



International Ms Leather

San Francisco, CA
March 19 – 22, 2009
An IMsL, LLC Production



Contestant FAQ

Application and Registration

1. *What is the deadline date for the contestant application?*

Feb 13th, 2009. You need to send the signed application, entrance fee, 5"x7" b/w photo, CD, and a copy of your government issued photo ID via snail mail to IMsL LLC at PO BOX 41032, BALTIMORE, MD 21203. This package must be postmarked by February 13, 2009.

2. *Can I submit the application electronically?*

Yes and No. The application is a PDF and our preference is that you type it electronically as our contestant coordinator will need a copy of it in that format. However, we still need you to print a copy of the completed application, sign it and snail mail it to Glenda at the above address as it includes documents that our office needs in original hard copy: your liability waiver, model release, copy of government issued ID and 5"x7" photograph.

3. *What information do I need to know about my 5x7 B&W photograph? Are any other photographs needed?*

Your **5x7 B&W** photo for the program can be full body or headshot.

Also send a color or b/w digital photo in a high resolution format for the website (can be the same or a different photo.)

Please send to our Program Designer, Dave L, at ProgramDesigner@IMsL.org and Amy at contestantcoordinator@imsl.org ASAP but no later than Feb 13th. Don't forget to send a hard copy and CD to Glenda along with the hard copy of your application. The pictures will be posted on our website and published in the program book.

4. *Will I have any more paperwork after I fill out the Contestant Application?*

Yes.

- a. Our Event Entertainment Producer will provide a form to submit your fantasy outlines and accompanying music info. You will need to submit this information back to Event Entertainment Coordinator by 2/20/09.

- b. Bikkja Amy, our Contestant Coordinator, will get personal info such as allergies, airport info and contact info.
- c. Contestant “Long” Bio- up to 300-word bio is also needed for publication online. This will be submitted via e-mail and is separate from the 75-100 word ‘short’ bio in the application.
- d. Auction Basket Donor Info – Donation form will be sent to you
- e. Auction Basket Item list

5. ***What really is the difference between the short bio in the application and the longer one requested for the website?***

What we are offering you is the opportunity to have a longer version of your bio posted on the website since it has to be so short for the program book. If you do not choose to submit a longer version, that's fine. We will simply use the shorter program book version on the website as well.

6. ***What about the Community, Organizations and Charities section of the application?***

Please fill this section out with as much information as you have. If your group is defunct etc you may fill that in. You may include e-mail addresses.

7. ***How do I register?***

Registration will open in mid-December. You may register as soon as you have sent in your application and you have received a contestant registration code and instructions from Bikkja Amy, your contestant coordinator.

We encourage you to fill out a profile on your “Attendees Only” homepage so that our attendees can learn a little bit about you and begin to get excited about the contest long before IMsL weekend.

8. ***How do I register onsite?***

Your registration packet will be given to you at contestant orientation on Thursday, March 19th.

Travel and Hotel

9. ***When do I need to arrive and when can I leave?***

Arrive at the host hotel by no later than 10 AM on Thursday, March 19th - your first required meeting will be the contestant orientation at approx. 1 PM. With the exception of the winners, contestants may leave after brunch (at approx 1 PM) on Sunday. Both winners will have a full day on Sunday and will probably want to stay until Monday morning. The winners are required

to meet with the producers on Sunday, are invited to dinner with the IMsL and IMsBB alumnae/i early Sunday evening and must appear at the Wind Down party at the Eagle Tavern which starts at about 7 PM on Sunday, March 22nd.

10. *Will I get picked up from the airport?*

Yes, we will do our best to make arrangements to have one of our volunteers pick you up from and return you to SFO or OAKLAND – you will need to let us know when you are arriving and leaving and how many people are in your traveling party.

11. *How to I book a hotel room?*

You are responsible for paying for your room(s). You may have up to 4 people in each room and the rate is \$144.00 plus tax per night. It is important that you book now and please use code “SML.” There is a direct link for hotel registration from the “Host Hotel and SF Area” page on our website. We will do our best to ensure that all contestants and family/handlers are located on the same floor. Please provide us with the name/s used for all related hotel reservations.

12. *What do I do about parking?*

Please see note in “Host Hotel and SF Area” page on our website.

13. *Does the hotel have self-laundry facilities in case we need to do laundry?*

No self-service, pick-up service is available but it is relatively expensive-around \$7 for a pair of pants and \$5 for a shirt. There are a few laundromats and dry cleaners near by.

Contestant Events

14. *What am I required to participate in, as a contestant, during this event?*

This is a preliminary list and will be updated. It is not complete at this time.

Throughout the course of the weekend you will be expected to participate in:

Thursday

- *A contestant orientation with the staff on Thurs at 1 PM
- *An opening meeting with the Entertainment Producer and Stage Crew after the contestant orientation.
- *4 PM -7 PM — Contestant City Tour - a team building activity (a tour of SF) with all of the contestants ONLY

*7 PM -? Dinner with the other contestants, key staff and guests

*Seduction – our welcome party / lap dance/ strip tease/ burlesque/ drag show – you are expected to attend but may leave any time after 11 PM.

Friday

*Individual and group stage rehearsals

*IMsL Contestant Interviews

*IMsBB contestant meeting with their contest coordinator

*Opening Ceremony - Introduction of Contestants,

Titleholders, Judges and Dignitaries

*IMsBB contestants – Bootblack Salon Hours

Saturday

*Individual and group stage rehearsals

*IMsBB Contestant Interviews

*IMsBB contestants – Bootblack Salon Hours

*Outgoing Titleholder Roast

* 23rd Annual IMsL Contest and 11th Annual IMsBB Contest

Sunday

* Brunch

*Contest Winners Meeting with Producers

*Dinner for Contest Winners and IMsL & IMsBB Alumnae/Alumni.

*Contest Winners must make an appearance at the WindDown Party at the Eagle Tavern.

15. *When are we drawing the contestant numbers?*

During the contestant orientation at 1 PM on Thursday.

16. *What is the dress for the contestant tour of San Francisco and dinner?*

Please wear comfortable walking shoes and clothes you are comfortable enough to sit in and eat in. Dress nicely but nothing formal. Nice jeans, nice shirt, even leather shirt/blouse/skirt/pants/vest are ok, but please appear “San Francisco vanilla public” appropriate!

17. *May I bring a guest to dinner?*

Absolutely. Have your guest(s) – immediate family and support staff only, please - meet us at “*The Cove on Castro*” 434 Castro Street, San

Francisco for dinner at 7 PM. You are responsible for the cost of your own food, beverage and gratuities, as well as those for your guests at this meal.

18. *When can my boy/girl, Master, groomer, partner etc. be with me?*

You may have **one** accompanying support person with you at the following times:

- a. Fantasy rehearsals – the people who are in your fantasy plus one support person only. Please make this the same person who will be backstage with you during the contest.
- b. Interviews - as they are open to the public for 2009.
- c. Back stage during the contest
- d. The people who are in your fantasy will be invited to come backstage with enough time to get ready before your performance.

Due to space limitations, you will not be permitted to bring support person/s to the Contestant Tour, Contestant Orientation, Contestant and Judge Meetings, Contestant Meetings with Stage Crew, or Opening Number Rehearsals.

19. *Are the Contestant interviews open or closed to the public?*

OPEN.

20. *What information do I need about the Opening Ceremony and Saturday Night Contest?*

a. **Friday Night Opening Ceremony**

Onstage Contestant introductions will be done. It is, in short, a stand and wave scenario. You will not be expected to talk, and this part of the program will be short. This is your first official impression on the audience and the press, so please dress to impress.

b. **Saturday Night Contest**

Opening number: All IMsL and IMsBB contestants must participate in the Opening Number. It is a semi-choreographed number set to music – don't worry if you're not a dancer. The Opening Number is designed around a theme chosen by the IMsL, LLC production staff. We will be doing our best to make sure you look great during this number as it sets the tone for the entire show.

Clothes - To be determined – you will be notified by the Entertainment Producer of what type of clothing you will need to bring for the opening number by March 1st.

What if I am truly uncomfortable appearing in the opening number?

It's a traditional part of the contest, and we do not believe that anyone will be asking you to do things that you will find problematic. The goal for the opening number is to make everyone look good and to get the audience pumped up for the contest. We ask that you put aside your discomfort and participate.

Introduction: Contestant Introductions will be done at the end of the opening number and before you leave the stage. It is, in short, a stand and wave scenario. You will not be expected to talk, and this part of the program will be short.

Clothes – Whatever you are wearing in the Opening Number.

Speech – IMsL Contestants Only: You will have 2 minutes to speak on the topic of your choice. You may choose to speak on the topic of a 'platform' for your title year, but this is not required.

Clothes – "Formal wear", however you as a leatherwoman define it.

Pop Question – IMsL Contestants Only: This is a fun opportunity for the Judges to see how well you think on your feet by answering a randomly a selected question.

Clothes – "Hot Wear" – whatever makes you feel sexy! Your outfit must be 'bar legal' (*this means no nipples or genitals showing, thongs MUST provide one inch coverage in the rear*)

Will there be time to play it up a little, show off, etc. before the question (as is traditional) or will we need to keep it short and just walk on stage and answer the question?

Use your best judgment based on the cues you receive from the emcee. Remember, time is short-- how you want to relate to the audience/judges is totally up to you as long as you follow the emcee's lead when it's time to move on.

Fantasy – IMsL Contestants Only: You will have 4 minutes for your fantasy performance.

Clothes - Whatever works for your fantasy. However, your outfit needs to be 'bar legal' as defined above.

Help!!!I need MORE info on the fantasy!!!!!!

The fantasy is 4 minutes in length. You may have as many people as needed but remember this is about YOU!!!!!! At this time we do not know the stage size or details on music yet. This will be answered in the rules and regulations that will be sent to you.

Announcement of the Winners: All contestants will be brought back onstage for the announcement of the winners. This is also a for-

publication Photography Opportunity for both the official IMsL photographer and the 'mainstream' press.
Clothes - Formal wear. Consider that some photos of the winners and/or contestants will make it into the mainstream press and therefore must be suitable for family consumption.

21. *Is there a green room? Place to hang clothes, use a mirror, change hairdo, etc?*

Yes...there is a Green Room backstage with plenty of room. There are clothes racks, tables and mirrors provided in the green room for your use.

22. *Is there Den Staff to help dress/prepare?*

We have several den parents, and the contestant coordinator to assist you. You may have one helper with you in the green room, but if it does get too crowded or something changes, we reserve the right to narrow it down. The need for flexibility is paramount.

23. *Is there a backstage area to store props? How big is the area?*

There is a large back stage area where your props can be stored. You will need to confirm exact props requirements and restrictions with the Event Entertainment Coordinator.

24. *What is an exhaust-producing item?*

Anything that will introduce chemicals into the atmosphere such as a fog machine, or any gas-powered item, is prohibited, as a large number of folks might be sensitive to the chemicals. But specifically confirm that sort of thing with Event Entertainment Coordinator.

25. *What do I do about my music?*

We need two copies of your music on CDs please. Please clearly label each CD with your name and the name of your song. You will give this to the Event Entertainment Coordinator at the event. It is also recommended you have a third copy with you in your hotel room. Also, you will need to send it electronically Event Entertainment Coordinator by March 1st – more info will be sent to you in the rules and regulations for contestants.

26. *When will I be on stage?*

All Contestants, IMsL and IMsBB, will be on stage for introductions at the Friday Opening Ceremony, the Saturday night opening number, Saturday night introductions and the Saturday night announcement of the winners. IMsL contestants are also on stage for Speech, Fantasy, and Pop Questions.

27. *Is there anything else that I will be judged on during the weekend?*

There is also the Heart and Soul category, which is judged from the first meeting with the Judges on Friday until after the last contestant has finished the last of the three on stage elements of the contest. IMsBB contestants are judged on Heart and Soul from their first meeting with the judges until the beginning of the contest on Saturday night.

28. *Do I need to attend Brunch???*

We strongly prefer and highly encourage all contestants to purchase a Brunch ticket online when you register. You and your fellow contestants will be seated together as the last gathering of “The Class of 2009”. However only the contest winners are required to attend and if the winners do not have a ticket as of Sunday morning they will be available for purchase at the door.

Additional Requirements

29. *Are there parameters for my Auction Basket?*

Almost anything goes for your basket – you should strive for it to reflect your personality, your sponsors, your hometown or any other theme that resonates with you. The only limits that come readily to mind are: no firearms, no ammunition, no explosives, no live animals and nothing illegal. Porn is fine in the basket. Be creative, this is a great way to show everyone something about yourself and the folks who support you.

- a. We would like each contestant to put together a list of what’s in the basket and each item’s donor and approx value. We need 100 copies of this list to have on the auction table next to your basket so interested parties can take a sheet to refer to while they are ‘thinking about it’. Access to a copier may be difficult to procure and IMsL does not guarantee copier availability any time during the event.
- b. We also require you to use our donor forms, which should be available via Bikkja Amy to track the folks who have participated (via your basket) in our fundraising efforts and for thank you note purposes.
- c. Please remember that we reserve the right to separate each contestant’s basket into several pieces if the auction coordinator thinks it will raise more funds for our beneficiaries if done that way. The auction coordinator will be open to guidance from the contestant in that process but the decision of the auction coordinator is final.

30. *When do you need basket items set up/turned in? Do we have to set them up and when?*

Each contestant (or someone from your support staff) will need to set up her own basket under the guidance of the auction coordinator. Basket set-up will take place early Friday morning – the auction coordinator will set a specific time which will be assigned to you at the contestant orientation on Thursday.

31. *When are the basket auction donor forms due?*

They are due onsite at the actual event at the time of your basket set-up.

32. *When are ads from my Sponsor and supporters due for the program book?*

ALL ads for the program book are due by Feb 13th. Ad Sales Forms for people, organizations and businesses who want to advertise their support for you as a contestant are available on the IMsL website (www.IMsL.org) through the advertise button. If your Sponsor mentions you in their ad they will receive a 10% discount on regular ad prices. Please ask your Sponsor and/or supporters to follow all of the instructions on the advertising form.

We are so glad that you have chosen to compete during the International Ms Leather 2009 Contest Weekend. We are here to help you in any way that we can, and our goal is for you to have a GREAT time with us in San Francisco!