**Judge 7**

**Sandro Cossero - Mister Leather Belgium 2017**

Sandro, Mister Leather Belgium 2017 is a crazy and energetic Italian Leather man that lives for the last 11 years in the heart of Antwerp, homebase for the Leather and fetish Pride Belgium. During the day he is teaching the fifth grade and tries to stimulate his kids to learn and educate them. In the evening he is working as a gym instructor and if he hasn't got enough energy left, in the weekend you can find him working as a dancer on a stage or in a club as.

Sandro has put his first steps into the gayscene about 17 years ago in one of his favourite clubs Red and Blue Cargo Antwerp.

It became pretty soon clear that he was attracted to the smell of leather, the hairy and rough leather men from the scene, the touch of leather on his skin. After a few years he met a leather couple who introduced him into the leatherscene. On this day on they are still best friends. The time went by and the first purchases of leather gear was a fact. It all started with a few leather  accessories and ......well the rest is pretty obvious. In 2017 he became Mister Leather Belgium 2017. He would never have participated if it wasn't for the support of his good friend Georges Peeters (MLB 2016). It was Georges who convinced him to participate and be his mentor.

During his reigning year of MLB, Sandro has done a lot of things for charity. His first action was to create a group on Facebook called Amalgamation of communities.  On this page he wants to show that it is perfectly possible for all communities to hang out with each other and exchange stories, ask for advice  or just to have a chat.

Pretty quick after his victory he helped Joe King (MLE 2016) with his campagne called Chechnya100. With a lot of national and international misters they all raised money to help the LGBT people from Chechnya. This action was a big succes and together we raised a lot of money.

As a teacher Sandro couldn't resist the project called Jonga. Hans and Eddy were two guys who needed help to built a school in South Africa. Together they succeeded and the school is finished.

Another project was organised by Mister Bear Belgium 2017 Kriss and himself. With the project « A heart for Europe » they wanted to show that refugees are welcome here!!

And last but not least Sandro's main goal was and still is to rais money for Sensoa. Sensoa works on the basis of the World Health Organisation's definition of «sexual health.

Till the end of april 2018 Sandro is collecting money for this organisation.

Europe has no secrets any more for Sandro. In his year he went twice to Amsterdam and Berlin but also to Paris, Vienna, Madrid, London, Finland, Nice, Italy, Manchester and Dublin. In Belgium he was mainly active in Brussels and in his hometown Antwerp.

In Amsterdam he became first runner up in the Mister Leather Europe election.

Sandro is not your typical leather BLUF man. His crazy and funny approach makes him a bit goofy but that is who he is. You can recognize him from miles on his red sneakers and his buddy in crime Elmo, the red puppet from Sesame Street.

Since the beginning Sandro stayed true to himself. He danced on the beats of Madonna during his election. He always kept on wearing his sneakers, even though it wasn't always easy. Elmo never left his side and are now an inseparable duo.

He always says : «Always be true to yourself! No matter what other people are saying, you must do what feels right and even if it is not always the best opinion according to others, never betray yourself!»

Mister Leather Belgium’s last words are very simple : «Enjoy every minute of your year, because before you know it, it will be finished so you can better life it to the fullest»

Mister Leather Belgium 2017

Sandro & Elmo