

sight-seeing tourist flings, high society parties, and slumber party all rolled into one. Yes, it's ridiculously unrealistic as most vacations are, but that's also what makes it so memorable and fun. Where else can you attend classes dealing with enjoyable and serious topics (without tests!), stroll around a mini-mall right inside the hotel with resources who understand your unique needs, wander into town dressed as you wish and be catered to by restaurants and shopkeepers, pop into girlfriends' rooms to gab or borrow a needed item of clothing, and then dress up in a gown and party the night away...all in the same day?

### **More Exciting Than Ever!**

Last year's attendees spoke.... and we listened. The *Esprit* Planning Committee has revitalized the 2010 program to pack it full of more activities, and excitement than ever before. Dances, excursions, shopping tours, and unique theme events fill the entire week! Programs have been carefully scheduled to allow you time between functions when you need it; to keep the events at the hotel flowing smoothly; to host special activities at local venues, and to give you expanded flexibility to attend the many events from the tightly choreographed menu.

### **Classes**

As always, *Esprit* will offer a full slate of classes -- including many of the biggest hits from 2009 -- as well as fresh presentations from new faces. Fundamental offerings include basic transgender issues and overviews, continuing self-discovery, make-

up, wardrobe, wigs, voice, deportment, and self-defense classes. Specialty presentations include topics such as transition, political and legal issues, and surgical choices. Of special importance is the track for SO's and couples, whose seminars address issues such as intimacy and communication.

### **Specialized Resource Providers**

Complementing the educational activities is an array of resources offering high-quality transgender-focused goods and services. The popular Resource Mall returns, where you can find many friendly providers who are experts at addressing the special needs of the transgender community.

### **Events**

Equipped with your new accoutrements, you'll be ready for an exciting schedule of social events. Of course, the favorites will be back: the fashion show, slumber party, talent show, the Attendees lunch with predominate guest speakers, Saturday Gala banquet and dance, and the farewell brunch and charity auction. We are also planning some special themed events that will give everyone a chance to show their creative side and enjoy entertainment presented by our own attendees and by resident performers in Port Angeles.

### **Excursions**

*Esprit* is also the starting point for many excursions. You may be touring a local winery, taking the ferry to Victoria, B.C. for high tea at the world renowned **Empress Hotel**, taking a scenic drive or bike trip up to

magnificent Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mountains, or simply enjoying the variety of shopping, dining and services in Port Angeles, Sequim or Port Townsend.

### **Our Venue**

The venue for *Esprit* is the **Port Angeles Red Lion Hotel**, a warm and welcoming haven that has been our hosting facility for 20 years. Attendees will be treated to friendly hospitality and good food. More importantly, the people who attend *Esprit* are incredible! You'll meet your peers, listen to fascinating journeys, and make lifelong friendships.

### **Is *Esprit* for you?**

- Are you questioning your gender identity either Male or Female?
- Would you like to meet and interact with experienced and caring TGs who can take you from your closet to presenting yourself tastefully and confidently in public?
- Are you an out-and-about or closeted crossdresser who wants to get together with like-minded people for a week of fun and learning?
- Is gender transition part of your search, your plan or your reality?
- Are you the spouse or Significant Other of a crossdresser or a MTF, FTM person in gender transition?

If you answered YES to one or more of the above questions, then *Esprit* is for you! If you're still not sure, consider the following:

- *Esprit* lasts for a full week when most other conferences last for only 2 or 3 days.
- At *Esprit* education is a primary goal, not an afterthought.
- *Esprit* has top quality onsite resources to attend to your every need. In most cases the resource providers are also presenters in the educational program.
- *Esprit* is held in Port Angeles, Washington, one of the most beautiful locations in the country. The residents of Port Angeles are amazingly welcoming and look forward to the conference every year. There is no safer or more accepting venue anywhere for the emerging transgender individual, especially if you are relatively new to the experience.
- At *Esprit*, Significant Others are treated on an equal footing with the transgendered participants. Significant Others who are attending for the first time go through the graduation ceremony the same as their transgendered partners! According to Dr. Sandra Cole, an internationally known counselor and therapist, *Esprit* is **THE** flagship conference when it comes to including and supporting our wonderful Significant Others.
- Every participant receives a beautiful yearbook packed full of pictures and memories! There is NO extra charge for this wonderful souvenir.
- The registration cost is not much more, and in some cases less, than other 2 to 4 day conferences.

And this is just the beginning. *Esprit's* true magic comes from the simple presence of so many like-minded people. When you combine the friendships and the official offerings, what happens and what you take away from *Esprit* may surprise you. Some treat *Esprit* like a casual vacation and pick just a few of the planned activities, and others try to do absolutely everything. Some come just once while others come year after year. What you do is up to you, and from what we've seen over the years, *Esprit* has put together a winning formula that manages to satisfy virtually everyone...and leave a lasting impression on all who come.

*Esprit* is an exciting, liberating experience, certain to boost your spirits and leave you with a warm glow long after the convention ends. If you've attended before, you know this is true. If you've never attended, talk to someone who has. We're confident you'll like what you hear.

For details, updates and registration information, please visit the **ESPRIT GALA** website at [www.EspritConf.com](http://www.EspritConf.com).



# **Esprit 2010**

## **The Pacific Northwest's Premier Transgender Convention**

**May 16<sup>th</sup> – May 23<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Port Angeles, Washington**

*Esprit* focuses on changing lives for the better, and creating pride and self-respect for anyone who is transgendered. Educational, inspirational, and experimental, *Esprit* is steeped in prospects for personal growth and friendship. But most of all, *Esprit* is about fun in a magnificent setting among a remarkably friendly and accepting local population. It's an opportunity for you to spread your wings for an entire week and have a ball!

*Esprit* is a nationally prominent transgender convention that has earned a unique reputation over the last 20 years for being warm, personable and especially suited for those who are relatively new to the transgender experience. Although *Esprit* is largely focused on the MTF (masculine-to-feminine or male-to-female) transgender experience, a diversity of transgender identities are welcomed to share in the *Esprit* experience.

So what is *Esprit*? Think of *Esprit* as a combination of college, sorority, shopping and