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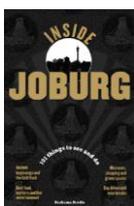
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Nechama Brodie Goes Inside *Glitterboys and Ganglands* and Interviews Miss Gay Western Cape

by Tarryn on Jun 13th, 2011



[Inside Joburg](#) author Nechama Brodie goes inside *Glitterboys and Ganglands*, a documentary directed by [Lauren Beukes](#) that follows three contestants competing for the title of Miss Gay Western Cape. The only shortcoming of this “otherwise brilliant” documentary, says Brodie, is that much of the “ganglands” part of the title is missing, and is only alluded to through montage and occasional comments about crime. (See trailer for the documentary, currently playing at [Encounters](#), below.)

Brodie also interviewed Kat and Errol Stroebel, the “Posh ‘n Becks” of the pageant world. They earned this title from the fact that Kat is the winner of Miss Gay Western Cape and Errol was a finalist in Mr Gay South Africa. Both Errol and Kat (aka Carl) say that they got involved in pageants in order to become more involved in the gay community in terms of “Pride”:

Cinderella stories come with happy endings unless they are directed by novelist Lauren Beukes — in which case the end is only the beginning, the soundtrack features Barbie Girl and the traditionally ugly stepsisters are the real belles of the ball.

Glitterboys and Ganglands is an hour-long documentary about a group of men competing in the annual Miss Gay Western Cape competition.

Unlike Mr Gay South Africa (men dressed as men) the Miss Gay pageants are open to cross-dressing men — drag queens or, as many of the contestants prefer, women impersonators. There are feathers and sequins, swimsuit and evening wear categories, a Miss Personality (voted for by the contestants), and tears and tiaras, much like traditional female beauty pageants.

- [Read the complete article in the *Mail & Guardian*](#)

I’d like to introduce you to Mr and Mr Stroebel.

One is the winner of Miss Gay Western Cape (that’s Kat, aka Carl); the other, Errol, a finalist in Mr Gay South Africa. People call them the Posh ‘n Becks of the gay pageant world. I prefer to think of them as Fred and Ginger: everything the one does, the other does — backwards, in high heels.

The couple is featured in Lauren Beukes’s new documentary, *Glitterboys & Ganglands*, which follows the build-up to and finals of the 2010 Miss Gay Western Cape pageant.

- [Read the complete article in the *Mail & Guardian*](#)