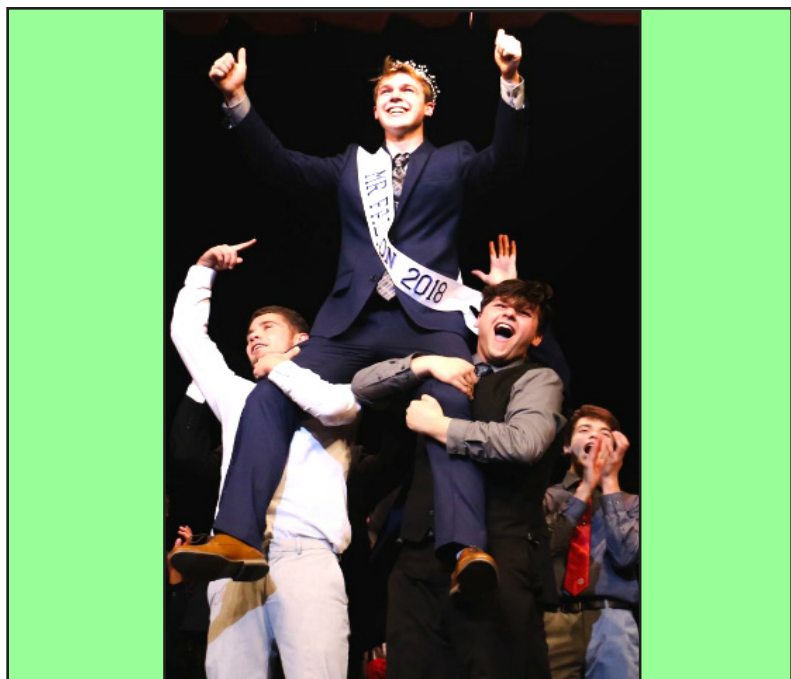


# Obermaier crowned Mr. Falcon



Seniors Nick Vaux and Nolan Rosberg carry senior Elliott Obermaier on their shoulders moments after his crowning as Mr. Falcon while senior Embry Vernon claps and hollers his approval (Photo provided by Jacqui Sheehan).

**By Luis Zepeda**

From a young Herron High School Achaeon to a christened Perry Meridian Falcon, senior **Elliott Obermaier** was surprised to win the coveted title of Mr. Falcon.

"I just feel incredibly humbled and honored that I won," said Obermaier with a hint of disbelief.

"I know there were 14 other guys that could make an argument to win. So many other people deserved it just as much as me."

Winning the Mr. Falcon title is difficult because a plethora of moving parts and aspects go into choosing the recipient. Not only are the participants' entire high school careers taken into account, but the qualities of their PMHS leadership too.

This very aspect is where Obermaier shines. As a member of the varsity baseball team for three years, Environmental Club, Rock For The Earth for two years, Link Crew, Blue Crew, PB&J (Poetry, Books and Jams), and a part of the AP Capstone program, Obermaier showcased his wide variety of interests

and talents.

Obermaier attributes his involvement in the school to the family that is PMHS.

Considering how he went to an IPS charter school his freshman year, the environment at Perry impacted his decision making and changed his character for what he believes to be the better.

"Getting involved was hands down my best decision. I realized my sophomore year that PMHS had much more to offer me than just a sport, and I got into music a lot more."

As time progressed, Obermaier became inspired to be a part of the Mr. Falcon squad when a friend recommended he participate. He began working on a song three months prior to the competition. Then, with six weeks to go, he began to work on a compilation of three songs. The medley included songs from John Mayer, Eddie Van Halen, and a custom blues improv he created.

As Obermaier prepares for the next stage of his life at Indiana Uni-

versity, he advised potential future Mr. Falcon participants.

"Just enjoy it, a lot of people feel a lot of pressure and that prevents a lot of people from doing it. Just know that you will be hanging out with 15 of the coolest guys and gals. In reality, it's about the process. Just enjoy it with your friends."

## Cabaret tonight!

Cabaret starts at 7:00 pm March 9 and 10. Doors open at 6:30. Three of the four choirs will perform. This year's theme is "Eras of Broadway" with songs from musicals from the early 1900s to current musicals such as *Lion King*. Tickets are \$5.

## Alumnus drag queen to rule "RuPaul's Drag Race"

**By Payton Romans**

Traveling back in time to opening night of Perry Meridian's 2013 production of "Peter Pan," **Andrew Bryson** appears in green tights with a feather in his cap, mic tape stuck to his foundation-blended face as he dances on stage as the star of his senior year musical.

Who would have guessed that five years later, Bryson's love for the stage and performance would bring him all the way to RuPaul's Drag Race in the form of his drag persona: **Blair St. Clair**?

**Stefanie Davis**, theatre teacher, describes Bryson as a brilliant performer on stage.

"I remember that his sophomore year included an early attempt at public drag as he dressed up as Britney Spears for homecoming. What was of note was that he was really good. Heads turned all over the building," says Davis.

The 22-year-old said he acted in theater every year of high school, and even directed for the first year of FEST, Falcon Expressions in Student Theatre, during his senior year.

**Melissa Walsh**, music department chair and choir teacher, remembers her former student fondly.

"Drew was a very enthusiastic and a dedicated performer when he was a

student here," she says. "He was and still is a hard worker."

Even with his presence gone from the halls, his influence still lives on through the current musicals the school puts on.

His styled wigs have been used in many of Perry's productions, including the witch wig in "Big Fish" from 2016.

The cast list for RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10, hosted by famous drag personality RuPaul Charles, was announced on Feb. 22. "Blair St. Clair" was spelled out in shining neon lights for all viewers to see.

The reality show, celebrating its 10-year anniversary, is a drag competition with 14 hand-picked drag queens competing in weekly challenges to prove to RuPaul and guest judges that they deserve the \$100,000 cash prize and title of America's Next Drag Superstar.

Each week, the panel of judges picks which two queens performed the weakest in the main challenge. Repeated main challenges have been expressing individuality while also reading scripts as a character in an acting challenge, often a spoof on current day situations. The two bottom contestants will then go head to head in a lip-sync battle in which the winner will stay and the loser will 'sashay away'.

St. Clair will be making history

as the first drag queen from Indiana to compete on the show, and describes herself as 'a small town girl with big dreams.'

Bryson is excited to finally be able to talk about his experience and competing on the show, which was filmed six months prior to the airing date, March 22 at 8 p.m.

"I'm incredibly excited. While we were filming, we didn't have contact with anyone outside of the show for six weeks," says Bryson, who can't reveal any details about his performance on the show until after it airs.

St. Clair presents herself as a confident queen with all the tricks up her sleeves, never being a one-trick pony.

"I do a whole lot more than just put makeup on. I sing, I dance, I act, I sew. I do it all."

St. Clair's old-Hollywood aesthetic of drag has taken her to the television screen, and as the first contestant from Indiana, the locals are prepared to cheer her on. A Feb. 26 party commemorated the Hoosier's accomplishment at the Metro NightClub on Mass Ave., where rainbow flags were waving.

"Blair St. Clair is a young, effervescent girl who loves vintage fashion," says St. Clair — referring to "herself" in third person. "She's a free spirit and a fresh twist but classic and refined."



Blair St. Clair poses for her season 10 photoshoot, sporting a 60s-inspired neon dress. (Photo provided by Entertainment Live).