

## **Miss Gibraltar 2008: Krystle Robba was in a league of her own**

The Miss Gibraltar Beauty Pageant is always a popular event on the Rock and this year was no exception with every seat at the Alameda Open Air Theatre filled and an atmosphere that buzzed with excitement and anticipation. Responsibility was handed to Santos Productions for Miss Gib 2008, with their months of hard work culminating in a spectacular show on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> of July.

The opening entertainment featured a fascinating fire artist performance and some lovely moves on the aerial silks, amongst others. The set emphasised the beauty and elegance of the event and contestants through simplicity: triangular shapes of smooth white cotton material spread asymmetrically across the background, pure white steps setting the mid-ground, all highlighted by the inventive use of colourful lighting.

The contestants themselves took centre stage shortly after the introductory entertainment, dressed in golden green bikini-wear and sporting feathery peacock-like 'tails', each of a different colour. This was their first opportunity of the evening to present themselves to the judges and the nervousness of the girls was almost palpable, with one in particular briefly 'misplacing' a shoe, a fault that she managed to control calmly.

Bikini-wear was also the theme for the second appearance of the contestants, where the girls' black costumes were enhanced by gently flowing chiffon in vivid colours, which were stylishly cast aside as each paraded down the catwalk.

A complete change for the third appearance of the girls was presented after some more impressive entertainment. This time the contestants were dressed in pinstripe suits with a feminine 'mobster' hat of black-banded white, while playing the stereotypical attitude in every step they took: a fresh, gutsy performance. At this stage, the girls faced their interviews, where they were asked a few questions along with a surprise question, such as 'How important is winning to you?' and 'What is the role of today's woman?' The audience was then treated to some agile acrobatics from Danza Academy to close the first half of the show.

The second half of the pageant featured the contestants in their evening wear: long flowing ball gowns, many sequined, all beautifully designed, on either side of which comperes Christian Santos and Davina Camilleri got into the Las Vegas theme with some wonderful singing and dancing, accompanied by the Santos Productions performers and singers.

By the time the judges had made their final decisions, the audience was on the edge of their seats, but there was already an inkling whispering through the crowds. Rapturous applause accompanied the announcement of the winners:

- Miss Gibraltar 2008: Krystle Robba
- First Princess: Samantha Enriles

- Second Princess: Kathryn Gonçalves
- Miss Photogenic: Elaine Martinez
- Miss Best Interview: Lianne Azzopardi
- Miss Friendship: Natalie Bonz

As Miss Gibraltar 2007, Danielle Perez struggled to remove her crown, an unavoidable mishap that could only be chuckled at admiringly, Krystle Robba, Miss Gibraltar 2008 donned the jewel-encrusted tiara naturally yet appreciatively and made her way down the runway, accompanied by her two princesses, Samantha Enriles and Kathryn Gonçalves.

There are many who must be recognised for their hard work and dedication to such a wonderful, energy-filled performance. Amongst those are Santos Productions, Dorcas Fashion Designs, Danza Academy, Gibraltar Academy of Dance, Ministry for Culture, Ocean Village Health Club (event sponsors) and, of course, the Miss Gibraltar 2008 judges and contestants themselves.