

KITTY GLITTER

SPARKLES & STAINES



John Crouch gets cat scratch dance fever from Australia's diva export Kitty Glitter

Pride season always guarantees appearances by some of the world's most fab recording artists and DJs, and though we've (hopefully) all heard of Cyndi Lauper and Peter Dinklage, this year's festivities also play host to a few performers relatively unknown to Toronto homos. Australian drag queen cum DJ superstar Kitty Glitter is excited to be making her Canadian

debut as part of Pride's WERQ! event and Prism's Revival.

Miss Glitter first burst onto the Sydney bar and club scene some 14 years ago after winning the grand prize at an annual local drag talent search. "I was always fascinated by the magic and mystery of drag," says Glitter. "Although there were many fabulous drag queens doing shows in Sydney, I often thought to myself while I was watching them, 'I can do that! Only

better.'" She admits that since the very first time she performed, she's been a kitten on a mission. At her "showgirl peak," Kitty found herself part of five or more productions a week in various Sydney venues. In 2006, 10 years after starting her drag career, she won the title of Most Popular Drag Queen at the annual Drag Industry Variety Awards, a ceremony that recognizes Sydney's drag performers.

After her 2006 DIVA win, Kitty decided

to add another layer to her persona by putting DJ on her list of skills. "Music has been my greatest passion for as long as I can remember," says Glitter. "I actually got to play around on some decks in my early teens, and I picked up the concept of beat mixing almost instantly. Back then, it wasn't something I thought I would end up doing for a living." After purchasing the necessary equipment, her intentions were to practise extensively at home and hone her craft before making her grand debut as a DJ, but things didn't exactly work out that way. "The moment the managers where I worked heard what I was up to, they practically threw me in the deep end and made me learn on the job fast," says Glitter.

Audiences immediately went crazy for her unique blend of drag and deck skills, which earned her two more DIVA awards for Most Popular DJ the following two years. Unlike drag, Kitty says, "winning respect as a DJ has nothing to do with the way you look. It's *all* about the music. I just happen to look super hot spinning it." Since beginning her career as a DJ, she has had the honour of spinning at some of Australia's biggest circuit events: the Sleaze Ball and Homosexual, not to mention the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras in 2008. She has also had the privilege

of working with some of the world's biggest international DJs, people like Tony Moran, Offer Nissim and the Freemasons.

Glitter promises both her Toronto sets will be full of uplifting vocal house music that will get the boys singing along as they bump and grind on the dancefloor. She admits she often has trouble resisting the temptation of her own beats and is prone to bursting into an impromptu number or

two while she's spinning. Of the boys in Toronto versus those back home in Sydney, Kitty says, "One thing I have noticed in my travels so far is that there are spunky men everywhere, and where there's a party with men there is always plenty of sexual energy in the air." She admits she's "kinda blasé to the hunks in Sydney, but I think I might

go weak at the knees, like a virgin touched for the very first time, over some of the Canadians."



Kitty Glitter performs at WERQ! on Sunday, July 4 from 6-8pm at the TD Wellesley Stage and at Prism's Revival on Sunday, July 4 at the Government, 132 Queens Quay E.

Info: pridetoronto.com, prismtoronto.com

John Crouch is a fab writer who believes that all that glitters is gold.