

# TRANSGENDER PANEL

## Octavia St. Laurent

My name is heavenly angel, Octavia St. Laurent, and I am quite unusual, probably more so than anyone has ever known. You see, I was born a eunuch. I'm sure that many people are not familiar with this word; it is a biblical term for she-male. Let me clear the air. I am not a trans-sexual. I was not given the pleasure of having a choice. It is innate, which means that I was born this way, and because of it, I've had a precarious life. I'm a good person with a strong hand and a noble heart.

An intersexed person who is determined to make great changes in our society, I have been known to accomplish the impossible. I have been in a few movies - *Paris is Burning*, *The Saint of Fort Washington*, (with Matt Dillon and Danny Glover) and *How Do I Look*. But my passion is singing. I have a goal to change the minds of our so-called utopian society...and fight to make a better life for all those who are born indifferent.

I believe in true love and romance, and I have a great respect for myself and I demand the same from others. I truly care about people, all people no matter their status. I am aware that all people will not be kind to me because of my difference, but I will not let those monsters turn me into a monster. If people would just give me a chance to get to know me for whom I am, and see more than what I am, they will come to realize that I am a true diamond in the rough. I am one of a kind.

## Jade McGough

Jade McGough is a 21 year old student from Syracuse, New York. Since the age of 18, she has been actively involved in the transgender community. Jade will be attending SUNY Binghamton in the fall to study psychobiology.