppel"—the gay pal who has hosted Giuliani since he decamped from Gracie Mansion—"said something about him doing it in drag for more money. And I said to the mayor, 'Would you be willing to do it?' and he said, 'If it means more money for relief funds, sure.' " This wouldn't be Giuliani's first gender-bending performance. He donned a blond wig and pink dress while spoofing *Victor/Victoria* for the 1997 Inner Circle dinner and followed up with more cross-dressing antics later that year on *Saturday Night Live*. Soref said *QAF* producers have agreed to write the mayor a part that takes place in New York so he won't have to travel to the show's set in Toronto.



Photographs:

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