

# PRIDE

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF  
**InterPride**  
2016

## INSIDE THE GENDER FLUID REVOLUTION P.62

How queers of all stripes  
are reshaping the world

## FRANCE'S NEW CIVIL UNREST P.66

Could it happen here?

*The incredible*

# Cyndi Lauper

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with the iconic singer about  
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WAYS YOU  
CAN **HELP**  
PROMOTE  
**EQUALITY**  
TODAY!

P.54

**ViiV**  
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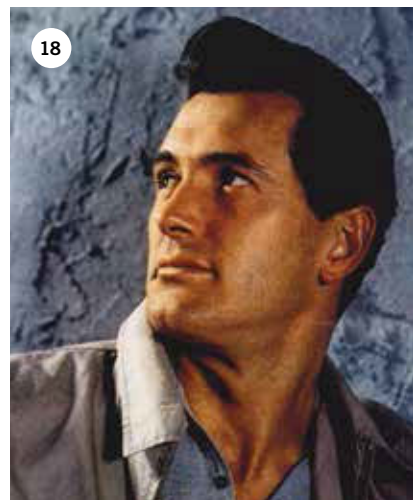
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TODD V WOLFSON

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# What next?

It's been a full year since the glorious passage of marriage equality. That means a year of joyous unions, a year of families and friends coming together to celebrate LGBT love in all its various forms. Yes, we have much to be grateful for, but we also must be careful to not think this is the end. Far from it, in fact. There is a lot we still need to work toward and fulfill for complete LGBT equality.

In an election year, the leaders we vote into office this fall will have some of the most significant impacts on our rights of any to ever hold office. That means it's more important than ever to educate ourselves on local, state, and federal candidates and to get out to vote come November. For more on what you can do on a local and state level to help impart change, check out our feature starting on page 54.

Another of the most serious challenges that lies ahead for the LGBT movement is the topic of trans equality—and what gender itself means in the 21st century. Activist Tyler Ford takes us on a first-person examination of the issue, starting on page 62.

Finally, since working for change doesn't mean a girl can't still have fun, flip to page 48 for our interview with Cyndi Lauper. Cyndi is among an ever growing pool of amazing public figures like Lady Gaga (with me and Tony Bennett, above), Ellen Page, Brad Pitt, and many others working tirelessly to help our fight. Please support their efforts while also working to initiate any advancements you can within your own community.

Remember even the smallest efforts can lead to serious change. If we keep pushing forward, together we'll get there!

Happy Pride!

  
BRIAN GOOD.



Keep the conversation alive. Email us at [PrideLife2016@gmail.com](mailto:PrideLife2016@gmail.com) or tweet what Pride means to you at [#pridemeans](https://twitter.com/pridemeans).

# PRIDE

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# NOW

.....

From the personalities to the  
politics to the pop culture  
milestones, here's everything you  
need for the **best Pride ever**

## A Life of Pride

By **ANDREW KEENAN-BOLGER**

GROWING UP THE son of hippie parents in Detroit, I learned early on the importance of standing up for what's right, even if it's unpopular. (Hell, especially if it's unpopular.) Whether they were protesting next to striking teachers or laying down on railroad tracks to stop weapons shipments,

my family always lived by the credo that nothing strengthens a bad guy as much as silence, and nothing weakens a good guy as much as the fear that he's not good enough. That's the spirit I feel when I think about Pride—the willingness to celebrate what we've been told should be condemned. ➔

My sister Maggie came out when she was 13, and she definitely set the bar for how to never apologize for being true to yourself. She never showed even a moment of self-doubt, because even at that age, she knew that she had nothing to be ashamed of. It was almost harder coming out after she did—I felt like I was never going to be as sure of myself or confident in my own value as she was. But in getting over that insecurity, I found that being honest and open and accepting of myself was more than just lifting a burden—it was like a suit of armor.

Whether we realize it or not, all of us celebrating Pride this summer are cel-

*Nothing strengthens a bad guy as much as silence, and nothing weakens a good guy as much as the fear that he's not good enough.*

ebrating the legacy of people who knew that they shouldn't be made to feel ashamed of who they were, and were willing to fight to prove their worth. Stonewall wasn't just a bunch

of angry LGBT people outside of a Greenwich Village bar. It was a protest, a riot, a rebellion. The origin of the whole gay pride movement is based in confronting the people who say that you're not good enough with proof that they're wrong.

The rebellion didn't get a lot of attention at first—it's a lot easier to ignore a force for change than it is to change with it—but in one of the few newspaper articles about Stonewall, the *New York Daily News* wrote, "The police are sure of one thing: They haven't heard the last from the Girls of Christopher Street."

They sure haven't.

That's pride: the determination to never stop fighting injustice anywhere as a threat to justice everywhere, even if just being yourself is part of the fight. They wanted us to die, and we lived. They wanted us to be silent, and we spoke out. They wanted us to be ashamed, and we were proud. ☺

*Andrew Keenan-Bolger plays John Tuck in the new Broadway play Tuck Everlasting. For information and tickets on Tuck Everlasting, go to TuckEverlastingMusical.com.*



## What Inspires me

Up-and-coming singer/songwriter Parson James reflects on the inspirations that drive his art.

PARSON JAMES HAS only ever really wanted to do one thing: make music. So far, so good. His first single, "Stole the Show," with Kygo was a global smash hit. He followed it with a powerful EP titled *The Temple*. We asked the future superstar about his influences:



### Coming Out

"When I first came to New York, I was finally able to be myself. The people were just so free and so open. That's the message in my lyrics and in the songs that I write. I think that everyone should embrace all the things that make them who they are and just be proud of their identity."



### Britney Spears

"I like to think she's kind of always looking down and continually blessing me with her good graces and her holy spirit. When I was a kid growing up in South Carolina, she just seemed to have this fire. She was so expressive, and it was exactly what I needed. I was obsessed then and I'm still obsessed today."



### The Church

"Things within the church—the choir, the colors, the energy, and the passion—I like to let that trickle into my world. My songs have a lot of church undertone."

### Wanda Jackson

"She's got this wailing thing that she does—it's like any lyric that she sings, she'll just scream it out. It's pure, unapologetic passion."

### James Dean

"I've been obsessed with him forever. My stage name is actually an homage to him. He was so striking and always seemed to have two sides—a rebel with a good side or a good boy with a bad side. He's just iconic."

### Lana Del Ray

"All of her music is so beautifully written and so well done. She's basically created this whole world she's living in—almost like her own amazing universe."

### Hope

"When I write or record, I just want to write the song from the heart and build around it. And the statements that I like to make celebrate every part of yourself. The songs always start kind of somber, but they always have hope in the end."



FROM TOP: PARSON JAMES; KOURY ANGELO; CHURCH: KAVUNCHIK/ISTOCK; LANA DEL RAY: NEIL KRUG



## The Rise and Fall of NYC

Michael Musto compares the New York of his youth with the hustling, bustling city of today. **BY TONY ADAMS**

IS GAY NIGHTLIFE in New York City vanishing because of the mainstreaming of gay culture? We asked Michael Musto, the durable star of downtown gay life in NYC for almost 40 years, about the state of affairs in his hometown playground.

**PL: You've been tracking New York nightlife for decades. How does 2016 compare?**

MM: There are more gays than ever in NYC, and there's more queer theater than ever. Only the nightlife is hurting, mainly because no one goes out to get laid anymore. They do it via their phones, so the clubs have lost their sexual urgency. The result is a couple dozen small bars that are valuable for schmoose time and drag shows. Occasionally the patrons even look away from their phones!

**PL: What about the clubs? How are they doing?**

MM: The city started cracking down on nightlife in the 1990s, and community boards have developed tremendous power to inhibit nightlife. The result is more bars and fewer dance clubs. While they're fun, they can't hold a candle to the magic of the past. In the 1970s, Studio 54 was the ultimate disco—a dazzling place where all genders and sexualities mixed under the great god glitterball. The 1980s were also a boom time for mixed-crowd euphoria, with artistically done large dance clubs—Area and Palladium—

Musto circa 1990 (above) with actor Gary Coleman, Bette Davis impersonator Randy Allen, actress Sylvia Miles, and British writer Quentin Crisp; and (below) with Brooke Shields



as well as artsy East Village hangouts like the Pyramid—but they're all gone today.

**PL: Why do you think that is? Are gayborhoods in NYC dying a natural death because of the assimilation caused by winning equal rights such as same-sex marriage? Is being queer no longer as "special" as it used to be?**

MM: When I came to Manhattan, I found a thriving gay world and never looked back. It was all about the West Village. Then the gays migrated to Chelsea, then Hell's Kitchen, and then Brooklyn. With assimilation, gays are now all over town and not in need of a ghetto. While being gay has indeed lost a bit of its special edge, if that's the price to pay for rights and success, I can deal with it.

**PL: What advice do you have for the 20-year-old gay who is considering a move to New York City to find him or herself and their ideal tribe?**

MM: Don't be a cookie cutter gay! Create your own look. Be aggressively you, and enjoy every aspect of the city's opportunities. You will find a family here—sometimes better than the one you left behind. Don't just sign up with twinkies, bears, muscle queens, or any other group. Be unique.

**PL: Looking ahead, what will happen to gay NYC? Will it vanish? If not, what do you think it will look like?**

MM: Vanish? With throngs of gays everywhere in NYC, and dozens of bars, and tons of gay culture? Chicken Little much? You've got nothing to worry about. We're not going anywhere. ☺

CATHERINE MCGANN



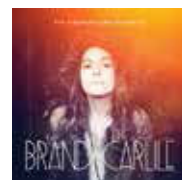
*Which item is the lie, and which three facts are true? Read on to find out...*

**#1. True!** “Despite what other people might call me, I just say I make rock and roll, because it’s the most all-encompassing term.”

**#2. Also True!** Carlile lists performers like k.d. Lang, Freddie Mercury, Indigo Girls, Elton John, and Erasure among some of her biggest influences. “I think we’re all drawn subconsciously to those that have a similar strife or struggle. You can hear it in their voices. Everyone finds their spokespeople whether they know they’re doing it or not. It’s almost a primal instinct.”

**#3. False!** “The way my voice cracks there has never happened again,” Carlile laughs. “It was a complete accident. I’ve done similar things on other songs live, but I can’t replicate it. Every time I am about to sing that note, I get this little flush of anxiety right before it happens. But the truth is, the more fucked up it sounds, the better. I almost can’t fuck that note up because it was always meant to be fucked up.”

**#4. True!** “When I first fell in love with music, most of my influences were associated with philanthropy in one way or another. Elton John had his AIDS Foundation; Neil Young, his Bridge School. Those things stood out about them almost as much as, if not more, than their music. So I always knew I wanted to find a way to marry those two things. A member of my management team helped us get started, and now I would say it’s not even secondary to our music but just as important.”



Carlile's most recent album, *The Firewatcher's Daughter*

## Three truths and a lie... with Brandi Carlile

TEN YEARS, 6 albums, and 10 EP’s into a career filled with critical accolades, how well do you know the Ravensdale, Washington native? *PrideLife* caught up with uber-prolific performer on the eve of her summer long tour across the U.S. to find out. Can you spot the lie mixed in with these truths we uncovered during our talk?

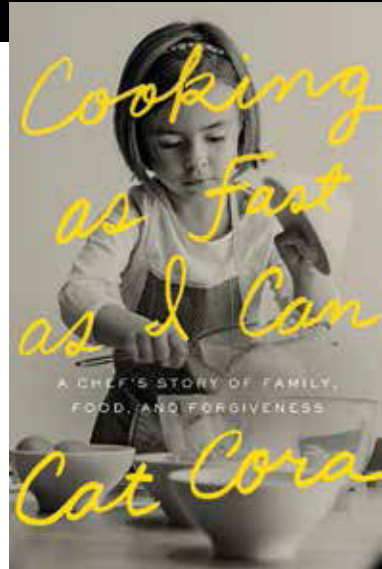
- 1** She doesn’t believe in labels. Despite a recent Grammy nomination in the Americana category and a slew of appearances at the Grand Ol’ Opry, she still just calls herself a plain ol’ rock n’ roller.
- 2** She believes most gays and lesbians have a sort of gay ear, and are drawn to music from people within the community.
- 3** That famous note near the end of her breakaway hit “The Story” was actually suggested by producer T Bone Burnett and required more than a dozen takes before she got it just right.
- 4** She started her Looking Out Foundation early in her career because most of her early musical influences were also strongly associated with various foundations or philanthropy.

DAVID MCCLISTER

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## Summer Love

In this excerpt from her autobiography *Cooking as Fast as I Can*, celebrity chef and TV personality Cat Cora shares the story of her first teenage crush.

“THE SUMMER BETWEEN my junior and senior year I worked as a lifeguard at the YMCA pool. The Bryan Adams song “Summer of ’69” was big on the radio around that time, and it was the perfect anthem. I remember that summer was hot, but not so humid and buggy. In the mornings I’d sit high up in my lifeguard chair, feel the sun on my legs, holler at the occasional kid to quit messing around, and inhale the warm smell of newly mown lawns.

I bought a used car with my savings, a red Fiat X1/9. My nor-



A member of the Culinary Hall of Fame, Cora was also TV’s first female Iron Chef. For more on her upcoming projects, go to [catcora.com](http://catcora.com).

mally easygoing dad had come out firmly against it. “Don’t do it. Don’t buy it. That car will spend its life in the shop.” I revered my dad’s levelheadedness and patience. But I ignored him regarding the car. I was a lifeguard, and it was a hot little red convertible. There was no convincing me.

Jordan lived not far from the pool, and she came over most mornings for a swim. She was stunning, with wavy blond hair and a pageant queen smile. Perched in my lifeguard chair, I’d watch her gleaming body glide through the water from behind my Ray-Bans. After she did a few laps she would lie out on the pool deck and we would talk aimlessly about school. She was a cheerleader and I was on the drill team, so we had that in common. Every morning as she walked through the gate, my palms got sweaty. Every afternoon when I got off work, I fantasized about her all the way home, my tape deck blasting the Tears for Fears hit “Shout.” My car smelled like coconut oil, and I sang at the top of my lungs, “Shout, shout, let it all out . . .”

That year break dancing had arrived in Jackson. The year before, Michael Jackson moonwalking was all the rage. One day I was telling Jordan about a break-dancing group I’d joined,

and she asked if I could come over to her house after I got off work and show her some moves.

I CAN’T REMEMBER where her parents were, but they must have been at work. She put in a cassette tape from the movie *Breakin’*, and I taught her what I knew and then, like in the movies, a slow song came on, and there was that awkward moment when you either pretended you were finished dancing or else you went for it and draped yourself all over the other person. It was Jordan’s idea. I wouldn’t have dared. We danced for a while. Even though a box air-conditioner whirled in one of the windows, we were still sweaty and overheated from dancing.

I don’t remember who went after whom, but suddenly, just like that, we started kissing. In a minute, we were a tangle of arms, hair, and tongue. We started grinding to the music. Her taste was Crest toothpaste, her smell Coppertone. Her hair was heavy in my hands.

I felt like a human sparkler, every inch of me bright and crackling. My ears rang, the room spun. I thought kissing Jordan just might kill me. This was what it was supposed to be like. This was what all the love songs were about.”

From COOKING AS FAST AS I CAN by Cat Cora. Copyright © 2015 by Cat Cora. Reprinted by permission of Scribner, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.; Photograph courtesy of CAT CORA



## Dammit, Janet! 40 Years of Rocky Horror

Although Dave Thompson has written more than 100 books on rock and pop culture, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show FAQ*—a trivia and gossip-packed examination of everything Rocky—is a pet project more than 40 years in the making, according to Thompson. “I saw *Rocky Horror* for

the first time in the theater when I was 13 and I’ve followed it ever since,” he says. The definition of a cult classic—“*Rocky* was never really the sort of thing that you could hype,” he says. “You needed the right audience, the right music, the right writing—Richard O’Brien’s script has these

amazing pauses that he didn’t create for audience participation but that are perfect for it. You had the perfect cast: Tim Curry, Patricia Quinn, Richard O’Brien, Little Nell—they were all friends; they liked working together. Whatever it is, *Rocky* has is. I think that’s the secret behind it’s magic.”



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## Reasons we love... Michelle Visage

Pop star. Reality show royalty. BFF to RuPaul. You know her. You love her. We do too! Here's why.



MATHU ANDERSEN

### 1 Her love for drag started way before RuPaul and *Drag Race*:

"I'd just moved to New York City to go to college. It was in the summer of 1986 and I was seventeen. My mother told me that I needed to start going out because that's how you met people back then—we didn't have things like cellphones or Grindr or Adam-4Adam. The first club I went to was called The Underground and that's where I met my first gay family. We're still in touch to this day. Once I got involved in the gay scene, I knew right away that the energy was home. That's when it all started for me."

### 2 She's a kick-ass performer—and the original Iggy Azalea:

"When Madonna came around, my life changed. I knew then that I wanted to sing and I wanted to be a pop star. I called this producer (Robert Cliviles) who was starting a girl group and said, 'Do you guys need a white girl?' They were like, 'Um, we have one.' I said 'You don't have me.' They brought me in to sing and that's how Seduction started. We actually made a really good album. And I'm grateful that I got to rap on it. I grew up loving hip-hop music. I wanted to be the white girl rapper. But the world wasn't ready for me. [Laughs]

### 3 On *Drag Race*, she's the toughest judge. And also the most helpful:

"I don't see what anybody gets out of being negative in this world. It's too easy. I'm not there to tear contestants down. What I'm there to do is say, 'You have much more than what you're giving me. Show me something you've never done before or never thought you could do.'"

### 4 Her book, *Diva Rules*, is self-help the way self-help should be done:

"People need to be heard and validated and know that they matter. It's comforting knowing that you're not alone. That's why I wrote the book—to let people know that they do have a voice. The message is: You don't have to settle for anything less that you want in this world. You are worth fighting for." ☺

## The First Time

Three fan favorites from past seasons of *RuPaul's Drag Race* open up about a few of their favorite firsts



### JIGGLY CALIENTE

#### First time in drag?

It was a dare. I saw a girl doing a Janet Jackson song—and she sucked. I was so upset. I was like, "I could beat that bitch!" My friends dared me, so I went up. I was literally wearing girls club clothes, and I had my makeup done at MAC. It wasn't drag. But it wasn't bad.

#### First time meeting Ru?

It was when she walked through the doors on the first episode of my season, on camera. It was surreal. I'm like, "Oh my God. I watch your movies. I saw you on the VMAs. I love your music. Are you for real?"

#### When was the first time you felt successful?

I don't want this to sound douchey—but when I walked the red carpet for the premiere of the show, I had that "Oh my God, I made it" kind of feeling. Like, "This is huge. This is once in a lifetime." It was so overwhelming and cool and exciting—all at the same time."

For more on Jiggly, follow her social media channels or go to [jigglycaliente.com](http://jigglycaliente.com)



### WILLAM BELLI

#### When was the first time you saw someone performing in drag?

I saw a gorgeous, bald-headed black man in all white lingerie walking through the Lincoln Tunnel on my 7th or 8th birthday. I assume he was trying to get to the parade. It might've been RuPaul come to think of it.

#### First time in drag yourself?

I went to school as Vicki Vale from Batman in first grade. It didn't go so hot.

#### First celebrity crush?

I wanted Danny from NKOTB to get me pregnant real bad.

#### When was the first time you felt successful?

After my song "Chow Down" about Chick-fil-A came out, I started to get free shit when I would go to the restaurant in Hollywood. That was cool.

Willam is on tour now. For dates, go to [willambelli.com](http://willambelli.com) for dates. His first book, *Suck Less: Where There's a Willam, There's a Way*, comes out this fall.



### CHAD MICHAELS

#### When was the first time you saw someone performing in drag?

I was 21 and I saw my "Drag Mother To Be" Hunter impersonating Annie Lennox. I was instantly hooked on this new and exciting obsession!

#### First song you performed in drag to?

"Hanky Panky" by Madonna. My friend made me the green and white striped lingerie set. I was feeling it.

#### First celebrity crush?

Jack Tripper—John Ritter—from *Three's Company*. I just remember he always dressed to the right.

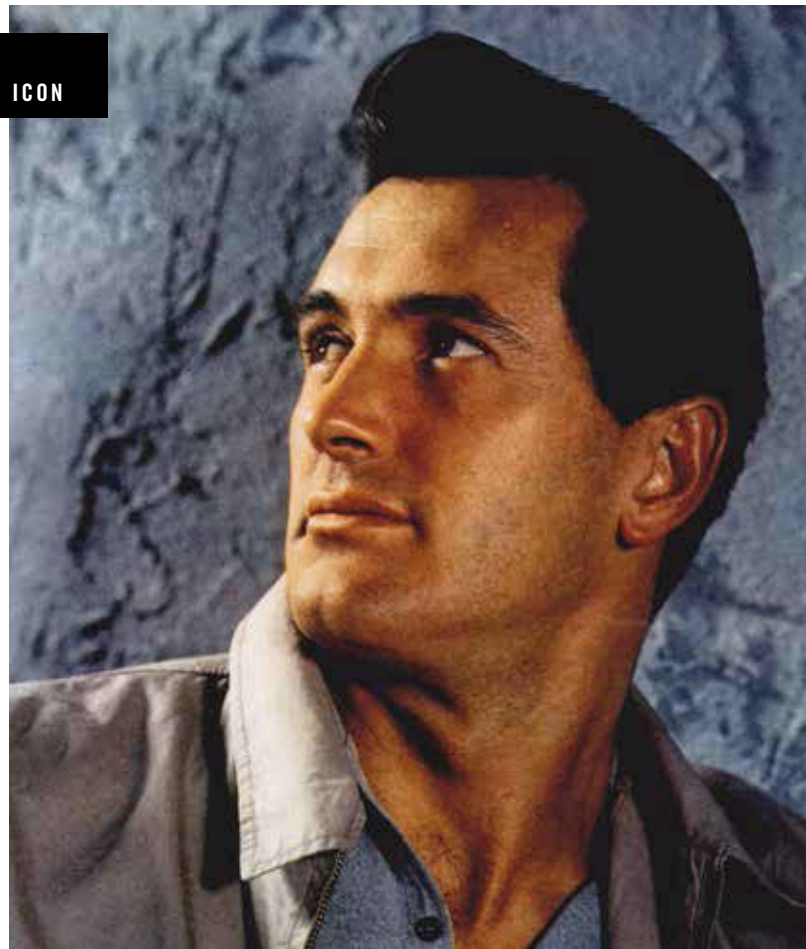
#### First job?

Working at the Del Mar Fair in San Diego at a Greek food vendor. I had a blast riding the Zipper in the Fun Zone on my breaks. And smoking a little weed—it was, like, 1986 so..."

#### First kiss?

It was soft, wet, and juicy. With a girl!

For more info on Chad's upcoming projects plus upcoming tour information, go to [chadmichaels.com](http://chadmichaels.com).



## A Salute to a Legendary Leading Man

How screen legend Rock Hudson's diagnosis and death changed the public's attitude on HIV and AIDS.

ACCORDING TO Randy Shilts, author of *And the Band Played On*, a monumental 1987 history of the epidemic, AIDS had two phases in America—before Rock Hudson, and after. When the actor died from complications of the disease on October 2nd, 1985, he literally put a face to the illness and changed perceptions of HIV and AIDS worldwide.

Hudson's career was remarkable in many ways. Despite rumors about his sexuality and lack of public acceptance toward gay people at the time, Hudson enjoyed a highly suc-

cessful career in film for nearly 40 years, capped with a series of romantic comedies co-starring Doris Day, and ultimately ending with a stint on the massively popular TV soap *Dynasty*. It was during this period, early in 1985, that everything changed.

Although he kept news of his condition quiet, Hudson had been diagnosed with AIDS a year earlier. While gossip columns had begun to speculate on Hudson's condition, a press conference with Day on July 25th ignited a firestorm

Hudson's most famous films include the *Pillow Talk*, *Love Come Back*, and *Send Me No Flowers*.



of conjecture about his health. During the conference, Hudson appeared painfully thin and confused. Soon after, Hudson's publicist confirmed the actor's HIV status, making him the first celebrity to publicly acknowledge his HIV status.

Shortly after his initial announcement, Hudson's friend Joan Rivers—an early advocate for AIDS awareness and support—was very clear about what the actor's honesty could do for public perceptions. "What Rock has done takes true courage," she said. "Rock's admission is a horrendous way to bring AIDS to the attention of the American public, but by doing so, Rock, in his life, has helped millions."

She wasn't kidding. In reading press coverage of Hudson's public battle with AIDS from the time, one can see a remarkably clear shift in public attitude. In the ten short weeks between the announcement of his illness and his death, private donations to HIV/AIDS research topped more than \$1.8 million—double the amount collected in the whole of 1984. And just two weeks after his death, the Senate approved a \$220 million bill doubling AIDS research spending in the country.

In one of his final public statements, Hudson was quoted as saying, "I am not happy that I have AIDS, but if that is helping others, I can at least know that my own misfortune has had some positive worth."

Thirty years on, it's this contribution and sacrifice that helps Rock Hudson remain one of our most iconic leading men. ☺

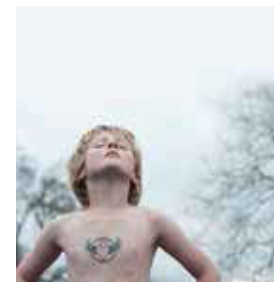
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# What's Up Doc?

No matter your mood, we've got the perfect documentary for your next movie night.

BY CHRISTOPHER ECKERDT

FROM HBO TO Netflix to the film festival circuit, the most authentic LGBT voices and stories in film are often the ones captured in documentary features, lovingly produced by those looking to share an authentic voice and viewpoint with the world—often on a shoestring budget. Here are 6 of our recent favorites. Pick the one that best suits your mood. Or just dive in randomly and see where the stories take you.



Clockwise from Top: Scenes from *Check It*; *Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures*; and *Gayby Baby*

**You're feeling arty...**  
***Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures***

An exploration of the artist's life from his early years in Brooklyn to his involvement in the burgeoning S&M scene in the 1970s, this doc reveals the man behind the controversial images that drew so much ire—especially the period leading up to his unfortunate and untimely death.

>  
**You're feeling fashionable...**  
***Check It***

This remarkable story follows four teenage gay and transgender gang members struggling to survive on the streets of D.C. Known for their mascara, stilettos, and Louis Vuitton bags, they are trading in the knives and mace in hopes that fashion may be what changes their lives.

>  
**You're feeling parental**  
***Gayby Baby***

An intimate portrait of four Australian children whose parents all happen to be gay, the film chronicles the day-to-day challenges of families you don't typically see in media—smart, funny, sensitive young people who are simply looking to love and support their LGBT parents, even when the rest of the world has turned against them.

>  
**You're feeling glam...**  
***Jobriath A.D.: a Rock N' Roll Fairy Tale***

The story of the first openly gay rock star,

groomed for stardom by a megalomaniac music executive who is convinced he will be a worldwide success. Ultimately over-hyped and over-promoted, Jobriath is rejected for being too feminine even as the world of glam rock explodes around him, never quite letting him grab his rightful share of the spotlight.

>  
**You're feeling nostalgic...**  
***Strike a Pose***

The impact of Madonna's infamous *Blonde Ambition* tour, as documented in the 1991 film *Truth or Dare*, is still felt every time a major performer takes the stage today. Twenty-five years after that iconic tour, we are reunited with 6 of the 7 dancers we met back then to see where their careers have taken them and how that brief, immaculate time with the Queen of Pop still impacts nearly aspect of their lives today.

>  
**You're feeling nerdy...**  
***Gaming in Color***

Until recently, the idea of fully realized LGBT characters and themes in video games seemed like a pipe dream. *Gaming in Color* examines how much this has changed—and how far Silicon Valley developers still have to go. Stepping inside the "gaymer" community, the film examines its rampant cyber bullying, attempting to explore just how you diversify and expand queer awareness and acceptance in the most unlikely of locales.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TOBY OPPENHEIMER; ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE FOUNDATION/COURTESY OF HBO; COURTESY OF SUPERGRAVITY PICTURES



## Drink to a Cause

*OneHope Wine helps you feel good about a boozy brunch. The company donates to more than a dozen different charities, with half of the profits from the sale of this green apple, peach, and sweet berry-flavored sparkling brut (available in a Rainbow Glitter Edition bottle) going directly to The Trevor Project.*

*onehopewine.com, \$59*

### More Bottles to Buy

Whether you're stocking up for a party or just refilling your home bar here are three more musts:

1



**BACARDI GRAPEFRUIT WHITE RUM**  
Bacardi's newest flavor is a pink grapefruit-infused rum ideal for punches, pairing with lemonade, or simply blending with a mixer.  
**bacardi.com, \$13**

2



**KINKY VODKA**  
Perfect with soda or as the base for your favorite cocktail, this new premium vodka is American made and distilled five times for extra smoothness.  
**kinkybeverages.com, \$20**

3



**JOSE CUERVO READY TO DRINK MARGARITAS**  
The easiest margarita ever—just add ice! Available in classic, peach, strawberry lime, and coconut pineapple flavors.  
**cuervo.com, \$16**

MAIN IMAGE: FREDDIE BENNET

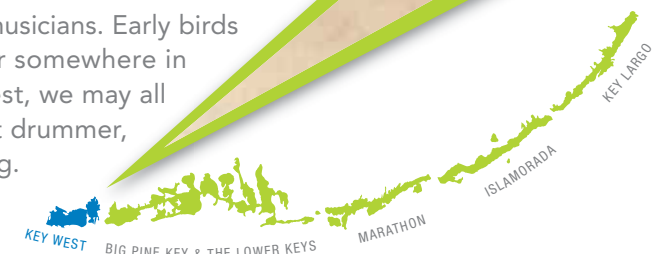
Harmonize.



Key West Pride  
June 8-12, 2016  
[keywestpride.org](http://keywestpride.org)

The Florida Keys  
**Key West**  
Close To Perfect - Far From Normal

Pirates and poets. Artists and musicians. Early birds and night owls. Gay, straight or somewhere in between. Down here in Key West, we may all march to the beat of a different drummer, but we're singing the same song.  
**[fla-keys.com/gaykeywest](http://fla-keys.com/gaykeywest)  
305.294.4603**



# Back to Reality

From his ground-breaking role on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* to current gigs on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, *Gay for Play*, and the upcoming *Celebrity Apprentice*, **Carson Kressley** has helped shape the role of LGBT-focused reality TV in countless ways. He's just as busy when the TV cameras turn off, too, writing books, hosting benefits, volunteering with charities—even interviewing our cover girl Cyndi Lauper for this year's issue of *PrideLife*. We caught up with the star to get his take on...

## His first Pride event

"It was New York City in the 90s. I'd just moved there recently and was like, 'Oh my God, this is what Pride is?' For me, being a really visual person, sometimes you have to see it in action. You have to see a giant rainbow flag. And see cops, firemen, clergy, go-go boys, and everybody in between marching in the street saying, 'We're going to stand together and we've got a lot that we should be really, really proud of.' For those of us who were made to feel lesser or invisible or dirty or whatever growing up, just having that day to reaffirm your rights, your validity, and your pride is really important."

## His work with the True Colors Fund

"I've been with them for about eight years. Studies show that LGBT kids make up about 7% of the general population but unfortunately make up about 40% of the homeless youth in America. That's a huge disparity, and no kid deserves to be homeless. Every child is important; every child is a precious resource for our future and we need to make sure that



"Working with RuPaul, you're in a cute outfit, surrounded by fabulous guests, seeing amazing performances—it's such a pleasure. I can't believe it's a job!"

they all have access to the basic necessities in life and a safe place to live."

## This fall's new season of *Celebrity Apprentice*...

"It's a lot harder than I expected. But I got to meet really cool, fabulous people from new host Arnold Schwarzenegger to pro football players to Boy George. In that way, it was similar to when I was on *Dancing with the Stars*—you get thrown into this swimming pool with these people that you never imagined working with. I mean, I roller skated around my basement to Boy George in the 80s! Yes, I was a lonely child. [Laughs] Now I'm suddenly working on a TV show with him. Sometimes life provides you with these surreal moments where you're just like, 'How is this happening?'"

## His new book, *Does This Book Make My Butt Look Big?*

"Women are always turning to me and asking, 'Hey, how do I look?' That was my inspiration. But the book is different from so many of the women's style guides that are out there and full of rules. My book is user-friendly with a comedic tone. It's for real women who just want to look a little better, feel a little sexier, and be a better version of themselves."

## The impact of *Queer Eye* a decade later

"It will always be the benchmark for my career. For me, the greatest part is that I still get to hear from young people that come up and say, 'Hey, I grew up with your show and it helped me come out to my family. It allowed me to start the conversation and allowed me to be myself.' When I hear those stories, I always get a little choked up. I'm very grateful that we were able to do that."

## His favorite summer cocktail

*"I like a refreshing peach sangria made with rosé. It's quick, easy, and delicious."*

### TO MAKE A PITCHER, COMBINE:

2 firm-ripe peaches, cut into thin slices  
½ cup peach schnapps  
¼ cup granulated sugar  
3 cups chilled rosé wine (750 ml bottle)  
2 cups chilled sparkling water

### TO MAKE:

Stir together peaches, schnapps, and sugar in a large pitcher until sugar is dissolved. Let sit one hour. Add wine, sparkling water, and ice; stir and serve.



RAINER HOSCH



# Party Food!

RECIPES EXCERPTED FROM *TINY AND FULL* BY JORGE CRUISE, COPYRIGHT 2015; PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF JORGE CRUISE

Celebrity trainer and best-selling author **Jorge Cruise** offers up a few of his favorite recipes for your ultimate summer feast.

AS THE AUTHOR of nearly two dozen health and fitness titles, including his latest bestseller *Tiny and Full*, Jorge Cruise obviously knows a few things about eating right. But the father of two (who is also getting married to his partner, Sam Ayers, this July) doesn't let that keep him from a good backyard picnic or party with friends—especially when Pride season rolls around. In fact it's now tradition for Cruise's yearly Pride celebration to include some sort of

entertaining. "When hosting an event, I always try to pick foods that are simple and crowd friendly," he says. "We have so much stress and pressure in today's world—celebrations are a time to let that go, cut loose, and enjoy ourselves." Planning a party of your own? Try a few of these quick, easy—and healthy—favorites from Cruise's new book. Each serves two to four people but can easily be doubled or tripled as needed to feed a larger group.



### Sunshine Summer Salad

**INGREDIENTS**  
8 skewers  
8 melon balls  
8 mozzarella balls  
8 thin slices prosciutto  
8 pitted green olives  
1 tsp balsamic vinegar  
Basil leaves, torn

**TO MAKE:**  
If using wooden skewers, soak in water for 30 minutes so food won't stick. On each skewer, layer melon, mozzarella, and a folded-up slice of prosciutto. Place skewers on a plate. Add olives around them and lightly drizzle with balsamic vinegar. Garnish with basil leaves.

### Strawberry Yogurt Ice Pops

**INGREDIENTS**  
1-2 pints strawberries, chopped  
2 tbsp sugar  
1 tsp lemon juice  
4 oz fat-free Greek yogurt  
½ cup water

**TO MAKE:**  
Place all ingredients in a blender and process until smooth. Pour mixture into ice pop molds, add popsicle sticks and freeze for at least 4 hours.



### California Fish Tacos

**INGREDIENTS**  
1 tbsp olive oil, plus more for grill  
4 (3-oz) tilapia or halibut fillets  
1 tsp ground coriander  
¾ tsp kosher salt, divided  
½ tsp black pepper, divided  
6 radishes, sliced  
1 cucumber, halved and sliced  
2 tbsp fresh lime juice, plus lime wedges for serving  
8 tortillas  
1 cup fresh cilantro leaves  
½ cup chopped purple cabbage  
½ avocado, sliced

**TO MAKE:**  
Heat grill to high and then oil lightly so food won't stick. Season fish fillets with coriander, ½ tsp of salt, and ¼ tsp of pepper. Grill until cooked through, 1–2 minutes per side. Break into small pieces. In a medium bowl, toss together radishes and cucumber with lime juice and remaining oil, salt, and pepper. Serve fish in corn tortillas topped with the cucumber relish, cilantro, cabbage, and avocado and add lime wedges on the side.



### Santa Fe Chicken and Black Beans

**INGREDIENTS**  
4 chicken drumsticks  
1 tsp ground cumin  
¼ tsp cayenne pepper  
2 tbsp olive oil  
½ cup red onion, chopped  
1 cup canned black beans, rinsed and drained  
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste  
Lime wedges

**TO MAKE:**  
Combine the cumin with the cayenne pepper and rub over the chicken. In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Sauté the chicken for 4 minutes per side, or until no longer pink. Remove from heat. Warm black beans in a small saucepan. Divide beans onto plates and top with drumsticks and lime wedges. Serve immediately.



Recipes excerpted from *Tiny and Full* by Jorge Cruise, copyright 2015.



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On the subway, in your cube, or hanging out in your pad, Master & Dynamics MH40 headphones are the ultimate accessory for rich, warm audio that looks as good as it sounds.

[masterdynamic.com](http://masterdynamic.com), \$399

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[aplusrstore.com](http://aplusrstore.com), \$10



# All That Glitters

Need a kick-ass print for your living room? Mark Leeming's got you covered with twenty different fabulous men.



FOR HIS NEW Bearded Brutes series of photos, UK artist Mark Leeming had just one goal: "I wanted to produce something that, when you walked into a gallery and saw it would make you say, 'Oh my.'" It definitely

worked. Leeming's series of photos, currently on display in London and available for purchase on his site (*bearded brutes.com*) is designed to merge pop art and kitsch. "I wanted them to be bursting at the seams

with individuality, color and personality," he says. "I wanted to show gay males in an almost ambiguous way. Obviously you see that they are male first and foremost—but with an added dose of playfulness." ☺



# Hack Your Wedding

Finally tying the knot? Here are 12 ways to make your wedding the most memorable and stress-free event possible. **BY SHIRA LEVINE**

## STEP 1 Redefine tradition

Don't let anyone tell you what your wedding should look like. "It's your big day," says Tracy Beckmann of Hotel Lautner in Palm Springs. Plan accordingly and do away with traditions you don't care about. Want to walk down the aisle together? Go for it! Want bridegrooms and groomsmen? It's your call. No interest in a unity candle or aisle runner? Skip them. Wear whatever you want. Better yet, forget the wedding party entirely and make the day all about you and your Boo. Splurge

on a few items that really matter to you, and for items that don't—wedding favors, save the date's—ditch them.

**STEP 2  
Honor family and friends**  
Unless you frequently attend religious services together and are close to said institution's religious leader, a friend or family member is the ideal candidate to convey the love you and your partner share. And becoming ordained is incredibly easy—there are dozens of places your chosen "minister" can find with a simple Google



7 more expert tips and tricks!

1. Don't use the terms "wedding" in web searches while planning your big event. Anything that comes up will likely be more expensive. Instead, just hunt for bakers or caterers and hire them based on your needs.
2. Stay organized by creating a new email account to use only for wedding planning.

search. Most are free and easy to complete. Once ordained, the person can legally officiate any wedding.

## STEP 3 Pick the right destination

Again, opt for what matters most to you. If you're blessed with owning or knowing someone who owns a treasured venue space, use it! Avoid the drama of unfriendly, offensive staff, corporate rules, and limitations, and a costly curfew by holding your nuptials in a place near and dear. That's what Compass real estate broker Steve Dawson and Broadway actor Chandler Williams planned for their September wedding. "Chandler owns a home in this beautiful community in Grindstone in Winter Harbour, Maine," says Dawson. "It's an important aspect of our relationship we have a personal connection to, so we wanted to take advantage of it."

If you're looking for a destination for friends and family to travel to, consider all-in-one options that eliminate the need for you to rent a space, hire caterers, find bartenders, and do additional planning. For example, consider a large hotel/casino/resort like The Borgata in Atlantic City. These locations offer ample rooms for guests, plenty of space for catered meals and receptions, and often lovely areas for your ceremony itself. Most of these venues, The Borgata included, also provide full wedding packages with numerous apps, entrees, and desserts; bar service; wait staff; and more, all in one easy-to-budget-for package. Plus, you'll have access to spa services and pools, and your guests will have

VALERIE KACHAEV



# BORGATA AND THE WATER CLUB: PROUD TO BE A PART OF YOUR WEDDING

Borgata and The Water Club are thrilled to welcome you and your loved ones as you celebrate your nuptials in Atlantic City — one of the East Coast's premier getaway destinations. Leave it to us: Our dedicated wedding specialists will plan your entire day from beginning to end.

With a gym, spa, cocktail venue, reception and ceremony rooms — including the lavish Water Club Indoor Pool — all on site, you won't have to step foot outside the hotel the whole time you're here. A complimentary, private pre-ceremony room is also available to you on your wedding day. And, of course, a cocktail and a relaxing massage are just steps away after you tie the knot.

We'll be sure to wow not just you, but your guests as well, who can enjoy Borgata's gourmet dining experiences by world-renowned chefs, an all-star entertainment lineup, high-energy nightlife, the best selection of slot machines and table games in the region and luxurious guestrooms.

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**Borgata**  
HOTEL CASINO & SPA

options for evening entertainment, whether it's shows, the casino, or clubbing. With a perfect score on the HRC's Corporate Equality Index, The Borgata is one of many large wedding destinations dedicated to celebrating LGBT equality. "As a market-leading hotel, casino, and spa, we truly want to make your wedding day extra special by providing everything under one roof," said Mark Vanderwielen, Vice President of Hospitality. "Our goal with every wedding is a seamless and unforgettable experience for you and your family."

**STEP 4**  
**Go all-inclusive and LGBT-friendly**

If you need help for a more elaborate ceremony, find a good wedding planner—someone vouched for by friends, family, or other members of your community. This will help you to easily filter out bigoted bakers or other haters who might put a damper on your event. "A good wedding planner will have relationships with the best of everything and everyone in your area, so you can just relax," says Chris Puckett of Puckett Excursions, a boutique all-inclusive experiential travel biz. If you don't want to get bogged down in the details of the event, it's the ideal way to go, he says.

**STEP 5**  
**Finally—have fun!**  
Weddings can be stressful and drive some couples to the breaking point on what should be their happiest day. Don't let that be you. It's your responsibility to enjoy yourself. You've earned it. And this is your chance to make the most of it. ☺

3. Number the back of RSVP cards. If a guest forgets to include their name or writing is illegible, you'll know who replied.

4. Designate spots at your reception table as guest seats where people can stop by and say hi. It will help to cut down on the stress of walking around to greet everyone individually.

5. Consider Friday and Sunday ceremonies. It can cut costs and open up venue options that may otherwise be booked.

6. Kill the guest book and have people sign something more memorable—perhaps blocks from a Jenga puzzle. You'll end up with something far more meaningful in the future.

7. Consider a small gift for your future in-laws. They can feel overlooked during a wedding—and a little thoughtfulness now can help to yield big paybacks once you've tied the knot.

# Winning Gifts

Put them on your bridal registry. Give them away at that summer wedding you're inevitably getting invited to. Or, just hoard them for your own pad.



**PANSY ASS CERAMICS**

Fine china made by two boys in Toronto. Most of it is NSFW. All of it is amazing! Trust us and check it out yourself.

**pansyassceramics**  
**.bigcartel.com, \$120**



**PHILIPS HUE BEYOND**

The best smart lamps and bulbs on the market. Each is designed to last up to 15 years and can be changed to any color in the rainbow with a single swipe on your phone.

**amazon.com, \$400**



**WALTZ CUP AND SAUCER**

Made from hand-crafted porcelain, these beautiful geometric saucers "magically" project their image up onto the mirrored cup when they are placed on top of each other.

**shop.spoon-tamago**  
**.com, \$88**

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# PATSY AND EDINA ARE IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE THIS SUMMER!





**1 CONVERSE CHUCK TAYLOR ALL STAR MISSONI FLAMES**  
The classic Converse you love, now merged with Missoni's renowned zigzags. That shimmer comes from metallic threads woven directly into the sneaker's canvas.  
**converse.com, \$100**

**2 RAINBOW BLOCK SOCKS**  
All of the proceeds go directly to the HRC's fight for equality.  
**shop.hrc.org, \$18**

**3 NIKON KEYMISSION 360 ACTION CAM**  
Record 360-degree action on the street or on vacation with the durable, shockproof, waterproof adventure camera.  
**nikon.com**

**4 KIRK ORIGINALS FORMENTERA SUNGLASSES**  
Handcrafted classic oversized aviators for him or her, shown here in cappuccino with copper lenses.  
**kirkoriginals.com, \$408**

**5 KIEHL'S ACTIVATED SUN PROTECTOR SPF 50**  
Packed with antioxidants to help neutralize skin-damaging free radicals, this water resistant sunscreen fights sunburn without clogging your pores.  
**kiehls.com, \$29**

**6 MALIN + GOETZ BERGAMOT**  
Hints of citrus, cardamom, and cedar combine in this Tuscan-inspired scent that can be worn by both women and men.  
**malinandgoetz.com, \$150**



## March Day Essentials

From the pics to the kicks to the shades and sunblock, here's everything you need to survive from sun-up to sun-down, and late into the night.



## Two Weeks to a Stronger, Healthier, Happier You

We asked **Janae Kroc**—a transgender trainer and former marine who is also well known for setting powerlifting world records and appearing on countless magazine covers—for her advice on getting fit, once and for all.

**W**E'VE ALL BEEN THERE: Two weeks to go before the big party at your buddy's place. Or that weekend away for your sister's wedding. Or that big getaway to Mexico you've been planning with your girlfriend. Except work's been kicking your butt and instead of toned and rested, you're feeling bloated, crabby, and unhappy.

Luckily, there are ways to turn it all around. After years of training for bodybuilding competitions and working to set records as a powerlifter, Janae Kroc knows how to pack

on muscle and cut unwanted pounds in a hurry. Her advice to start getting fit today:

### STEP 1 Clean Up Your Diet

First and foremost, it's time to seriously regiment the fuel you are putting into your body. That means plenty of high protein foods like chicken, fish, egg whites, and lean beef, says Kroc. You also want complex carbs like oatmeal, brown rice, and sweet potatoes. "Round out your plate with high-fiber foods, vegetables, salads, broccoli and

For more on Kroc, go to [janaemarietkroc.net](http://janaemarietkroc.net) or follow her @JanaeMarie Kroc on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram

**TIMEX IRONMAN ESSENTIAL 30**  
Track your training with this colorful timepiece.  
**timex.com, \$65**



asparagus. These foods aren't calorie-free but you have to eat a lot of them before they really add up," she says. Healthy fats like nuts, olive oil, and avocado are great too, ideal for helping you to feel full long after a meal.

### STEP 2 Work Out Regularly—and Hard!

As far as the workouts go, a combination of cardio and strength-training is key. "Cardio is essential to help you burn fat and speed up your metabolism," says Kroc. "But don't skimp on strength training either. Even if you're really just looking to lean-out, you're going to look and feel a lot better if you add some muscle to your frame." Find a training partner with similar goals and exercise together regularly. "You'll start to see results within a few weeks," says Kroc. "The longer and heavier you train, the more dramatic the payoff."

### STEP 3 Build the Right Mindset

You're going to feel happier and more energetic as your body starts to change. Don't screw it up! "A big part of my success was never trying to compare myself to other people," Kroc remembers. "I don't care who you are and how good you are; you can always find someone better than you. So comparisons, inevitably, are always going to fail." Instead, focus on your own self-improvement—your gains, your achievements, and your progress. And most importantly, Kroc advises, "Remember that life is about so much more than just our appearance. It's quality of life that matters most in the end." ☺



# Our HIV On Battles Rage

*Breaking down four of our biggest health advances in recent months.*

By  
ADAM BIBLE

**S**CIENTISTS HAVE HAD great success lately figuring out how to attack, thwart, and possibly even defeat the HIV virus. Here are a few of the highlights from a stellar year of steadily declining infections rates, incredible medical advances, and overall optimistic vibes that have many experts feeling we may even see the eradication of the disease in the not-too-distant future.

## PREP

Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP—a well-tolerated, daily dose of HIV medication that significantly lowers the chances of being infected—is finally becoming accepted as part of the arsenal of HIV weapons. PrEP was greeted with plenty of skepticism when Truvada, a blend of two antiretroviral drugs, was first recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for use by high-infection risk populations in the spring of 2014. Many health professionals worried that at-risk populations may use the treatment to justify continuing risky behaviors. But some stunning reports came out at the end of 2015 to quiet the naysayers and prove just how effective the drug can be.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation reported that out of 695 people enrolled in their nurse-led PrEP study, there were no new infections. Zero. This is a study where test subjects averaged almost 19 sexual partners per year and a full 91% were not using condoms. Similarly, a Kaiser Permanente study in California that followed 657 HIV-negative subjects—99% men who have sex with men—for seven months found that none of them became infected while on PrEP.

While safe-sex practices are still crucial, the CDC does now report that daily use of PrEP by people at very high risk for HIV infection can lower the chance of getting infected by the virus during sex by more than 90%. A new study —→

MARK ALLEN MILLER

The models in this ad are not real patients.



# living

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• **Health**

on the effectiveness of PrEP by the CDC predicted that 185,000 new infections could be prevented by 2020 through expanded PrEP use (along with continued HIV testing and treatment). Increasing PrEP access to at-risk groups like gay men and African-Americans, could keep another 17,000 people free of infection in the future, the experts say, stating that, “Expanding PrEP coverage alone could reduce new infections by nearly 20%, preventing more than 48,000 new HIV infections.”

**LONG-ACTING ART**

Antiretrovirals (ART) have come a long way since the debut of the side effects-filled AZT in 1987 and the often-confusing and hard-to-tolerate HAART combos of the '90s. Some of the single-tablet combinations are now simpler to take and easier on the body, leading to better adherence, less drug resistance, and lower viral counts all around. The newest breakthrough in ART is the advent of long-lasting antiretroviral drugs that allow you to maintain a lower viral load by taking meds orally every few weeks or by injecting ART every one or two months.

The annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Boston this year presented a few interesting studies on long-acting ART. One small study found that taking a single 10mg oral dose of an NRTI (nucleoside analog reverse-transcriptase inhibitor) called EFdA—was able to lower viral load significantly after seven days. The only side effects were headaches

and there was no detection of drug resistance. This slow-release drug has been shown to be effective in rodents for up to 180 days, with the potential to work as a single, annual dose.

Another study showcased at CROI found that when 286 HIV-positive people used an injectable combo of cabotegravir and rilpivirine once every 4 weeks or every 8 weeks for maintenance, at least 94% had a very low amount of HIV in their system—less than 50 copies per milliliter at week 32. Over 90% were satisfied with the treatment, compared to 70% in the oral control group, indicating a positive sign for adherence.

**BROADLY NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODIES**

While an HIV vaccine remains the holy grail of truly defeating the virus, new approaches to treatment gained credible traction in 2015. One of the reasons HIV is so wily and hard to clear from our bodies is its ability to rapidly mutate, confounding our immune system and, as a result, thwarting traditional vaccines.

However, studies show that about 20% of those who are infected with HIV naturally produce antibodies, or proteins that remove foreign invaders, that can destroy many different types of the virus. An advanced new technique is now being developed that creates a vaccine able to prompt the body to make these broadly neutralizing antibodies on its own, teaching the immune system the right moves in time to help fight the changing virus.

A recent study from the La Jolla Institute found that



96% of people have the proper precursors to create these antibodies. Now, the challenge is to get the right cells to bind to the right HIV protein so it can neutralize the virus. Scientists from the study plan on starting a human clinical trial next year to find out whether the vaccine can successfully coax the immune system to produce broad antibodies quickly enough to attack HIV before it begins to mutate.

**GENE EDITING**

CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing is an ancient defense mechanism used by about 40% of bacteria to fight viruses, and scientists have recently figured out how to fine-tune the technique for our own use. This new (to humans) technique allows scientists to edit genomes with high precision, efficiency, and flexibility. It has already been used to target or silence genes in a large range of organisms like plants, zebrafish, fruit flies, mice, monkeys, and even human embryos.

The latest application of CRISPR was used by Temple University researchers to edit HIV-1 DNA out of the genome of human immune cells pulled from HIV-positive people. The cells were then cultured and reintroduced to the virus. Scientists found that the new, edited cells prevented HIV replication and reinfection, and functioned normally.

This breakthrough could lead to an eventual cure for HIV by giving our natural immune cells the upgrade they need to definitively kill the notoriously slippery virus without harming our cells or producing toxic effects. ☺



# HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

## Courage Required.

◆ Approximately one in four people living with HIV infection in the US are women. ◆

◆ Most new HIV infections in women are from heterosexual contact (84%). ◆

◆ An estimated 88% of women with HIV are diagnosed, but only 32% are virally suppressed ◆

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• Health

# Profiles in Courage

Meet four of the brave men and women leading our continuing fight against HIV and AIDS.

The constant battle against HIV and AIDS requires the bravery, tenacity, and compassion of thousands of people around the globe—doctors, researchers, educators, volunteers, and everyday activists who tirelessly provide their time, energy and expertise in the fight to eliminate the disease. These powerfully inspiring people don't shy away from the challenges and risks that come with taking on one of the modern eras most insidious and tenacious plagues. Instead, they fight back, head on, striving to make a change. Here are four of their stories. →



**Leandro Mena, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director of the Center for HIV/AIDS Research, Education & Policy at the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for Elimination of Health Disparities



**Donna Futterman, M.D.**  
Professor of clinical pediatrics, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and director of the Adolescent AIDS Program, Children's Hospital at Montefiore in the Bronx, NY



**Jeffrey Crowley**  
Program director of the National HIV/AIDS Initiative, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University



**Ian Bradley-Perrin**  
historiographical HIV researcher, Ph.D. student in socio-medical sciences at the Center for Science & Society, Columbia University



THE CLINICAL EDUCATOR  
Leandro Mena

Interning at the notorious Cook County Hospital in Chicago was what started Leandro Mena on his journey to become an HIV specialist. “During my second month as an intern I was assigned to the Infectious Disease team, and that’s where I was first exposed to patients with AIDS,” he says. After his residency was over, Mena ended up in another notoriously challenging place—the Deep South. Instead of having to deal with the urban mean streets, he had to navigate the ignorant mean streaks of conservative Southerners: “One cannot underestimate how difficult is to work in the South in a health-care area that requires acknowledgement that human beings have sex—often for pleasure.” “The South is still a place where pre-marital sexual acts are associated with shame and HIV is the supposed natural punishment to deviant behavior. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP—

heralded by none other than the CDC as a way to prevent HIV transmission through sex by up to 90%—is a relatively new strategy that is not seen by many as a morally acceptable approach to HIV prevention,” Mena says. In spite of the ideological roadblocks, Mena perseveres, educating and informing those around him in hopes that before long we will be able to provide appropriate sexual health education to our youth. “I hope that we can build a health care system that has learned to be responsive to the needs of the population regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity,” he says. Scaling up strategies such as HIV screening for all, immediate linkage to care for those HIV-infected, and rollout of PrEP are all possible in the South given the will: “The opportunity to change the course of the HIV epidemic in our region and address the many HIV disparities that plague us is within our reach.”

THE DRIVEN PEDIATRICIAN  
Donna Futterman

Donna Futterman has been on the forefront of many important causes throughout her life—she came out when she was a teenager in the ’60s, then, when she went to Barnard College in the ’70s, became an activist fighting against the Vietnam War and for women’s rights and civil rights. In 1981 she entered medical school and began a career helping the young people of New York City survive the HIV epidemic. The early years were tough: “In the beginning we had no treatments and little hope,” says Futterman, “So we had to put a lot of energy into providing support and helping each youth mobilize their own support.” Today, even though treatments are easier to adhere to and more effective, it has lessened the urgency of prevention, she says. “The same youth—black, Latino, and gay, transgender men and women—continue to be disproportionately impacted.

It’s still so sad.” This lifelong HIV/AIDS warrior thinks, however, that the new energy surrounding PrEP is making it easier to reach the next generation and truly resonate with them: “I can feel the end of new infections in sight—if we do this right,” she says. “I truly believe we could see the end of new cases in my working life.” Futterman has also been sharing her HIV expertise by helping at-risk youth in the hard-hit townships of Cape Town, South Africa, since 2001. She is currently chairing the board of an organization called mothers2mothers (*m2m.org*), which hires HIV-positive women to serve as mentor mothers to help eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. “With funding and a lot of work, we helped make a huge impact,” she says. “We are now expanding to life-cycle issues and prevention, just like in the U.S.”



#DOINGIT



YOUR #DOINGIT CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Get tested for HIV. CDC recommends that everyone get tested for HIV at least once as part of routine health care and that people with certain risk factors get tested more often. Visit [cdc.gov/DoingIt](https://cdc.gov/DoingIt) to find a testing facility near you, learn facts about HIV, and how HIV is affecting our communities.
- ✓ Encourage others to get tested. Promote HIV testing by sharing the facts and the importance of knowing your status on social media. Remember to tag your posts with [#DoingIt](https://twitter.com/DoingIt).
- ✓ Join the #DoingIt movement. Visit [cdc.gov/DoingIt](https://cdc.gov/DoingIt) to download free materials and resources to share within your network and your community.

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## THE POLISHED POLICYMAKER Jeffrey Crowley

Policy is not something many people get excited about. Jeffery Crowley, however, was deep in to figuring out how to use government policy to help people when he was a student in high school. He wasn't taking classes though, he was off on his own doing independent study projects while leaving Civics 101 for the rest of us to slog through. Thankfully, Crowley nurtured his wonkish-ness and grew up to become a bona-fide policy nerd, even serving under President Obama as the director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. In that prestigious position he was tasked with developing our country's first comprehensive National HIV/AIDS Strategy: "I was incredibly privileged to lead that effort, which involved people not only from across the White House," Crowley says, "but from across the federal government coming together and working with the

community to identify a small number of strategic action steps to focus on." That work was able to develop a common road map and guide the country in the right direction at the right moment when scientific advances started reinforcing the next steps to eliminating HIV/AIDS in the U.S. And now with his new role as program director at the National HIV/AIDS Initiative, Crowley is focusing on one of his greatest undertakings, the Ryan White Policy Project. "It provides services to people with HIV without insurance, and fills in the gaps in coverage for those who don't have it." If we can strategically focus on spreading information and promoting access to healthcare, he says, we can prevent a lot of new HIV infections. "And, perhaps more importantly, if we can ensure all people with HIV learn their status, get into care, and get on ART, and we support them staying in care, then we can end the HIV epidemic."

## THE ACADEMIC ACTIVIST Ian Bradley-Perrin

Unearthing the weapons capable of defeating HIV can be difficult. Most look to easy-to-find, but extremely potent points of attack—brightly lit labs, halls of government, healing medical centers, or forgotten street corners. But Ian Bradley-Perrin decided to explore some seldom-used tactics to help define and defeat the HIV epidemic: "I use oral history and personal narrative, as well as media analysis and policy analysis, to reconstruct the past and its consequences." Simply put, the way we think and talk and write about HIV is central to understanding and conquering the disease.

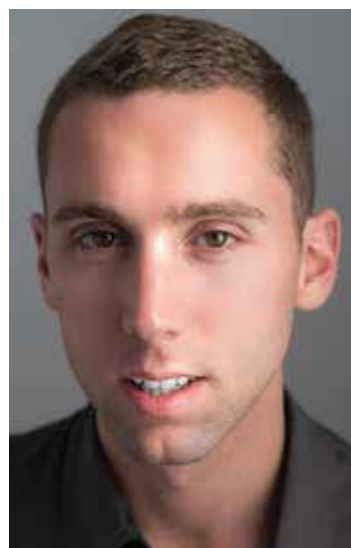
Bradley-Perrin, is a Ph.D. student in socio-medical sciences at Columbia University who has been living with HIV for the last five years. He is working on two interrelated projects that will confront the hidden, and potentially helpful, story of HIV: "The first is a

historiography of HIV/AIDS, or the history of the history of HIV/AIDS. I'm trying to answer questions like: How are the stories being constructed? Who are the characters being used to tell the history? What are the political consequences of different ways of telling the story of HIV/AIDS?"

His second project takes a more micro look at the epidemic and is focusing on the ways we talk about pharmaceuticals and drug research along with access and distribution, and the cultural ramifications of preventative medicine.

Both of these projects aim to confront stigma in a complicated way. "We need to think about how fear and stigma get used in marketing," he says. "We need to think about how structural stigma is enacted through HIV criminalization and unequal access to healthcare." This marginalizing of people living with HIV reinforces interpersonal stigma that keeps HIV-positive people in a viral underclass.

We also need to start relying on ourselves and stop thinking that anyone will resolve this for us, Bradley-Perrin says. "It takes aggressive community action, direct action, and people who are demanding change to reset the agenda—we have examples of this working in the past—and we must once again build a broad-based movement if we want to see change on that level."



# Your numbers are ok on HIV meds. But do SIDE EFFECTS SOMETIMES GET IN THE WAY of taking your meds every day? Let your healthcare team know.

Start the conversation by completing the checklist below.



Check all that apply to you:

**When taking your HIV meds, have you noticed that you:**

- ☐ Feel tired a lot
- ☐ Have trouble sleeping
- ☐ Have frequent diarrhea
- ☐ Have frequent headaches
- ☐ Often feel dizzy or have an upset stomach
- ☐ Skipped taking medicine to avoid having to deal with a side effect

Guy, diagnosed with HIV in 2007

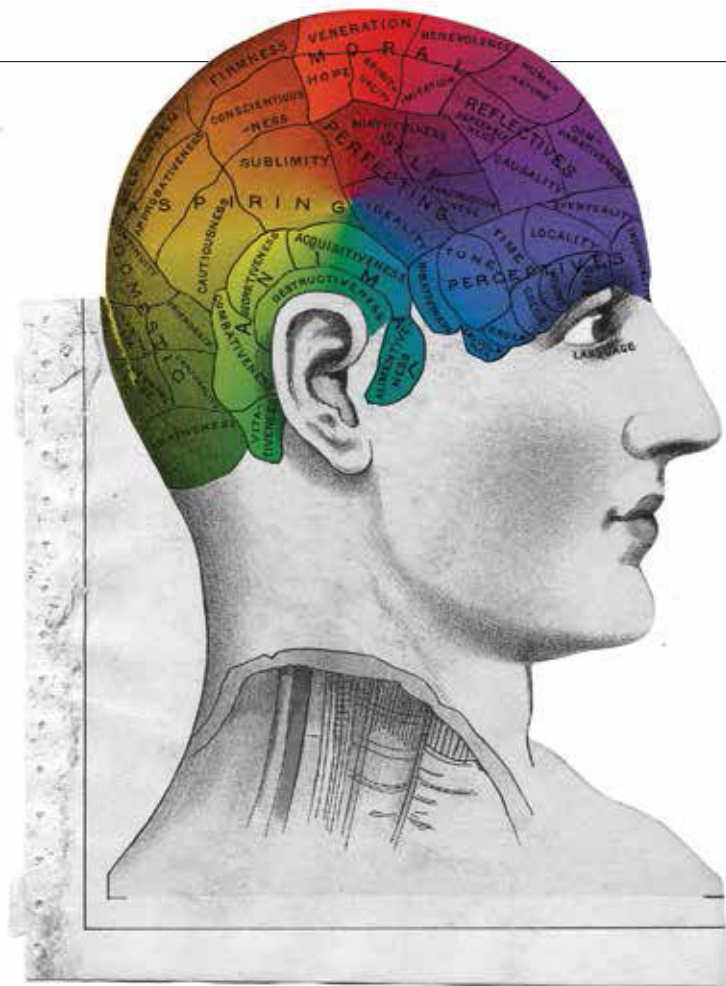
### WHAT'S NEXT?

If you checked anything or have any other side effect, talk to your healthcare team. There may be something they can do. To determine the best treatment option for you, the advice of your healthcare team is always best.

Learn more at [treatmentcheckin.com](http://treatmentcheckin.com)



**IMPORTANT: Tear this checklist out and share it with your healthcare team today.**



# Inside My Gay Brain

English stand up comedian Rosie Wilby identifies as a lesbian. But would an analysis of her brain give her away as one? We tagged along on her journey to find out.

Ever since I once videotaped, rewound, and swooned slightly at a tennis montage depicting Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert hugging at the net after their match, I’ve wondered, “What made me gay?”

A few years back, and many years after my first tennis crush, the BBC aired a documentary following actor John Barrowman on a quest to answer this very

question. With the help of a number of scientists, he whizzed through all kinds of theories about finger length ratios, hair patterns, and the presence or absence of older brothers. Nothing particularly caught my eye, though, until he underwent some tests analyzing brain patterns. An academic by the name of Qazi Rahman, who has been working in the field of sexual orientation for more than 20 years looked at

“WHAT’S WRONG WITH MALE FEMININITY AND FEMALE MASCULINITY? I HATE THAT WE LIVE IN A CULTURE WHICH SEEKS TO MINIMIZE THESE DIFFERENCES. I THINK WE SHOULD CELEBRATE THEM.”

— QAZI RAHMAN, PH.D.

skills such as map reading, memory, word fluency, and 3D-shape rotation. I was fascinated and immediately looked him up. I’ve been in touch with him ever since for ad hoc scientific input for my comedy shows.

Rahman is a Ph.D. and professor of psychiatry, gender and sexuality at King’s College in London. His work is based around numerous psychological and mental acuity tests he asks

people to complete, some fun, some tedious, and some so complex they’re barely understandable. He studies the results doggedly and each influences his work. Meeting with him in person one afternoon, he attempted to explain it all to me.

“One of the most common scientific theories about sexual orientation is that gay men should have mental traits—cognitive abilities, personalities, aptitudes, gender expressions, and so on—that are similar, on average, to heterosexual women,” he said. “Scientists believe this is because they share the same direction of sexual preference. Likewise, lesbians should have a psychology that is similar to heterosexual men.”

I was dubious. Was my body really that similar to a straight man’s? So, we set off to find out. That meant completing a long series of tests with the good doctor. Hours later, drained and curious as to my results, we sat down again to see what he had found out.

The results were mixed. I was poor at the mental rotation that straight men are typically good at but somewhere in between straight men and straight women for many other tasks. A lot of these differences in problem-solving abilities, he said, point to variances in underlying brain structure between men and women and straights and gays. Sex hormones in the womb as our bodies are developing—and the way we respond to

them—also play a big role in shaping our skills, Rahman explained. “It’s much more than just your genes per se.”

But before I could even begin spouting off about stereotypes, he interrupted, explaining that after years of research, he now believes it’s not just a simple case of female-like or male-like brains: It’s more a mosaic of gendered traits—a “gender bending brain,” if you will.

In fact, when it comes to straight and gay brains, it’s actually heterosexual women who Rahman finds the most capable of change, or plasticity, as he calls it. “Most lesbian women are pretty rigid in their sexual orientation, as are gay men and heterosexual men. I think it’s the heterosexual women who are showing most of the reported sexual plasticity. It’s a rather interesting twist of fate if it turns out that it is heterosexuals who can ‘change’ the most.”

“Looking at the bigger picture, the question we now need to ask is, What’s wrong with male femininity and female masculinity? I hate that we live in a culture which seeks to minimize these differences. I think we should celebrate them.”

Says Rahman: “My view is that the biology of sexual orientation tells the heteronormative world, ‘Deal with it! Our sexualities are part of human nature.’ While it would be good for people to accept homosexuality on the basis of fundamental human rights regardless of what caused someone to be gay, it

does seem that the science on the innate biological origin of sexuality has helped many people abandon anti-gay beliefs that were based on religious teachings or the idea of a ‘chosen’ lifestyle.”

Returning home from our meeting, and thinking about the tests I’d taken for Rahman—the way I read maps, the way words meant certain things to me and different things to others, the way I operated in the space around me, the things that made me me—I couldn’t stop thinking about Rahman’s work, and the way his final words had struck me.

“We need to accept that being gay is not just about mere sexual attraction,” he said. “Instead, people need to remember that these identities spring from our biology and manifest themselves in a unique gay culture. And ultimately, they make us who we are.”

And that—test or no test, straight or gay or somewhere in between—is something anybody with a brain should happily agree with. ☺



Qazi Rahman, Ph.D., (above) is a professor at the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College London and the co-author of one of the definitive books on the relationship between biology and sexuality *Born Gay: The Psychobiology of Sex Orientation*.

JAYNE WEXLER — THIS CREDIT IS NOT CONFIRMED



# Parenting Pays Off

*D. Rodriguez-Garay and her wife Carlota recently became the parents of a lovely baby girl. D. tells PrideLife about the joys of starting a family.*

Long before we were all grown up and respectable, my wife and I always knew we wanted children. I had always thought adoption would be the surest route, but having fallen in love with a Spaniard and moved to Madrid, I discovered that adoption was not only incredibly difficult, but also prohibitively expensive. So when we started discussing parenthood, we decided that

when the time came, we'd go the insemination route. When the day finally came for our appointment at the fertility clinic, we were excited, and we also felt prepared, thanks to our meticulously-tracked cycle notes, donor printouts, blood tests, X-rays, and numerous other scans. Carlota and I had been together for almost a decade, had built our lives together, were thinking of adding a puppy to our

PARENTHOOD IS A FULL-TIME JOB, BUT IT'S HUGEY GRATIFYING. THE JOY WE GET FROM SPENDING TIME WITH LEONOR IS DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY AND QUITE OVERWHELMING AT TIMES.

nascent family, and were ready to get the baby-making show on the road! Carlota and I had agreed some time earlier that I'd carry the baby. I'm a couple of years younger and, being a freelancer, my job was more flexible. We decided to start treatment just as soon as we had a break in our work schedules. Everything being as it should be, our medical team suggested

we'd be expecting our little one in no time, and that is what we kept in mind as we jabbed needles into my belly at precisely 9 p.m. every night, followed by mouthful after mouthful of pills (what they all did, we were never really sure).

We knew we were pregnant almost straight away, and three weeks later a line appeared on our fourth test stick, confirming the answer we'd waited so long for. The following day we did another, just to be sure. It was true! We were pregnant.

By some miracle we were able to wait to get beyond the 12-week mark before telling people, including my mother and a handful of friends. As my belly grew, we told my father-in-law, coworkers, and then the world at large. We finally made it official with a shotgun wedding to avoid the lunacy of my wife having to adopt her own child should we remain unmarried. Life carried on and then boom! Our daughter suddenly arrived, healthy and hungry, one lunchtime late in February. Welcome to the world, Leonor!

Our lives will never been the same, of course. But we knew this going in, and we like to think we've adapted well to the change. The first few months were a non-stop blur of breasts, diapers, and sleeplessness, but our daughter is an "easy" child, laid-back and happy.

The main changes to our lives have been logistical. We've been to the cinema



only twice in the last year, and that seems like a lot, given how tired we both are. Because life goes on, you go back to work, you try to get everything done—and often fail miserably—and there's a little person who's 100% dependent on you for everything, which takes up a good chunk of your waking life.

That said, in many other ways, Leo has slotted into our lives seamlessly. She's been accompanying us to restaurants since she was a couple of weeks old and enjoys sitting with us at the table, charming the wait staff with her gappy-toothed grin now that she eats "proper" food.

The trials of making her are long in the past, and we're starting to think



about schools. Parenthood is a full-time job, but it's hugely gratifying. The joy we get from spending time with Leonor is difficult to quantify and overwhelming at times. "Mama" is no longer a random sound, but a word charged with meaning, a word that gets the attention of both her mothers, each of whom is still excited to hear it. Her tastes are developing and it's funny to see how many of her favorite things are things we love too.

Every now and again I wonder how we're doing at this "gay parenting" thing. Are we doing it right? The truth is, I have no clue how it differs from "straight parenting." We do the best we can to keep our child happy and healthy. We'll do our best to give her the very best of us that we can for as long as we're on this earth. That we get to enjoy life with this incredible little person and watch her grow into whoever she's going to be is just wonderful.

Honestly, I can't think of anything more rewarding. ☺



**Opposite page:** D. and Carlota with Leonor. **This page:** D. with Leonor at birth; the entire family several months later; and **bottom:** Leonor with her best friend Six.

# Cyndi Finds Her Roots

Carson Kressley and the indelible Cyndi Lauper in a one-on-one conversation about music, touring, advocacy, and all things LGBT.

With her new country album, *Detour*, in stores now and a headlining tour running through the summer, Cyndi Lauper is about to be very busy. Combine that with motherhood, nonstop advocacy work, a successful Broadway career, and a bustling Pride season, and we thought it was the perfect time to check in with the iconic performer to get a glimpse of the calm before her upcoming storm of new projects. And who better to do the talking for us than original *Queer Eye* alum Carson Kressley, a long time friend of Cyndi's, board member for her True Colors Fund, and frequent host of her True Colors holiday benefits. Here's our fly-on-the-wall recap of their conversation. ➔➞



• Cover Story

**Cyndi?**  
Hello, Carson? It’s Cyndi! Darling, how are you?  
**Hi, I’m good.**  
Where are you?

*I’m sitting by a pool at a Hampton Inn in Perry, Georgia. I’m at a horse show.*  
Wow.

*I know. Very glamorous.*  
A horse show? Oh my gosh. Do you watch the horses at those shows?

*Of course I do. I live for that. Yes—you have to come. I know you’ve only seen them when they were in the stables. You have to see them when they’re all dolled up—when they have their hair and makeup done and they’re ready to roll.*  
The horses wear hair and makeup?  
Wow, okay.

*Everything, yes. I’ll show you pictures when I see you next.*  
Great. [Laughs]

*So, are you ready for this? Let’s talk about your new country album, Detour, which is out now. I’ve been satisfying my country fancy by listening to your cover of “Heartaches by the Number.” Where did the idea for the album come from?*

Well, it was a bucket list thing, you know? I’ve always wanted to make a record with the legendary Seymour Stein and now I have! He’s such a great song guy, so knowledgeable; it’s like sitting with a breathing music library. He suggested it, and the time period that he suggested—late ’40s, ’50s, ’60s—was the right time period, you know? It worked. So I thought, let’s do it

*The sound of the album is so true to classic, old-school country. Was it tough to record?*  
Believe it or not, there was not a ton of preparation. What took many



months was listening to literally a thousand great country classics to find the songs that I thought I could relate to. I also wanted all the songs to tell a story. It was great fun.

**I bet!**  
I arranged it all live in the studio with an amazing band—the best of the Nashville session guys. We’d get there in the morning and I’d work on the arrangement with them, then we’d rehearse it for a while until I found the spirit of the song. We played it all live and we just picked the best take to put on the CD.

**What else is on that bucket list?**  
I’d like to do more musical theater—I’m working on a new show and actually just wrote a song for *The SpongeBob Musical*. And I’d love to write a song with Dolly Parton. My other dream would be to write with Joni Mitchell.

**You like to work, don’t you?**  
Well, I have to pay the bills, you know what I mean? [Laughs] I never



take for granted that everybody’s gonna love everything I do. But people want to be entertained—so I gotta entertain them.

**Speaking of entertaining, you’ve got an Emmy, a Grammy, and a Tony. You’re one O away from the EGOT. Did you plan for that?**

Yeah, I gotta get that O. But no, I never set out to “diversify.” I do always set out to test my boundaries and go after things I’m really passionate about doing, though.

**I know how scrappy you are and what a hard worker you are! I was thinking you must already have a plan for that Oscar nomination.**

I gotta get an O. I don’t have a plan but I gotta get on it.

**I’m sure you’ve been asked this, but if girls just want to have fun—how does Cyndi Lauper have fun?**

I like going out to eat and seeing live music, but my perfect night is



Cyndi released her first album in 1980 as part of the band Blue Angel.

staying in with my husband, David, ordering in, and watching old movies. No one makes me laugh harder than him and no one knows me better. I’m a very lucky woman. I’m also really a homebody—kind of always have been. I work so much, home is where I want to be when I’m off.

**Nobody has better style or has gone through more looks than you—what inspires your fashion choices?**

Everything in life inspires me. I love to paint—that’s why I love colors so much. I love a rich and colorful palette. As you can tell from my clothes. My hair. My shoes—you know, the shoes alone....

**The sex is in the heel! You love shoes—right? Who’s your absolute favorite shoe designer? Christian Louboutin?**

Well, Christian Louboutin makes some pretty painful shoes.

**What?**  
He should wear them himself for eight hours. [Laughs] He’d fix them. Make them wider—a little bit wider, little wider, little wider!

**Manolo?**  
I actually like Manolo but they kinda hurt. And Alexander McQueen—but I haven’t found one of his shoes that don’t hurt either, you know? [Laughs]

**Sometimes beauty is pain.**  
After a while, I don’t believe it. [Laughs]

**One of the things I love about you—your career, your look, everything—is that you’re always evolving. You’re edgy, but you also have class, you know. A classic heart and soul. Is that accurate?**

Well you know I grew up with all these Italian movie stars in my neighborhood. Everybody on the block had their own actress that they emulated and looked like. My mother

kinda looked like Susan Hayward and she dressed like her too. My aunt kinda looked a little like Polly Bergen and dressed like her. Everybody had their own movie star look.

**Right, and that was in Queens?**  
Oh yeah, Ozone Park. Listen people gotta dress up no matter where you live. Come on.

**I agree, I agree.**  
The beauty parlor was always hopping, alright. The beauty parlor was hopping.

**So, another detour here...**  
[Laughs]

**You’ve been a tireless supporter of LGBT rights and causes for years. What keeps you going?**

It’s simple. I am friend and family of the LGBT community, and where I come from you stand up for the people you care about. When civil rights are being trampled on, I have no option but to speak up and take action in whatever way I can. I will always have their back, just as they have always had mine.

**For somebody who wants to make a change in their community, how would you suggest getting started?**

Find an issue that matters to you and do just one thing to move that issue forward. For example, if you care about youth homelessness, volunteer at your local youth shelter. Doing just one thing can make a huge difference. I can tell you from personal experience, you’ll end up wanting to do even more.

**It’s a big election year—what changes would you most like to see in the country next?**

If we want to have an inclusive society, each person has to include themselves. And, one of the most important ways that can happen is by voting. So, please make sure you are registered and vote! For me, youth homelessness continues to ➔

• Cover Story

be what I and the True Colors Fund are focused on. We have 1.6 million youth who are homeless each year in America and up to 40% of them identify as LGBT, while only 7% of the general youth population is LGBT. That is simply unacceptable. We can end youth homelessness in America, we just need to make sure we put the best solutions in place and get the government, private, and public funding to make that possible.

*Right.*

It’s important to understand that you can’t make kids into what you want ’em to be. Trust me. I’ve got an eighteen year old. They are who they are and we can fight ’em tooth and nail but they’re gonna be who they’re gonna be. Nobody asks to be gay. Nobody asks to be trans and in the wrong body. And we need all the kids. We don’t know who they’re gonna be. We don’t know who’s gonna fix the Earth or who’s gonna find a cure for cancer or...

*Mmhmm, mmhmm.*

When you’re that young, and you feel like nobody cares, you can get into a lot of trouble. You want to win in this freaking world? You gotta step up and embrace the kids and help the kids. An inclusive society is a strong society. You want to win, you gotta stick together. That’s what’s gonna make the country better.

*I know it’s working. I’ve seen it. It’s a great message to put out there.*

I love banging people over the head with this stuff. You get ’em in and once the doors are shut, “You’re mine.”

*[Laughs] I have to ask you about touring. You’ve gone on the road with Cher and Tina Turner—any favorite memories?*

I was pregnant with my son when I was out with Tina, so I would do the show and go right back to my hotel or onto the bus and rest. Cher is a friend



and a hero of mine. We’ve done quite a few tours together and it’s always fun. She is a very generous and kind person. When you are on the road with her, it feels like you’re joining her team on family holiday. We went bowling and Cher closed this movie theater so we all went to see movies. There were just a lot of good times, having fun and just trying to make sure the audience has a blast, too

*What should fans expect from this tour—are you switching things up or trying new things on the road?*

Of course I’ll do all my hits and fan faves and some songs from the new CD, and I have a few surprises too! Boy George is also going to do some of the shows. It’s going to be a riot.

*I just finished working with him on The Apprentice. He’s great.*

I’m very excited. I love “Karma Chameleon.” I’ll be standing on the side of the stage singing along, “Karma, Karma, Karma, Karma,



*Detour* is Lauper’s eleventh studio album and first ever foray into country music.

Karma, Karma,” like an idiot.

*It’s irresistible that song.*

And who knew he was really saying, “Loving would be easy if your colors were like my dreams. Red gold and green.” Who knew he was saying that? I don’t know what I was saying when I used to sing along with him on the radio.

*I didn’t know either until I saw the video—and then I was like, “Wait a minute, this is like some kinda Jamaican thing. Red, gold, and green. Now I’m getting it.”*

*[Laughs]*

*I wasn’t kidding—when the tour is over, you’re gonna have to come to my farm in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Hang out by my pool and ride horses all day. I’m just saying.*

You know, Carson. I never really rode a horse. I only walked ’em.

*You’ll be fine. Right. Well, if you’re gonna be a country singer, you gotta learn how to ride, honey.*

*[Laughs]* OK, get your ponies did.

*I’m gonna get their hair did and their nails done and then you’re coming over.*

All right, hon’! It’s a deal! Bye! ☺

**KEEP UP WITH CYNDI**

*For more on Cyndi’s new album and a list of upcoming tour dates, check out [cyndilauper.com](http://cyndilauper.com). To help with Cyndi’s fight against LGBT youth homelessness, log on to [truecolorsfund.org](http://truecolorsfund.org).*



*At the Intersections*, the new online resource written by 47 contributors, is a comprehensive guide for advocates, policy makers, service providers, and funders working to end homelessness among LGBTQ youth. This first-of-its-kind online publication highlights innovative approaches to supporting youth experiencing homelessness, provides case studies of replicable and successful models, as well as concrete solutions to ending LGBTQ youth homelessness.

Visit [www.AtTheIntersections.org](http://www.AtTheIntersections.org) to learn more.





• News

# The Continued Fight for Our Rights: Marriage Equality, Trans Discrimination & What You Can Do

The legalizing of same-sex marriage last year opened up a chasm of right-wing anti-LGBT bills that are now tunneling through states' legislatures. Here is a news feed of the latest discriminatory bills and laws across the country and your action plan for fighting back.

By  
CAT PERRY



In June 2015 the battle for marriage equality changed forever when the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, decided to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide. Yet the fight really didn't end there. With the historic decision, LGBT people's lifelong fights shifted, families were suddenly strengthened, and the country's will to progress seemed unstoppable. But looking at all of the controversial bills proposed

in state after state earlier in 2016, attitudes toward LGBT people feel more unsettled than ever.

Despite 55% of Americans favoring allowing same-sex marriage, a February 2016 AP-Gfk poll found that 57% believe wedding-related business should be permitted to refuse service to same-sex couples, and a quarter of those favoring marriage equality believe officials and judges with religious objections shouldn't be required to issue marriage licenses. In that →

BOTTOM: PHOTO BY TY WRIGHT/GETTY IMAGES

vein, a disturbing Human Right Campaign (HRC) report out in February sounded the alarm that a record-breaking 175 anti-LGBT bills were proposed in just the first two months of this year. This backlash has肘bowed past the record 125 anti-LGBT bills debated for all of 2015. Many of these new bills are aimed at undermining the SCOTUS marriage-equality decision, and still others are far broader: denying employment to anyone who doesn't align with their religious beliefs, prohibiting transgender people from using the restroom consistent with their gender identity, and refusing gays and lesbians the right to adopt.

States' Rights Gone Wrong for Marriage Equality

While SCOTUS took one leap forward, conservative legislators are taking 10 steps back. Indiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Kentucky have seen dozens of anti-LGBT bills proposed and some passed since the SCOTUS decision. Each state has different specifics, but there is a common thread as it relates to same-sex marriage: Under the auspices of "religious freedom" (the new code words for anti-LGBT proposals), anti-equality advocates seek to allow religious institutions, private businesses, and even individuals to refuse ceremonies, services, employment, and more without legal consequence from the government.

But as HRC President Chad Griffin points out, the First Amendment already protects freedom of religion, meaning that clergy are not forced to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. So this doubling down on "religious freedom" tears open dangerous opportunities for discrimination—from flower shop owners and caterers refusing services to businesses denying jobs to adoption agencies and shelters turn-

ing queer people away.

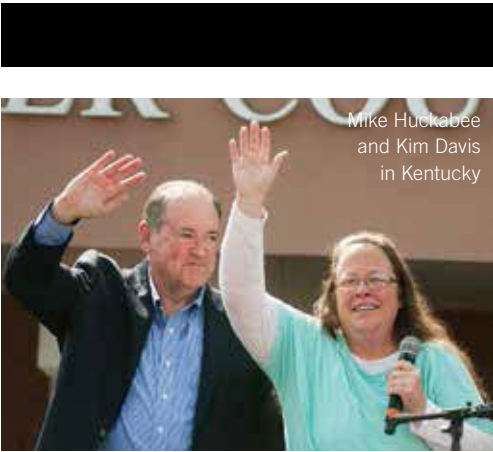
Indiana was the first to roll back marriage equality protections. Last year the Religious Free Restoration Act was signed into law allowing "public businesses from pharmacists to funeral homes to clothing stores, to refuse service based on their religious beliefs," HRC reported.

Mississippi has passed a law allowing "individuals, religious organizations, and private associations to use religion to discriminate against LGBT people in at work, at school, and more," according to HRC. It also allows foster families to subject LGBTQ children to "conversion therapy."

Advocacy group Freedom Oklahoma, was tracking 26 anti-gay bills in the new year as of March. House Joint Resolution 1059 is a Sooner State ballot initiative that scuttles past the legislature, and

SERVICE IS DENIED TO QUEERS

**Fight the Flowers!**  
Tap these excellent resources to find gay-friendly wedding vendors in every state for floral arrangements, music, food, and clergy you can feel good about: [gayweddings.com](http://gayweddings.com); [pridezillas.com](http://pridezillas.com); and [engagedweddings.com](http://engagedweddings.com).



Mike Huckabee and Kim Davis in Kentucky

IN 30 STATES, IT IS STILL LEGAL TO FIRE SOMEONE BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

needing governor approval, to ask citizens in a ballot measure if religious organizations, individuals, and businesses—including child placement agencies—should be allowed to refuse services to LGBT people without legal consequence.

Missouri Democrats performed a record-setting 37-hour filibuster in an attempt to stop a religious freedom bill that would have amended the state Constitution to further protect people who didn't want to provide services related to same-sex marriage, from clerks and clergy to businesses. The bill was tabled just before press time.

In Kentucky, the home of anti-gay county clerk Kim Davis, a similar bill expanding legal protections to business owners who deny services to LGBT people was narrowly killed. The state has a long history of passing religious freedom bills, overriding a governor veto in 2013 to pass one, so this type of legislation isn't new.

In March, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal was staring down the barrel of a Hollywood threat until he vetoed a bill that would've broadened religious protections to individuals, foster care agencies, and shelters. Walt Disney Co., Marvel Studios, AMC's mega-hit *The Walking Dead*, and the NFL Super Bowl LIV threatened to "take their business elsewhere." Alabama also voted to uphold marriage equality earlier this year, striking a bid to prohibit gay weddings altogether. West Virginia, too, killed a similar bill recently.

Fight Against Trans-Gressions

Anti-trans discrimination has also shifted into high gear in state general assemblies and is, thus, a top priority for the HRC, Lambda Legal, ACLU, and other civil rights organizations. The February HRC report characterizes a lion's share of those 175 anti-LGBT bills firing through state legislatures, as an "onslaught

targeting transgender Americans." More than 44 bills are specifically anti-transgender, with 23 that target children in schools, attempting to make it illegal for them to access bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity.

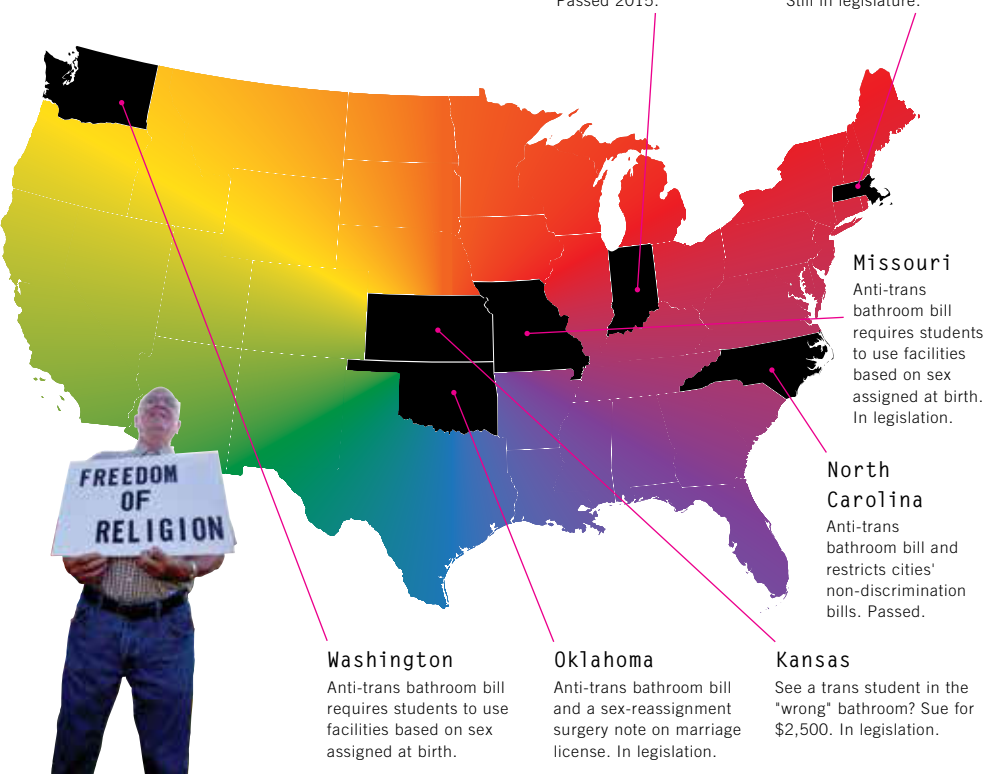
Hayley Gorenberg, Deputy Legal Director of Lambda Legal, explains, the "health consequences of [the threats] transgender people face, like being harassed" and denied access, "causes people to dehydrate themselves, holding it for too long, which can lead to urologic and kidney problems." Conservatives fighting for these "bathroom bills" argue that allowing trans people to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity puts women and children in danger. To that, Gorenberg asserts, "Cis-gender women are being used as an excuse to justify this discrimination, and we can't stand for that."

North Carolina, and thus the country just lost a serious fight on this front. Though in March 2015 North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory vetoed a "religious freedom bill" protecting officials from performing same-sex ceremonies, he failed when he passed anti-trans H.B. 2. The ACLU describes it as the "most extreme anti-LGBT bill in the country." H.B. 2 was hurriedly passed in response to a Charlotte, NC, anti-discrimination ordinance making it legal for people to use restrooms consistent with their gender identity. H.B. 2 struck that down and prohibits cities from passing their own anti-discrimination bills in the future. Businesses and citizens are demanding the law be repealed, but it still stood at press time.

While South Dakota recently struck down a "Genital Check Bill," Tennessee was busy drafting similar legislation requiring students in any school or university to show a birth certificate before entering restrooms. A legislative committee

UNITED STATES OF FREEDOM

Though not an exhaustive list, here is a snapshot of the anti-marriage-equality and anti-trans bills that have either passed or in active legislation as you read this.



**Indiana**  
Allows public and private institutions and individuals to refuse LGBT people services. Passed 2015.

**Massachusetts**  
Requires people to use restrooms, locker rooms, according to sex on birth certificates. Still in legislature.

**Missouri**  
Anti-trans bathroom bill requires students to use facilities based on sex assigned at birth. In legislation.

**North Carolina**  
Anti-trans bathroom bill and restricts cities' non-discrimination bills. Passed.

**Washington**  
Anti-trans bathroom bill requires students to use facilities based on sex assigned at birth.

**Oklahoma**  
Anti-trans bathroom bill and a sex-reassignment surgery note on marriage license. In legislation.

**Kansas**  
See a trans student in the "wrong" bathroom? Sue for \$2,500. In legislation.

voted on March 22 to kill it for the year, but not forever.

Kansas also has trans citizens in its crosshairs. In late March, bills were proposed that would not only ban trans students in public schools and colleges from using facilities consistent with their gender identity but would also reward \$2,500 to students who reported them in the "wrong" bathroom. Concerning the unconscionable bills and payouts, Tom Witt, Executive Director of Equality Kansas, says they are "isolating kids, and it's not going to end well. It's outing them and putting a target on their backs."

Looking Ahead to the Equality Act

As Lambda Legal sees it, rebutting anti-trans bills and religious liberty bills is the priority. HRC spokesperson Ianthe Metzger agrees that protecting trans people from vio-



States with active anti-trans bills being debated: Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina (passed), South Carolina. Go to [transequality.org](http://transequality.org) to stay up to date on your state.

lence of all types is crucial, plus the passing of a national Equality Act is the best way forward from this mess.

Introduced by Senators Tammy Baldwin, Jeff Merkley, and Cory Booker and Representatives David Cicilline and John Lewis in 2015, the Equality Act would ensure "permanent protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in matters of employment, housing, public places, federal funding, and education. Plus it'd prohibit sex discrimination in federal funding and access to public places," says HRC. It's gaining support—slowly. If passed it'd mean federal protection, but as shown, that doesn't always translate to states. So until states relinquish the reintroduction of discriminatory bills and clauses, LGBT equality will remain a patchwork rather than a certainty. The fight goes on. ☺

PHOTO BY TY WRIGHT/GETTY IMAGES

# How You Can Fight Back

*Know local legislation; know your rights.  
Living LGBTQI is a daily act of courage.*



## (K)NOW

Did you know that **31 states lack equal protection for LGBTQ people?** Though you can get married in all 50 states, on the same day of your ceremony, you can still be denied services, fired, or even be evicted based on your sexual orientation or gender identity. **Thirteen states still have sodomy laws on the books**, including Idaho, Utah, Michigan, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Montana, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. In Michigan earlier this year, for example, the state ratified an old law that makes sodomy punishable with up to 15 years in prison. Will it often be enforced? No, anti-sodomy laws were made federally illegal by a 2003 Supreme Court decision. But is it disturbing that it wasn't stripped from Logan's Law, an animal cruelty bill, altogether? Absolutely. **Know your states' laws, the people supporting and endorsing them, and speak out accordingly.**

## VOTE

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director of the Equality Federation, says of LGBTQ support in Congress, "We are so proud to have allies like [first openly gay] U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and U.S. Representative Mike Honda, who speaks out about his transgender granddaughter. In addition to supporting efforts to win nondiscrimination in their home states, these and other ally politicians have also thrown their support behind the Equality Act." But we need more advocates with every election: HRC's Metzger implores the LGBTQ community to do its part. **It's important for people to vote in the primary, general, and mid-term elections, too: "Vote for all of your elected officials, whether it be your mayor, attorney general, or state senator. All of these races are important, and we have to ensure that pro-equality people are representing us because they are the ones who will help beat back anti-trans and anti-LGBT religious refusal bills,"**

DANBRANDENBURG/ISTOCK, EDSTOCK/ISTOCK

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(212) 675-3288



GIVE

A paltry 3% of LGBT Americans donate money to LGBT organizations, according to a 2011 Movement Advancement Project (MAP) report. Isaacs says, “The bulk of foundational funding is directed toward winning nondiscrimination protections and defeating anti-LGBT attacks in state legislatures, and our movement is underfunded and under-resourced.” Here’s how you can help: Individual donors provide 35% of an organization’s funding, so donating to both local and national LGBT organizations is more critical than ever. **There are 9 million LGBT people in the U.S., according to the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, and if everyone gave a \$50 donation to one local and \$50 to one national LGBT organization annually, the equality movement would be much better off.** “I encourage everyone to donate what they can to their state-based equality organizations and to the direct service groups in their communities that often need much more support to accomplish their life saving missions,” Isaacs says.

PERSIST

**TRANS HEALTH CARE**  
Health care is a thorny issue, to say the least. The Affordable Care Act states that health care providers cannot deny people appropriate preventative coverage, but providers under ACA aren’t required to cover a trans person’s transition and hormone maintenance. As a result, **some insurance carriers and states have trans exclusion clauses that will not cover services related to gender transition, often citing them as “cosmetic” or “experimental.”** Says Lambda Legal’s Hayley Gorenberg, “Some people need hormones or surgery; and not all need either, but they need fair access.” Although a federal rule has been proposed to remove trans exclusions, it has not yet been implemented. **For help choosing the right plan during open enrollment, which begins November 1, 2016 for coverage in 2017, go to [out2enroll.org/enrollment-help](http://out2enroll.org/enrollment-help)** also check out the National Center for Transgender equality ([transequality.org](http://transequality.org)).  
**QUEER HOMELESS YOUTH**  
The estimated **percentage of homeless youth (ages 12 to 24 years old) that identify as LGBT is up to 42%.** A disproportionate number of those homeless LGBTQ youth are African American, American Indian, and from low-income communities. Nearly 68% of those youth questioned in a 2012 LGBT Youth Homelessness survey pinpointed family rejection

as a major factor for their leaving home; 54% cited abuse. LGBTQ homeless youth are at higher risk for victimization and mental health issues, enduring 7.4 more acts of sexual violence toward them than straight homeless youth. Reasons for persistent homelessness include lack of affordable housing options, inaccessible job market, and ongoing drug use, according to the Safe School Coalition. **One of the more effective methods of reaching LGBT homeless youth includes street outreach; and federal outreach programs work to address this,** but funding and volunteers are needed to push this task forward, as is family education on LGBT issues.

**HIV/AIDS**  
Every 9.5 minutes someone is infected with HIV, and 50,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2016. That number is not rising, but it isn’t falling either. That’s why **another top priority for HRC is achieving an AIDS-free generation and fighting the stigma of HIV & AIDS. For everyone engaged in sex acts, get tested regularly. Knowing is half the battle to curb the epidemic, as 14% of those infected don’t even know they are living with HIV.** Help reverse both the epidemic and its stigma by educating friends and family on misconceptions about HIV/AIDS if you feel safe doing so. Or raise money with events like AIDS Walk.

**OPEN SERVICE OF LGBT MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS**  
Even though Don’t Ask Don’t Tell was repealed by Congress in 2010, that does not apply to transgender service members. There are an estimated 15,500 trans people in the military as of June 2015, and they currently face being possibly discharged if outed. For this reason, **HRC points to achieving open transgender military service as another top fight to focus on.**

EVERY 9.5 MINUTES SOMEONE BECOMES INFECTED WITH HIV, AND 50,000 NEW CASES WILL BE DIAGNOSED IN 2016.

PROTECT

The Department of Justice recently clarified that 2012 policies on housing trans inmates are illegal and said that **inmates cannot be assigned to cells solely based on their genitalia.** Considering 34% of transgender prisoners experience sexual assault in prison compared to 4% of cisgender inmates that’s a step forward, but enforcement is key.

  
**FOLLOW**  
Stay on Top of LGBTQ Breaking Political News: Follow HRC, LGBTQ Nation, PrideLife, The Advocate, Lambda Legal, Think Progress LGBT, JoeMyGod, PinkNews, and Towelroad. Keep abreast of the issues and make sure your voice is heard!

AWAKENED/EYE/STOCK

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We are a non-profit organization whose ultimate goal is to **end decades and centuries of using religious teachings to justify marginalization and discrimination against others.**

**OUR GOAL:**  
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**OUR MISSION:**  
**EDUCATE THE PUBLIC**  
about the ongoing harm caused to LGBTQ persons, especially youth, by religious-based prejudice.

**OUR DREAM:**  
**CHANGE HEARTS AND MINDS**  
of religious communities on the “sinful” nature of homosexuality and remove it permanently from “the sin list.”



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**Eliel Cruz**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 **@elielcruz**  **/elielcruzwrites**



• Gender

# MY WORDS

Moving beyond binaries and boxes: How one agender writer, public speaker, and media personality is working to push discussions of gender expression into an expansive new world without borders or limits.

By  
**TYLER FORD**

Photography by  
**KATHARINA POBLOTZKI**



As an asexual, queer, agender trans person, I do not take the language I use to describe myself for granted. Most of my life has been spent searching for a word or phrase to point to and say, “That’s it. That’s what I’m feeling. That’s who I am—and I’m not alone.”

Growing up, I had no idea that I could be anything other than a girl—even though I absolutely did not feel like a girl. I never acknowledged those feelings in words, but they took root as a blurry sense of certainty that persisted throughout my youth. I knew myself to be a girl according to *other* people, and I followed their lead, but there wasn’t anything anyone could do to make girlhood click

for me. I assumed that, as I got older, some adult magic would be revealed and I would somehow grow up to be someone else: an adult who perhaps would not have to settle for a gender imposed upon them.

Before learning the words “agender,” “non-binary,” and “trans,” I was agender, non-binary, and trans—and completely lacking a way to communicate or comprehend it. I couldn’t accurately express how I felt or why I felt different, lost, afraid, hopeless, frustrated, and dysphoric. An absence of the vocabulary required to describe or define myself resulted in a deficient understanding of my needs, my desires, and my self as a whole. Now, language is one of the most important tools ➡

I use to frame my experiences, to understand my identity, and to communicate who I am to the world.

When cisgender (those whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth), straight people ask me why I label myself, I ask them why they don't. "It's unnecessary" or "I'm just normal" are frequent responses. When everyone around them and in every form of media they consume reflects a potential version of themselves, it's easy for them to see their identity as the default human setting. As a teenager, I often fell into thinking that way. I didn't have the understanding or vocabulary to describe myself as queer or asexual. Instead, I thought I was simply a broken straight person. My burgeoning identity was also my burden; it was my personal failing. These days, when someone tells me they're "normal," I ask, "What does that make me?" They tend to get quiet as they wrestle with having to confront and express their deep-seated biases. We've all been socialized to believe that straight, white, cisgender, able-bodied people are the only normal folks among us, but "normal" is not a word fit to describe a human being or any type of human experience. There are as many different and valid ways to exist as there are human beings in the world.

The gender binary—the classification of gender and sex into two separate, opposing categories (male/man and female/woman)—informs our standards of what is "normal" and what is not. When we use the human body as means to define and understand human identity, we simplify the ways in which we conceptualize our genders and ourselves. In a society that adheres to a binary system as a way to interpret gender, I can't discuss my non-binary identity without referencing the gender binary and defining myself

in opposition to it. The language I was so desperate to find as a youth, while helpful, still comes up short as I am forced to navigate my gender in a structure that doesn't hold space for my existence.

Plus, the fight for transgender inclusion in our society without a critique of the gender binary itself, is an attempt to squeeze trans people into a framework that is designed to exclude us. Often, trans people are discussed in terms of transitioning to the "opposite" gender, which reinforces the notion that only two genders exist. When I talk about being trans, I am forced to talk about my body as though it is wrong—as though I am "trapped in the wrong body" as opposed to trapped in the confines of the gender binary. Attempting to understand trans identities through a binary lens puts limits on gender—which is



This page:  
Ford with  
violinist,  
composer,  
and close  
personal  
friend  
Chrysanthe  
Tan



**"WE DON'T NEED  
TO FIT OURSELVES  
INTO ONE  
CATEGORY OR  
DEFINE OURSELVES  
BY OUR  
BODIES IN  
ORDER TO  
FIT INTO  
THE WORLD."**

expansive—and erases the perspectives of so many trans people, myself included. We lose the depth, nuance, and full understandings of all gender identities when we translate them into either/or terms. Instead, we must dismantle the binary and redefine gender; we must recognize and create space for people of all expressions.

What does it look like when we create space to conceptualize our genders outside of inherently oppressive systems and structures? When talking about growing into their gender identity, Alok Vaid-Menon, a 24-year-old South Asian non-binary artist and activist from New York City says, "My gender isn't fixed or stable. It depends on where I'm at in my life —emotionally, physically, and psychologically. My gender is adaptive, reflective, and relational. So it feels like I'm always in a process of coming into my gender identity. And I appreciate that a lot."

Most often, my gender feels like a void or an absence. Its rare presence keep me on my toes in regards to how I relate to myself.

As for how I relate to other people, it is hard to communicate that I am agender when we have all been socialized to pick up gendered cues from clothing and physical characteristics. It's frustrating to watch people scan my body for clues instead of asking me how I'd like to be addressed. It's even more frustrating to hear people refer to me when they pick up on what they think are my gender tells. They are always wrong, because they are always assuming. I am desperate to move beyond assumptions, rules, bodies, and violence and into a place where our discourse on gender is centered on infinite possibilities.

Our rates of protection are not yet on a par with our growing visibility, either. As we begin to discuss

THIS PAGE: COURTESY OF JONES CROW

gender in new ways, trans and non-binary people—particularly those of color—are facing increased rates of violence. Black and Latina trans women as well as Black and Latinx gender non-conforming people saw higher reported murder rates in 2015 than in any other year on record. To be trans or gender non-conforming and a person of color in this world is to be especially vulnerable to violence, poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and incarceration.

"We may have more people rejecting the constraints of gender in pop culture, but I don't think this has necessarily translated into social and economic justice for non-binary people on the ground," says Vaid-Menon. "People are increasingly familiar with gender fluid aesthetics but not necessarily the issues like violence, poverty, and homelessness of people living gender-fluid lives."

Trans and gender non-conforming people are becoming more vulnerable to not only interpersonal violence but also state violence as well. By the end of March 2016, 44 anti-trans bills had already been proposed, and some passed, across 16 states. We cannot afford to discuss trans lives without critically examining our current systems of gender classification and actively working toward new understandings of gender and of humanity itself.

In discussing the current social climate and the labeling of trans and non-binary movements, Joshua Allen, a 20-year-old Black non-binary activist from NYC states, "I'm not too concerned with the linguistic framing of a movement around gender—that in itself seems kind of contradictory. I'm more concerned about what the movement is. If it's a movement about bringing gender-based violence to a halt, eradicating the gender binary, or dismantling the oppressive institu-



tion of gender, then hell yeah!"

Freedom from the gender binary is freedom to self-identify, to narrate our own experiences, our own bodies, our own genders. We don't need to fit ourselves into one category or define ourselves by our bodies in order to fit into the world. By trying to squeeze the expanse of human expression and life into one of two suffocating boxes, we end up limiting and policing our expression, silencing ourselves, and often isolating ourselves. Not only do we hurt ourselves but we also hurt each other with our expectations of who we think each person should be.

As much as I desire to be understood, I shouldn't have to be easily understandable in order to be treated with decency and respect. I have no desire to hide the complexities that make me a multifaceted

An NYC-based activist and writer, Ford has been published in numerous magazines and also appeared on Oxygen's *The Glee Project 2*. To keep up with their work, check out [myfriendtyler.com](http://myfriendtyler.com).

human being. Trans people are expected to prove our humanity over and over, to tell people, "Here is why you should respect us and love us and treat us as human beings." But our rights should not depend on whether or not someone else can fit our lives, genders, and experiences into their pre-existing schemata.

The conversation around gender, transness, and binaries may seem new, but trans and non-binary people have been having these conversations—or trying to find the language to have these conversations—our entire lives. Though the frameworks that have been thrust upon us may not encompass or make room for all that we are, we will never let that stop us from working toward a future in which being a man or a woman is not a prerequisite for being recognized as human. ☺



# The Men Who Would Be Queen: France, Le Pen & the LGBT vote

*While U.S. eyes are focused on the meltdown of the Republican party, Marine Le Pen of France's far-right National Front is eyeing the 2017 presidency, helped by an unlikely source: top LGBT party officials and a growing conservative LGBT vote.*

*By Anne-christine d'Adesky*

For months now, America has been transfixed by the political spectacle of the once-unthinkable GOP front-runner Donald Trump, who's risen quickly in the polls as a charismatic right-wing populist leader with an outrageous brand of bully politics. Across the Atlantic, French voters are also eyeing the growing popularity of Marine Le Pen, 47, the blonde, blue-eyed telegenic head of the far-right xenophobic National Front party. She took the reins of power a few years ago from her notorious father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, an avowed racist, misogynist, and Holocaust denier. Like The Donald, she's confounded political pundits to capture a growing slice of the French vote—including a surprisingly large chunk of the LGBT community.

In the wake of the recent Paris terrorist bombings—France's 9/11 moment—Le Pen's seal-the-borders, anti-Islamic rhetoric has struck a fresh chord among disaffected voters, including many white, Catholic, and working-class citizens, as well as a ➔

large swath of the youth. To the shock of progressives, LGBT conservatives are jumping aboard too. In a recent IFOP survey of French voters, 26% of homosexuals in Paris supported the National Front, compared with 16% of heterosexuals.

That may not be accidental. Since taking the party reins in 2011, Le Pen has surrounded herself with openly gay (and closeted) senior party officials, many of who rank among her closest advisors. Up to 60% of senior National Front officials she's hired or promoted in that time are gay, according to media reports. Today, Le Pen's right-hand man (her No. 2) is Vice-President Florian Philippot, who's in charge of communication and strategy for the National Front. He's credited for the party's makeover—a "de-diabolisation" campaign to distance Le Pen from the fascist, thuggish image of her now-sidelined father. Her supporters are referred to as Marinest vs. Le Penist in the press.

◉ In 2014, the National Front took first place in the European Elections, and secured a quarter of votes in the first round of March 2015 local polls—a clear sign the rebrand was working. A poll at the time showed that if the presidential election were held right then, Le Pen would be a shoo-in. The polling also signaled the coming to power of a new generation of dynamic, neoconservative LGBT leaders who are transforming France's political landscape.

It's no wonder French LGBT activists are sounding the alarm about a tide of homonationalism—a new buzzword in LGBT circles—while frothing on blogs about the neocon gay pols like Philippot. As with Trump, they're stunned in an I-can't-believe-it kind of way.

Didier Lestrade is a gay journalist and one of the founders of ACT UP-Paris who's been tracking the rise of Le Pen's gay lobby. In an interview,

Lestrade said he wanted to know how the she was courting LGBT voters and why others would seek to be candidates, given the National Front's longtime homophobic, racist profile. There were several reasons, including a reaction to rejection and a disappointment with the political status quo. LGBT conservatives who hope for a career in politics have found the doors closed at the traditional parties, including the present Socialist government, led by President Francois Holland. He feels it's pushed them to the fringe parties. "It's ironic," Lestrade said. "Right now the National Front is the party seen as the friendliest for gays. Marine Le Pen has invited them in."

The same holds for LGBT conservative voters, who share the present anxieties of their countrymen: economic worries, fears of Islamic terrorism and uncontrolled immigra-

Le Pen and her GAY advisors: No 2, Florian Philippot (opposite) and Samuel Chenu (below).



tion, and frustration with the usual crop of leaders. Marine Le Pen offers a new face and she isn't afraid to offend her enemies, though she's less pugilistic than Trump or her brutish father. (Jean-Marie Le Pen is notorious for his scraps with political enemies. He once punched a socialist woman leader and has launched fervent vocal attacks on other feminists as well.)

"We're shocked but we shouldn't be," states Renee Fregosi, an academic and self-defined feminist lefty, about the LGBT support for Le Pen. "Gays don't vote only as gays, but as citizens, and they feel an exasperation with the present government. [Le Pen] plays on xenophobia and fear of immigrants. They're responding to the fear." Like Trump, she explains, "It's the personality and the demand. The vote for the National Front is really a rejection, of Europe and the European Union, too. There's also the marketing that Marine Le Pen has done to present herself as more acceptable."

◉ National Front supporters are mostly white, and many are from the south of France. The elder Le Pen belonged to the aging generation of ex-colonists who were booted out of Algeria—the Pieds Noirs generation. They include both the laboring class and wanna-be royalists who are nostalgic for the bygone days of colonial glory and conquering heroes like Emperor Napoléon Bonaparte. Where Trump talks about winners and "Making America Great," the National Front promises to return France to the French—a similar party campaign slogan and thinly-veiled rejection of multiculturalism, Islam, and darker citizens. Since the bombings, Le Pen has homed in on Islamic terrorism to whip up public fears, a xenophobic discourse aimed at France's large Arab and African citizenry—the children and grandchildren of the colonized.

DOMINIQUE FAGET/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"Gays and lesbians are scared of what's happening in France, and they're vulnerable to the rhetoric," stated Chrisophe Martet, an AIDS activist and editor of the LGBT magazine *YAGG*. "It's clear that since the bombings Marine hasn't had to do a lot and yet her popularity has increased. We're at the point where the Socialist party has taken up the discourse and policies of the extreme right about immigration and terrorism, about dual nationality. It's very reactionary." In his view, the current economic crisis impacting Europe is a big factor fueling right-wing populism and exposing an ugly undercurrent of xenophobia and racism.

◉ "The issue here is racism and fear of Muslims," agreed Lestrade, who says gay men in France fear homophobic violence by Islamic extremists. "They know that the Islamic religion is very homophobic," explained Martet. "They're seeing what Daesh (ISIS) is doing to gay men, throwing them off rooftops. It's on the Internet, it's on TV. They're afraid."

So why seek protection from the far right? Is Le Pen really a new friend to the LGBT movement? In interviews, LGBT activists on the right and left appear divided on the question of whether Le Pen's makeover is real or fake. For his part, Lestrade is buying it. "The National Front is doing exactly what frontist groups are doing in Holland. By addressing gay rights they show they have the same capacity as traditional political parties to see the society. The people from the National Front aren't saying stuff as hard or as homophobic as the traditional left or even the Socialist party. Le Pen has done a lot to make the National Front as respectable as traditional parties. It's not a posture," he concludes.

Others argue that Le Pen has changed her party's image, but not

THE NATIONAL FRONT IS THE ONLY PARTY WHOSE LEADER IS A WOMAN AND ITS DEPUTY IS GAY.



much else. "Jean-Marie Le Pen was almost a caricature, but Marine Le Pen is a young woman and much more presentable than her father," says Catherine Michaud, president of the LGBT conservative group Gay-Lib. "You don't see the verbal gaffes or hear his lamentable remarks on Jews and the gas chambers. So she's changed the image, yes, but the window is the same—inside you find the same products. It's just as stinky." In Michaud's view, the National Front "is not a party that unites, but divides. It's racist, anti-semitic, against women, and homophobic."

The National Front isn't exactly waving a rainbow flag at Pride either. V.P. Philippot was publicly closeted until he was outed by *Closer* magazine in late 2014—the first celebrity gay outing of its kind in France. He sued and won, forcing the magazine to pay a 20,000 Euros fine. The

"France is a secular country that hasn't dealt with its colonial past. You still have people in the gay movement asking questions like, 'How can you be gay and Muslim?'" —Didier Lestrade

court's ruling underscored the value French society places on personal privacy. "Politics is the closet that is triple-locked," joked Martet, who says the frontist gay camp flies under the public radar. Although party insiders were aware of Philippot's sexuality, the outing scandalized party members, revealing a division over the party's pink stripe.

Le Pen's own family members remain staunchly opposed to gay rights; so do the old guard Le Penists. Marine's niece, Marion Maréchal-Le Pen, is also a National Front rising star who seeks to challenge her aunt for the top party job one day. She is the youngest member of the French Assemblée Nationale in France's history and views Emperor Bonaparte as her role model. Last year she marched with her party's new wing, Jeunesses Nationales—National Youths—to protest le Marriage Pour Tout (marriage equality). But Marine opted out—an absence interpreted as loyalty to her gay friends and one that fueled ongoing speculation about Le Pen's personal life.

In France, the sniping Le Pen family feuds provide Kardashian-like fodder for the tabloids who revel in the mudfest between modern Marine, monstrous Jean-Marie, purist Marion, and their ambitious clan.

Gay neocons like Philippot aren't likely to sway their party's platform on gay topics. "The party maybe doesn't have the same homophobic speech, but they are opposed to gay marriage—Marine said so," Martet stated. "Don't be fooled. If Le Pen takes the presidency, she'll try to roll back gay marriage." The opposition to Marriage Pour Tout is well funded and media savvy, he says, and is moving to block proposals on gay adoption, trans rights, and assisted fertilization techniques. It's a fundamental rejection of LGBT families.

The question remains: how many French LGBT voters now identify as ➡

• **Politics**

right-wing? For now, the majority of the mainstream LGBT movement remains solidly progressive and left. The organized LGBT conservative wing is represented by groups like GayLib, an offshoot of the established center-right union of Democrats and Independents. GayLib formed during the heyday of Paris gay marriage protest marches—a standout moment of national homophobia, say LGBT activists. Michaud took over as president of the group in 2012. Today, it boasts 1,200 members across France, with 80% being gay men, and a strong base in Paris.

“I consider myself progressive and a humanist,” explained Michaud, who views the National Front as xenophobic and dangerous. “My fight is on the debate over liberty and equality. I’m rather insistent on freedom.”

Michaud was unhappy, but not that surprised, to see one of GayLib’s controversial founders, Sebastien Chenu, jump ship to Marine Le Pen. “The National Front is the only party whose leader is a woman and its deputy is gay,” Chenu told a reporter at Agence France-Presse, about his defection. “Marine Le Pen represents a sort of absolute freedom in a political world that is very policed, where everyone resembles each other. She has come in and shaken things up.” Chenu recently ran for local office in Beauvais as the National Front candidate, his sexuality an open public secret. If Michaud’s GayLib represents gay Log Cabin Republicans, Chenu is one of the young turks who dub Marine their Catholic Queen.

◉ The lure of Le Pen for gays is really worrying for Ludovic Mohamed-Zahed, founder of the Muslim LGBT group HM2F (Homo Muslims of France) and CALEM, a newer umbrella for local LGBT Muslim groups. Born in Algeria, he fled civil war there with his family in 1995 to

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AND  
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**TO THE  
RHETORIC.**

make his home in Paris, where he remains a rare openly gay Muslim spokesman in the LGBT movement. Since the Paris bombings, he’s amped up his one-man mission to convince his two core communities—Muslims and LGBT—that Islam is compatible with gay life. It remains an uphill road.

“The real root of the problem is one of economics and political identity,” Mohamed-Zahed said about France’s rightward swing and the increased intolerance and violence directed at Muslims. He agrees with LGBT activists who feel that economic insecurity is the deeper driver of populism on the left and right. “Minorities will be target. It’s circumstantial, this wave of nationalism,” he explained. “People are tempted to overtly express their racism, and more people now express support for protectionism when it comes to immigration.”

◉ That’s created an important role for activists like him who are pushing for greater visibility, support, and a role for gay Muslims in France’s LGBT movement. While some

welcome his advocacy, the LGBT establishment hasn’t, he said. They’re wary of Islamic religion and homophobia. “It’s a problem for the left in France. They’re secular and very opposed to religion.” Underneath this intolerance, he spies racism.

Lestrade backs up Mohamed-Zahed when it comes to LGBT anti-Muslim prejudice. “Even if a lot of people have been talking about racism, nothing is being done right now.” He added, “Immigration is another issue. It’s incredible that the LGBT community hasn’t even started to think about this. The gay community here needs to wake up,” Lestrade warned. “There’s not a single gay group or demonstration to address this or to work on issues that could bring people together.”

Where does that leave gay opinion on France’s future? Do LGBT activists really believe Le Pen will prevail in 2017? Here, opinions are divided, but there’s consensus on the threat. “If you ask me, the situation in France could not get worse,” said Lestrade, a view echoed by Martet, Fregosi, GayLib’s conservative Michaud, too—and a lot of voter polls. All worry another ISIS terror attack could push everyone further right. So could Europe’s failure to address the immigration crisis. They’re bracing for a fresh anti-marriage assault in upcoming debates over gay adoption, trans rights, and reproductive health. Like everyone else, they’re also eyeing the drama in America, wondering if left, center, and conservative voters will unite to stop Trump—a formula needed to block Marine Le Pen at home.

“I pray she won’t win and right now, as of today, the National Front doesn’t have the votes—at least not yet,” said Martet, summing up the forecast from France. “There are a lot of factors at play; 2017 is going to be a critical year for us. Not just for France—for all of Europe.” ◉



Throughout Europe, LGBT groups are mobilizing against similar nationalist groups such as the Alternative for Germany and the Dutch Freedom Party.

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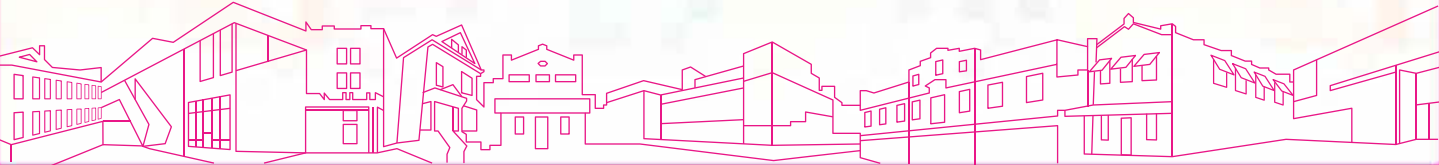
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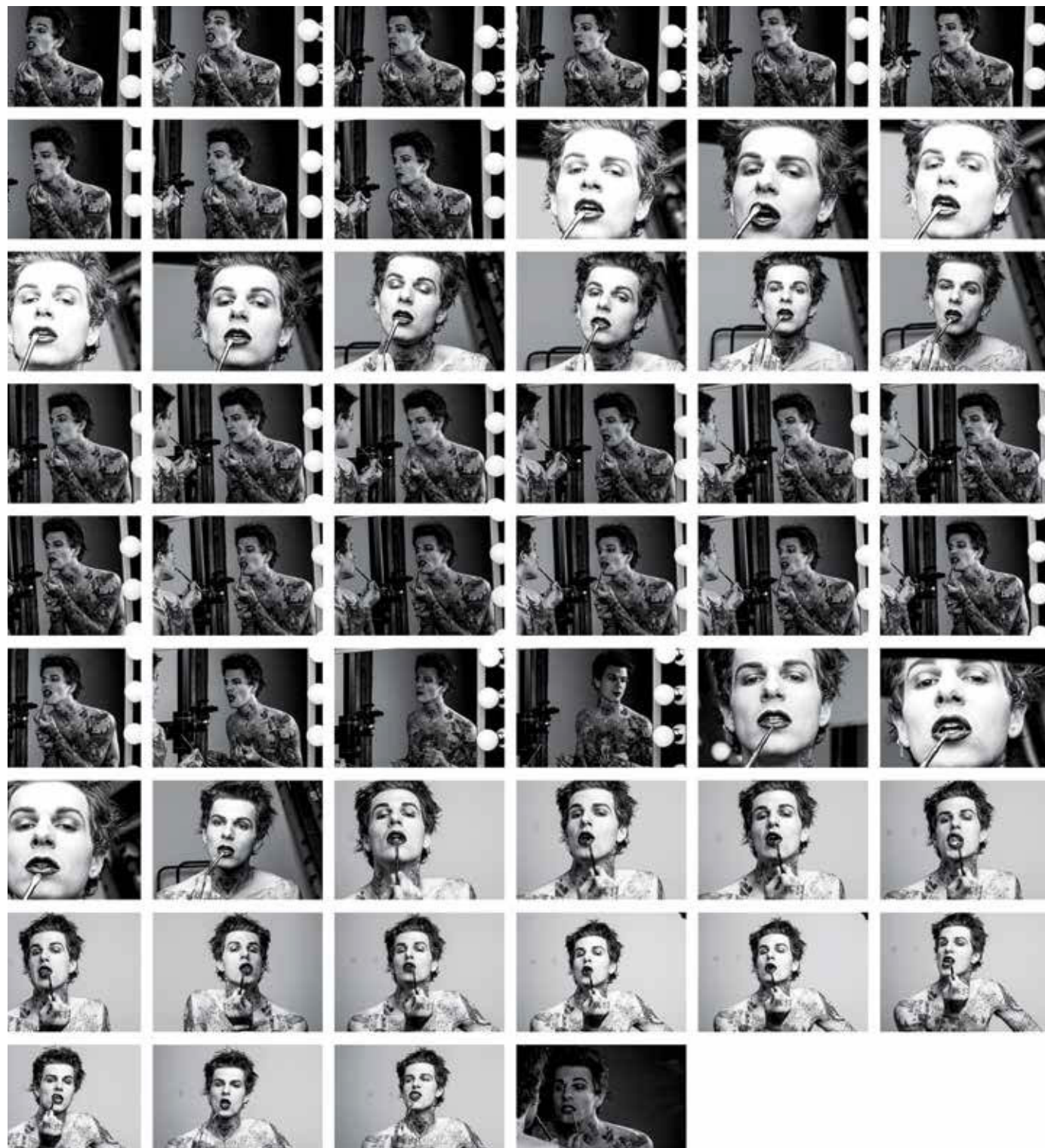
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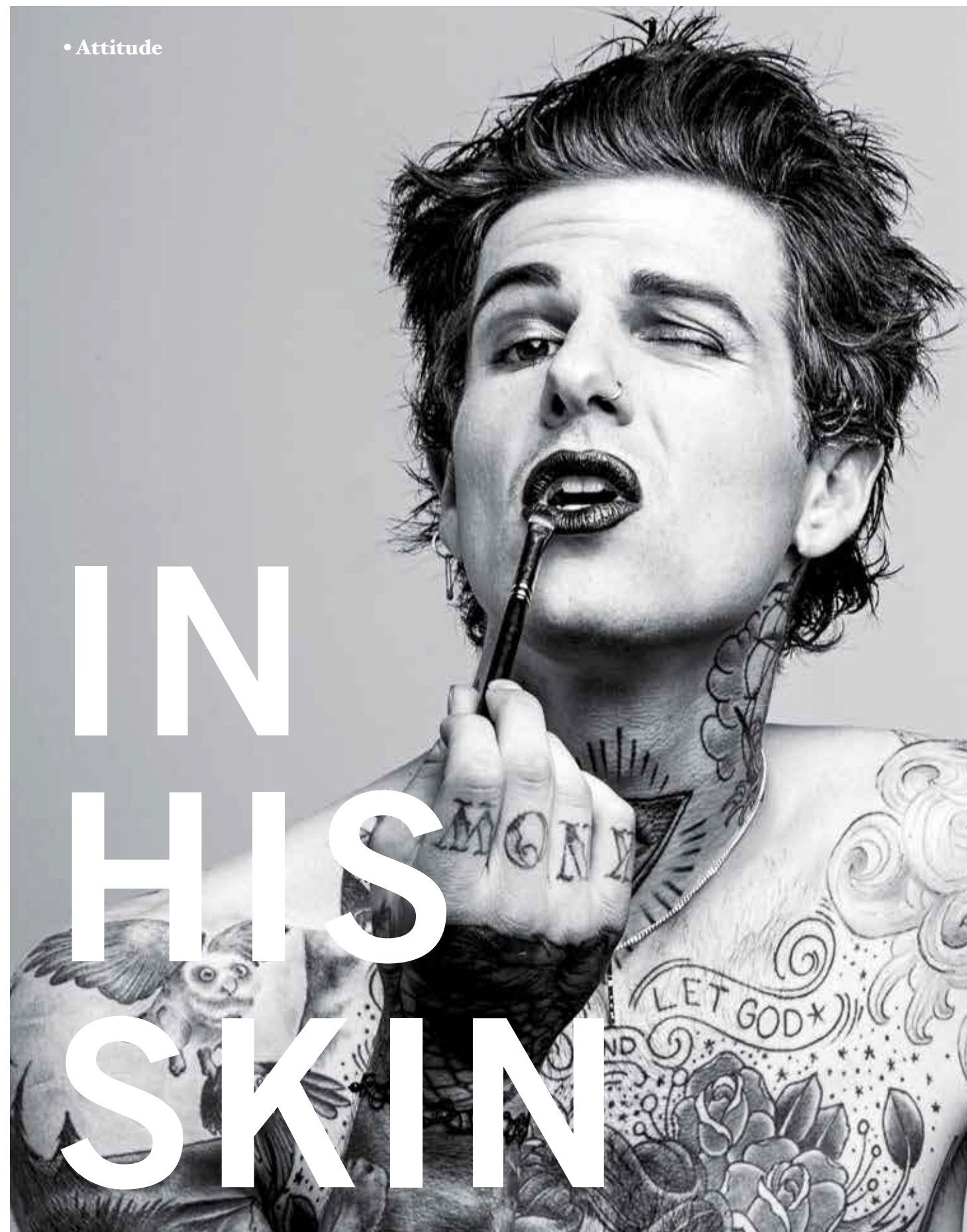
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IN  
HIS  
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•Attitude

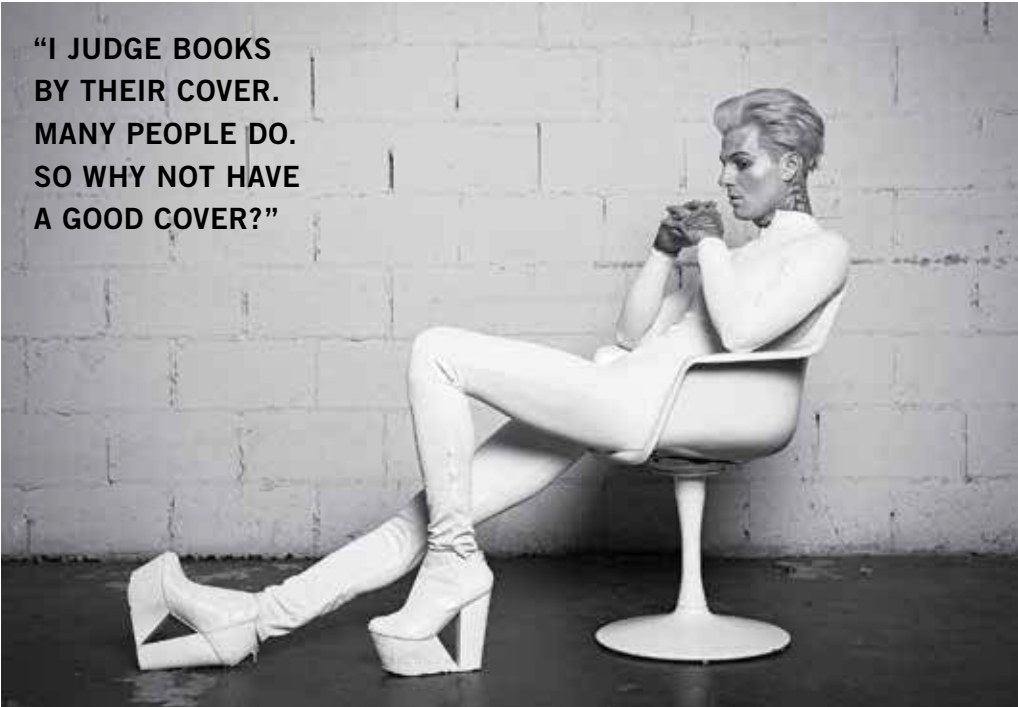
In his new book &, songwriter and ally Jesse Rutherford of the band The Neighbourhood explores all facets of style, gender, and physical appearance in an attempt to determine just what it takes to become fully comfortable in your own skin. “In the images, I am both Nancy and Sid,” he says. “I am the symbol in between. I’m not exploring any one side—I’m just doing what my taste buds want me to do and exploring how things fit on the shape of the body I was given.”

The rules governing production of the book were simple: use every shot, no retouching, show everything in chronological order. “By the time you get to the end, you can see I’ve definitely become more comfortable with myself,” he says. “You can see that confidence has grown. I want people to have that same kind of experience on their own when looking at the these photos.”

When he’s not in front of the camera, Rutherford owns the stage as the frontman for his band, best known for the smash hit “Sweater Weather.” Catch them on tour all summer long as they promote their second album, *Wiped Out!* For more on &, check out the book’s official site [shop.antianti.social](#).



“I JUDGE BOOKS BY THEIR COVER. MANY PEOPLE DO. SO WHY NOT HAVE A GOOD COVER?”



“IT’S A SHAME THAT ANYBODY WOULD EVER HAVE TO FEEL SHAME OVER WHO THEY NATURALLY ARE. THAT’S NOT COOL. IT’S NOT RIGHT.”

# NORDIC NIGHTS



**HAVE A HOT SUMMER  
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COOLEST SPOTS ON  
EARTH—STOCKHOLM!**

**BY NIGEL ROBINSON**



It may not be at the top of your list of places to visit in your lifetime, but that's a mistake.

With its incredible architecture, amazing food, and beautiful—and highly accepting—local populace, Stockholm is truly one of the hidden gems of the European continent. And, as the capital city of the land that brought us Abba, Ace of Base, Ikea, H&M, and Alexander Skarsgard, it's almost impossible not to love. A destination of choice to more than 11 million visitors a year, the city is situated over 14 islands along Sweden's eastern coast. Stretching from the shores of Lake Malären to the entrance of the Baltic Sea, each of the city's islands has its own distinctive character. Linking them all together is a series of 57 bridges, an engineering feat that has earned the city the nickname Venice of the North.

#### **MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS:**

The Sofo area on the island of Södermalm, known locally as Söder, with its narrow winding streets, and laid-back urban vibe, is hipster central and home to some of the city's trendiest eateries and independent shops. If you're into vintage clothes then an afternoon here will make you think you've died and gone to retro heaven. Grandpa (Södermannagatan 21, [grandpa.se/en](http://grandpa.se/en)) has been selling stylish Swedish fashion and cool accessories and home décor to those in the know since 2003. If you don't leave here without a groovy shirt or a funky accessory then there's something seriously screwy with your gay shopping gene.

While you're in the 'hood, don't forget to pop around the corner to ➡

• **Travel**

Pärlans Konfektyr (Nytorgsgatan 38, [parlanskonfektyr.se](http://parlanskonfektyr.se)), an old-style confectioner whose melt-in-your-mouth caramels will tempt even the strictest carb-hater.

The spiritual heart of Sofo, and its local canteen, is arguably Urban Deli (Nytorget 4, [urbandeli.org](http://urbandeli.org)), a spot-on New York-style deli, restaurant, whole-food shop, and bar all in one. Proudly proclaiming itself anti-violence, anti-homophobia, and anti-racism, it's perpetually packed with people of all ages, ethnicities, and types and is a fantastic place to rest your feet and enjoy a smörgåsbord of charcuterie and cheese. Be prepared to share a table—this place is always at capacity, especially on the weekend. Most Swedes speak perfect English, so use that as an opportunity to chat up that sexy Sven or gorgeous Elsa.

A short walk away, housed in a massive art nouveau building and former customs house, is Fotografiska (Stadsgårdshamnen 22, [fotografiska.eu/en](http://fotografiska.eu/en)), Sweden's national museum of photography and one of the world's foremost centers of the contemporary image. Less than 10 years after opening, it's rapidly become one of Stockholm's trendiest cultural attractions, showcasing major retrospectives by the likes of Robert Mapplethorpe, Annie Leibowitz, and Andres Serrano. In addition to its cutting-edge shows, Fotografiska also has an excellent bar and restaurant with some of the best views of the city proper.

**Just across the water** is the tiny island of Gamla Stan, Stockholm's old town and home to the nation's parliament. It's also the location of the Royal Palace (Slottsbacken 1, [kungahuset.se](http://kungahuset.se)), the Swedish Royal Family's official residence, much of which is open to the public. The daily changing of the guard takes place just after noon on weekdays and at

1:15 pm on Sundays and holidays.

Gamla Stan is an enchanting medieval maze of former merchants' houses and twisting cobbled streets, including Marten Trotzigs Grand, one of the narrowest (and steepest) streets in the city. Craft shops, galleries and quirky bars and restaurants are clustered just off Stortorget, the main square, which is a great place to relax and people watch on a warm summer's day, especially at the very gay-friendly Chokladkoppen (Stortorget 18, [chokladkoppen.se/en](http://chokladkoppen.se/en)) and its next-door big sister Kaffeekoppen ([cafekaffeekoppen.se](http://cafekaffeekoppen.se)).

The square is also where you'll find the Nobel Museum (Stortorget 2, [nobelmuseum.se](http://nobelmuseum.se)), celebrating Stockholm's son, Alfred Nobel, who at his death bequeathed his huge fortune to the Nobel Prizes that bear his name. Turn your chair upside down at the museum's bistro and you may

**PREVIOUS SPREAD:**  
A STREET IN THE SOFO AREA

**BELOW:**  
THE IMMENSE AND BREATH-TAKING 300-YEAR-OLD VASA



**Built between 1626 and 1628, the Vasa filled with water and sank just 1,400 yards into its maiden voyage.**

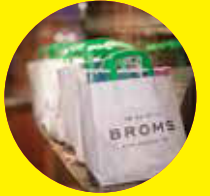
find the signature of one of the Nobel Laureates who have visited the building (favorites include author Mario Vargas Llosa and President Obama).

Stockholm is best appreciated from the water, so don't forget to take a leisurely cruise on one of the regular ferries to Djurgården, a massive expanse of park and woodland and a favorite getaway for Stockholmers and tourists alike, as well home to the city's oldest amusement park (Gröna Lund, [gronalund.com/en](http://gronalund.com/en)) and some of Sweden's most important museums and galleries.

**The Vasa Museum** (Galärvarvsvägen 14, [vasamuseet.se](http://vasamuseet.se)) is the final resting place of the *Vasa*, a 17th-century wooden warship that sank on her maiden voyage in 1628. The vessel was salvaged 333 years later and was so remarkably well-preserved it has now been restored to its former glory. Even if maritime history isn't your thing this is an absolute must-see; it's Scandinavia's top museum. ➡



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**  
STREET IN GAMLA STAN;  
SÖDERMALM FROM  
THE WATER; STOCKHOLM PRIDE;  
AND THE ABBA MUSEUM



## WHERE TO EAT

Swedish cooking isn't all about meatballs, although you must have them at least a couple of times during your visit, as every restaurant has a different recipe. The city has some great restaurants offering a wide range of cuisines. As well as Urban Deli and Mälarpaviljongen, here are three more culinary favorites:

### ZINK GRILL

Much loved by Stockholmers, this French bistro is the place to be seen on weekends.

Biblioteksgatan 5,  
[zinkgrill.se/en](http://zinkgrill.se/en)

### OAXEN SLIP

An open and airy Nordic bistro with great service. It's also very dog-friendly.

Beckholmsvägen 26,  
[oaxen.com](http://oaxen.com)

### BROMS

A classic neighborhood restaurant plus delicatessen. It even sports its own bakery.

Karlavägen 76,  
[bromskarlaplan.se](http://bromskarlaplan.se)

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Solidarity Through Pride

ON BEHALF OF the Board of InterPride we hope you enjoy reading the 2016 *PrideLife* Magazine—the official magazine of InterPride.

InterPride, the International Association of Pride Organizers, strives to promote Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender visibility internationally through conferences, communication, education, and Pride events. Our members span across more than fifty countries with a combined reach of more than fifteen million people. While most of our members are based in the United States, we work closely with our International Pride Partners: EPOA (the European Pride Organisers Association) and FCP (Fierté Canada Pride). These relationships have assisted us to expand our reach to LGBT communities around the world, enabling InterPride to become a truly global Pride organization.

This year's international theme, Solidarity Through Pride, embodies our mission: Empowering Pride Organizations Worldwide. This work is driven by our tireless volunteer Board and Committee Chairs, who, through various committees, address areas such as Human Rights and WorldPride.

InterPride relies solely on membership fees and donations to fund our organization. We, in turn, distribute these funds in two major ways: through the Solidarity Fund, which assists Pride projects in areas throughout the world operating in hostile environments, and the Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance for members to attend our Annual General Meeting and World Conference.

Whether the event is small, large, new, or well established, Pride chapters help build and enrich their communities and increase visibility and acceptance for LGBT people in both large cities and small towns. We applaud the Boards, Members, and Volunteers of all Prides who work to make Pride happen. Thank you for your work and contribution to the global Pride movement.

We invite everyone to join and add your valuable energy and ideas to the global Pride movement. Visit our website at [interpride.org](#) to find a Pride, to attend an event or help plan one, find out how your Pride organization can join InterPride, or to make a donation to support our work.

Looking ahead, we look forward to welcoming delegates and guests in Montpellier, France at the joint 2016 InterPride Annual General Meeting and World Conference and EPOA AGM in October this year. And finally, we hope to see you in Spain next year when Madrid hosts their largest event to date: WorldPride 2017.

*Yours In Pride,*

**Sue Doster & Brett Hayhoe**

CO-PRESIDENTS  
INTERPRIDE

**InterPride**  
[interpride.org](#)

# About InterPride



## What is InterPride?

InterPride is the international association of Pride organizers. Our member organizations produce Pride events all over the world, to celebrate the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) cultures and communities. InterPride ties Pride together globally.

## What's the Vision, what's the Mission?

Our vision is a world where there is full cultural, social, and legal equality for all. InterPride's mission is to help empower Pride organizations worldwide.

InterPride acts as a source of education and a stepping-stone to elevating community interaction for Pride events worldwide. We promote Pride on an international level and increase networking opportunities and communication among Pride organizations.

## What is a "Pride event"?

Pride events celebrate the LGBTI community and can include parades, marches, rallies, festivals, art festivals, or other cultural activities dedicated to people identifying as LGBTI and/or other emerging sexual identities.

## What does InterPride do?

InterPride holds an Annual World Conference where our members gather in one city for several days. The conference includes educational workshops and networking activities, as well as the annual general meeting of our membership. Through this conference, our members learn new skills, innovative ideas, and best practices for producing Pride events. This

*Our vision is a world where there is full cultural, social and legal equality for all. InterPride's mission is to help empower pride organizations worldwide.*

conference also permits members to interact with one another and develop a support and solidarity network between LGBTI activists around the world.

Regional conferences are also organized annually in North Amer-

ica and in Europe, to strengthen local relationships between our members.

InterPride owns the WorldPride title, which is licensed every couple of years to one of our members, who becomes the host of the WorldPride celebration.

The Pride Radar is a world map maintained by InterPride, which lists all the Pride celebrations around the world. So far, the Pride Radar includes over 800 Prides!

InterPride also manages a Solidarity Fund, which is sustained from donations by our members and sponsors, and grants financial support to emerging Pride events and community-based efforts around the world, with a focus on places where public LGBTI events face challenges and hostility.

## Where is the next WorldPride?

WorldPride 2017 will be held in Madrid, Spain. WorldPride 2019 will be held in New York City, NY, USA, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Past WorldPride celebrations were held in Rome, Italy (2000); Jerusalem, Israel (2006); London, England (2012); and Toronto, Canada (2014).

## What are FCP and EPOA?

Fierté Canada Pride (FCP) and the European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA) are InterPride's International Pride Partners in Canada and Europe respectively. Members of FCP and EPOA are automatically members of InterPride.

## How can we join?

We'd be delighted to have you join

InterPride as a member organization or as a volunteer to support the work of Prides around the world! Contact us through our regional directors (see the list online at [interpride.org](http://interpride.org)) or via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).



*During the past 29 years, Pride organizations from almost every continent have participated in InterPride's annual conference.*

# State of the Pride Movement

BY FRANK VAN DALEN

Today let's celebrate an increase in number of Prides around the world!

SINCE INTERPRIDE started its Pride Radar initiative in 2012, almost 800 Pride celebrations have been identified around the world. And new Prides are discovered on a weekly basis, both in hostile environments and in smaller cities in the Western world.

Pride events—whether they take the form of celebrations, protests, or marches—are intended to raise the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people as an oppressed minority. Each event, wherever it is held, is a profound political statement. Our data shows that where the LGBTI equality movement has enjoyed substantial success, like in North America, Western

Europe, Australia, and South America, the Pride movement is gaining strength.

At the same time, we see blank spots on the world map where Prides are absent or presently unknown. With social climates of exclusion and laws that criminalize homosexuality, it is beyond an act of bravery to organize a Pride event in many areas of Africa, as well as in regions of Asia, in Russia, and in much of the Middle East. These regions constitute the current frontier of the worldwide Pride movement.

## Emancipatory Impact

The social and legal context of LGBTI people in their country or region influences strongly the character of a Pride event. What is perceived by many in Western

countries as only a party-oriented event, is for many others a means to yield social and legal change, to improve the lives of LGBTI people. The impact of Pride events on LGBTI emancipation is also perceived differently by the Pride organizers themselves. A recent survey produced by InterPride, in which over one hundred Pride organizations

participated, shows that only 20% of those organizers based in Europe perceive their impact as low or absent, whereas that number climbs to 57% in the United States. The picture is slightly more complex in Eastern Europe.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, several countries in Eastern Europe joined the European Union. In most of these countries, Pride events have faced considerable hardship for many years due to strong conservative religious traditions. Organizing Pride events in these countries became possible only after uphill battles and massive pressure by the European Union, international activists, and politicians from around Europe. These Pride events symbolized the right to be visible and vocal as LGBTI communities.

The lower perception of impact in the USA could be explained by the fact that the battle for same-sex marriage was fought in large part in the courtrooms. Although equal rights are becoming the law slowly but surely, and even if LGBTI issues are strongly supported by some major political leaders, there is every reason to make Pride celebrations in the USA more political. The LGBTI movement in the U.S. is still struggling with public accommodations and trans rights bills in many states.



Homo- and trans-phobic violence and murder, and youth suicide are additional topics that need public attention—which can easily be provided by the Pride movement, therefore creating impact at the local level.

In Asia, the situation is more in flux. For example in Taiwan, newly elected president Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) endorsed LGBTI politics heavily, and participated in the Taipei Pride celebration in October 2015, advocating same-sex marriage. A Pride event in Phuket, Thailand, however, focused primarily on HIV-prevention, a critical issue for their LGBTI community at the local level. With a military coup only two years ago, and with a continuing military ruling of the country that bans events considered to be a threat to the ‘happiness doctrine,’ the LGBTI community is hardly to blame for planning a non-political Pride event.

Local Support

Our Pride Radar research also uncovered differences in support from local authorities across the globe. The most active perceived support from local authorities for Pride events can be found in Canada and in Europe. In the United States, support from local authorities is perceived to be more passive.

In Europe, the active support is a positive sign that highlights how an increasing number of countries in Eastern Europe are starting to embrace the Pride move-



InterPride began in the 1980s. The organization was originally known as the National Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators.

of Prides occurring in Mexico. The prominence of new, small Pride events exemplifies how regional and local Prides will gain relevance. The large Prides, in capital cities for example, will have a national or even international impact if not on LGBTI-emancipation, for sure on LGBTI tourism and their local economy. Smaller Prides will continue to empower local LGBTI people and the LGBTI community as a whole, and will yield a more inclusive local social environment. This is the case particularly in small cities and in hostile environments, like in Uganda where a Pride event is being organized this year, for the fifth time!

In 2019, WorldPride will take place in New York City, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the birth of the Pride movement. Since 1969 a lot has changed for the better, but the struggle is far from over. Pride events around the world will continue to play a key role in changing social and legal climates for LGBTI people wherever they live.

For more Pride Radar information and updates, go to [interpride.org](http://interpride.org).



ment. For example, last year, for the second time, a Pride celebration in Belgrade, Serbia, took place without any violence, whereas only five years ago, that event ended with severe violence against its participants.

In Asia, it is perceived that no active support is given to Prides. At best, the support from authorities is passive. In many cases, Pride events are ignored by the local authorities. Such was the case, for example, in 2014 in Hong Kong where Pride activists endorsed the protest demonstrations of the Umbrella Movement against the Chinese government.

Support from local authorities has been found to be key component to success, no matter where Prides are held. This support can be in the form of permits and authorizations to use of roads or parks, complimentary public services, such as free street cleaning, but also in the safeguarding of participants in hostile environments.

Growth of the Pride Movement

Our data shows that, in the years to come, the global Pride movement is expected to keep on growing. Last

year alone, around 30 Pride celebrations were identified in Sweden. In 2016, this number is expected to surpass 50! The same is happening in Mexico. At the beginning of our research, our team was only aware of a handful of Pride events. But deeper investigation actually revealed dozens

Frank van Dalen is a former Chair of the Dutch LGBT movement COC and Gay Pride in Amsterdam. He currently serves as Chair of Pride United, Chair of the LGBTI committee of Liberal International, and Vice-President of InterPride. He is the lead author of the Pride Radar. In recent years he has visited and contributed to many Prides around the world.

GLOBAL PRIDE EVENTS

- > EUROPRIDE 2016 / AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, JULY 23–AUGUST 7
- > INTERPRIDE 2016 AGM AND WORLD CONFERENCE / MONTPELLIER, FRANCE OCTOBER 11–16
- > WORLDPRIDE 2017, MADRID, SPAIN, JUNE 23–JULY 2
- > CANADA PRIDE [THE INAUGURAL EVENT], MONTREAL, CANADA, AUGUST 11–20, 2017
- > INTERPRIDE 2017 AGM AND WORLD CONFERENCE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, U.S.A., OCTOBER 5–8
- > WORLDPRIDE 2019, STONEWALL 50, NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 2019

Calendar PRIDE EVENTS 2016

UNITED STATES

- Alabama BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL ALABAMA PRIDEFEST June 4–12 [centralalabamapride.org](http://centralalabamapride.org)
- Alaska ANCHORAGE IDENTITY, INC. [alaskapride.org](http://alaskapride.org)
- Arizona BISBEE BISBEE PRIDE June 17–19 [bisbeepride.com](http://bisbeepride.com)
- PHOENIX PHOENIX PRIDE April 2–3 [phoenixpride.org](http://phoenixpride.org)
- California LONG BEACH LONG BEACH LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE May 21–22 [longbeachpride.com](http://longbeachpride.com)
- MONTE RIO SONOMA COUNTY PRIDE [sonomacountypride.org](http://sonomacountypride.org)
- PALM SPRINGS PALM SPRINGS PRIDE November 1–6 [pspride.org](http://pspride.org)



- PASADENA SAN GABRIEL VALLEY PRIDE, INC. October 15 [sgvpride.org](http://sgvpride.org)
- SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO PRIDE [sdpride.org](http://sdpride.org)
- SAN FRANCISCO FOLSOM STREET FAIR August 25 [folsomstreetevents.org](http://folsomstreetevents.org)
- SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION AND PARADE June 25–26 [sfpride.org](http://sfpride.org)
- WEST HOLLYWOOD CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST-LA PRIDE June 10 [lapride.org](http://lapride.org)

- Connecticut HARTFORD HARTFORD CAPITAL CITY PRIDE September 10 [hartfordpride.com](http://hartfordpride.com)
- NEW LONDON NEW LONDON PRIDE August 26–27 [outct.com](http://outct.com)
- Delaware NEWARK DELAWARE PRIDE, INC. [delawarepride.org](http://delawarepride.org)
- District of Columbia WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CAPITAL PRIDE ALLIANCE [capitalpride.org](http://capitalpride.org)
- WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DC LEATHER PRIDE June 11–12 [facebook.com/dcleatherpride](http://facebook.com/dcleatherpride)
- Florida FORT LAUDERDALE GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE PRIDE [pridefortlauderdale.org](http://pridefortlauderdale.org)
- FORT LAUDERDALE PRIDE SOUTH FLORIDA [hotflyers.com](http://hotflyers.com)
- OCALA OCALA PRIDE INCORPORATED [ocala-pride.org](http://ocala-pride.org)



- PORT CHARLOTTE CHARLOTTE COUNTY PRIDE April 30 [charlottecountypridefl.org](http://charlottecountypridefl.org)
- SARASOTA SARASOTA PRIDE, INC. [sarasotapride.org](http://sarasotapride.org)
- ST. PETERSBURG ST. PETE PRIDE [stpeterpride.com](http://stpeterpride.com)
- TAMPA, TAMPA PRIDE FESTIVAL & PARADE March 24–27 [tampapride.org](http://tampapride.org)
- WILTON MANORS WILTON MANORS STONEWALL FESTIVAL & PARADE June 18 [wmeg.org](http://wmeg.org)

- Georgia ATLANTA ATLANTA PRIDE FESTIVAL October 8–9 [atlantapride.org](http://atlantapride.org)
- AUGUSTA AUGUSTA PRIDE [prideaugusta.org](http://prideaugusta.org)
- VALDOSTA SOUTH GEORGIA PRIDE September 17 [southgapride.com](http://southgapride.com)
- Illinois CHICAGO CHICAGO PRIDE MONTH June 1–30 [chicagopridecalendar.org](http://chicagopridecalendar.org)

Indiana

**FORT WAYNE**  
FORT WAYNE PRIDE  
[fwpride.org](http://fwpride.org)

**INDIANAPOLIS**  
INDY PRIDE, INC.  
[indyprideinc.org](http://indyprideinc.org)

**SPENCER**  
10TH ANNIVERSARY SPENCER  
PRIDE FESTIVAL  
June 4  
[spencerpride.org](http://spencerpride.org)

Kentucky

**LEXINGTON**  
LEXINGTON PRIDE FESTIVAL  
June 25  
[lexpridefest.org](http://lexpridefest.org)

**LOUISVILLE**  
KENTUCKIANA PRIDE  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
[kypride.com](http://kypride.com)

Massachusetts

**BOSTON**  
BOSTON PRIDE  
June 3–12  
[bostonpride.org](http://bostonpride.org)

**HULL**  
HULL PRIDE  
[facebook.com/hullpride2014](https://facebook.com/hullpride2014)

Michigan

**HOLLAND**  
PFLAG HOLLAND/LAKESHORE  
[community.pflag.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=224&tab=68chid=184](http://community.pflag.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=224&tab=68chid=184)

Minnesota

**MINNEAPOLIS**  
TWIN CITIES PRIDE  
[tcpride.org](http://tcpride.org)



Missouri

**KANSAS CITY**  
KANSAS CITY PRIDEFEST  
June 3–5  
[gaypridekc.org](http://gaypridekc.org)

**SAINT CHARLES**  
ST. CHARLES PRIDE  
June 18  
[pridestcharles.org/#!pflag/c1e60](http://pridestcharles.org/#!pflag/c1e60)

New Jersey

**EDISON, NEW JERSEY**  
JERSEY PRIDE 25  
June 5  
[jerseypride.org](http://jerseypride.org)

New Mexico

**ALBUQUERQUE**  
ALBUQUERQUE PRIDE INC.  
June 10–12  
[abqpride.com](http://abqpride.com)

**LOS RANCHOS**  
LOS RANCHOS PRIDE  
June 5  
[sinatradevine.org](http://sinatradevine.org)

New York

**BRONX**  
OUTBRONX  
Monthly Mixers  
[outbronx@facebook.com](mailto:outbronx@facebook.com)



**BROOKLYN**  
BROOKLYN PRIDE INC.  
[brooklynpride.org](http://brooklynpride.org)

**BROOKLYN**  
CHUTNEY PRIDE INC.  
[chutneypride.org](http://chutneypride.org)

**DEWITT**  
PRIDE DAY AND LGBT BOOTH  
NEW YORK STATE FAIR  
August 25–September 5  
[fairny.org](http://fairny.org)

**JACKSON HEIGHTS**  
QUEENS PRIDE PARADE  
AND FESTIVAL  
June 6  
[queenspride.org](http://queenspride.org)

**NEW YORK CITY**  
HERITAGE OF PRIDE, INC.  
June 21–26  
[nycpride.org](http://nycpride.org)

**ROCHESTER**  
ROC PRIDE & ROC PRIDE  
GAYMES  
July 15–17  
[gayalliance.org](http://gayalliance.org)

**SOUTH OZONE PARK,  
QUEENS**  
CARIBBEAN EQUALITY PROJECT  
June 5–26  
[caribbeanequalityproject.org](http://caribbeanequalityproject.org)

**STATEN ISLAND**  
STATEN ISLAND PRIDEFEST  
2016  
July 9–16  
[pridecentersi.org](http://pridecentersi.org)

**SYRACUSE**  
CNY PRIDE  
[cnypride.org](http://cnypride.org)

**WOODBURY**  
LONG ISLAND PRIDE  
[lipride.org](http://lipride.org)

Nevada

**LAS VEGAS**  
LAS VEGAS PRIDE  
October 21–23  
[lasvegaspride.org](http://lasvegaspride.org)

**RENO**  
NORTHERN NEVADA PRIDE  
July 23  
[northernnevadapride.org](http://northernnevadapride.org)

North Carolina

**CHARLOTTE**  
CHARLOTTE PRIDE  
August 20–21  
[charlottepride.org](http://charlottepride.org)

**DURHAM**  
PRIDE COMMITTEE OF NC  
[ncpride.org](http://ncpride.org)

**SALISBURY**  
SALISBURY PRIDE INC.  
[salisburypride.com](http://salisburypride.com)

**WINSTON SALEM**  
PRIDE WINSTON-SALEM  
October 15  
[pridews.org](http://pridews.org)

Ohio

**CINCINNATI**  
CINCINNATI PRIDE  
June 25  
[cincinnatipride.org](http://cincinnatipride.org)



**COLUMBUS**  
COLUMBUS PRIDE FESTIVAL  
June 17–19  
[columbuspride.org](http://columbuspride.org)

Oklahoma

**ENID**  
ENID LGBT COALITION  
[enidlgbtcoalition.org](http://enidlgbtcoalition.org)

Oregon

**EUGENE**  
EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD PRIDE  
DAY FESTIVAL  
August 13  
[eugenepride.org](http://eugenepride.org)

Pennsylvania

**ERIE PA**  
NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA  
PARADE AND FESTIVAL  
August 27  
[nwpaipride.org](http://nwpaipride.org)

Rhode Island

**PROVIDENCE**  
RHODE ISLAND PRIDE  
[prideri.com](http://prideri.com)

South Carolina

**BOILING SPRINGS, UPSTATE**  
PRIDE SC  
[upstatepridesc.org/home](http://upstatepridesc.org/home)

**COLUMBIA**  
SC PRIDE  
[scpride.org](http://scpride.org)

Tennessee

**NASHVILLE**  
NASHVILLE PRIDE  
June 24–25  
[nashvillepride.org](http://nashvillepride.org)

Texas

**AUSTIN**  
AUSTIN BLACK PRIDE  
April 1–3  
[austinblackpride.com](http://austinblackpride.com)

**AUSTIN**  
AUSTIN PRIDE  
[austinpride.org](http://austinpride.org)

**DALLAS**  
ALAN ROSS TEXAS FREEDOM  
PARADE & FESTIVAL  
September 18  
[dallasprideparade.com](http://dallasprideparade.com)

Virginia

**NORFOLK**  
HAMPTON ROADS PRIDE  
[hamptonroadspride.org](http://hamptonroadspride.org)

**NORFOLK**  
INTERFAITH SERVICE 2016  
June 14



**ROANOKE**  
ROANOKE PRIDE, INC.  
[roanokepride.org](http://roanokepride.org)

Washington

**BREMERTON**  
KITSAP PRIDE  
July 16  
[kitsappride.org](http://kitsappride.org)

**SPOKANE VALLEY**  
OUTSPOKANE  
[outspokane.com](http://outspokane.com)





# International Events

PRIDE EVENTS 2016

**AUSTRALIA**

Sydney

**DARLINGHURST, SYDNEY**  
SYDNEY GAY AND LESBIAN  
MARDI GRAS  
February 13–March 6  
[mardigras.org.au](http://mardigras.org.au)

Victoria

**MELBOURNE, VICTORIA**  
TRANSGENDER VICTORIA  
February 20  
[transgendervictoria.com](http://transgendervictoria.com)

**SHEPPARTON, VICTORIA**  
GOULBURN VALLEY PRIDE INC.  
OUTINTHEOPEN FESTIVAL  
November 4 – 6, 2016  
[gvpride.org](http://gvpride.org)

**AUSTRIA**

VIENNA

HOSI WIEN / VIENNA PRIDE -  
REGENBOGENPARADE  
June 18  
[hosiwien.at](http://hosiwien.at)

**BELGIUM**

BRUSSELS

THE BELGIAN PRIDE  
[thepride.be](http://thepride.be)

**CANADA**

Alberta

**CALGARY, ALBERTA**  
PRIDE CALGARY PLANNING  
COMMITTEE  
September 4  
[pridecalgary.ca](http://pridecalgary.ca)

**EDMONTON, ALBERTA**  
EDMONTON PRIDE FESTIVAL  
June 3–12  
[edmontonpride.ca](http://edmontonpride.ca)

**JASPER, ALBERTA**  
JASPER PRIDE FESTIVAL  
SOCIETY  
March 17–20  
[jasperpride.ca](http://jasperpride.ca)

British Columbia

**KELOWNA**  
OKANAGAN PRIDE SOCIETY  
August 6–13  
[okanaganpride.com](http://okanaganpride.com)

**N. CRANBROOK**  
CRANBROOK PRIDE SOCIETY  
May 27–29  
[cranbrookpride.ca](http://cranbrookpride.ca)

Manitoba

**WINNIPEG**  
PRIDE WINNIPEG  
FESTIVAL INC.  
May 27–June 5  
[pridewinnipeg.com](http://pridewinnipeg.com)

Nova Scotia

**HALIFAX**  
HALIFAX PRIDE SOCIETY  
July 14–24  
[halifaxpride.com](http://halifaxpride.com)

Ontario

**BARRIE**  
GEORGIAN PRIDE  
[facebook.com/georgianpride](http://facebook.com/georgianpride)



**BRACEBRIDGE**  
MUSKOKA PRIDE  
COMMUNITY  
July 15–24  
[muskokapride.com](http://muskokapride.com)

**OTTAWA**  
CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL  
(PRIDE COMMITTEE OF  
OTTAWA-GATINEAU)  
August 15–21  
[capitalpride.ca](http://capitalpride.ca)

**LONDON**  
PRIDE LONDON  
July 14–24  
[pridelondon.ca](http://pridelondon.ca)

**THUNDER BAY**  
THUNDER PRIDE ASSOCIATION  
June 18  
[thunderpride.ca](http://thunderpride.ca)

**TIMMINS**  
FIERTE TIMMINS PRIDE  
[timminspride.com](http://timminspride.com)

**TORONTO**  
FIERTE CANADA PRIDE/PRIDE  
TORONTO  
June 24–July 3  
[pridetoronto.com](http://pridetoronto.com)

**WAUBAUSHENE**  
SIMCOE PRIDE  
July 28–August 6  
[saskatoonpride.ca](http://saskatoonpride.ca)

Prince Edward Island

**CHARLOTTETOWN**  
PRIDE PEI  
July 24–30  
[pride-pei.com](http://pride-pei.com)

Saakatchewan

**MOOSE JAW**  
MOOSE JAW PRIDE INC.  
May 29–June 4  
[moosejawpride.ca](http://moosejawpride.ca)

**REGINA**  
REGINA PRIDE INC.  
June 20–26  
[queencitypride.ca](http://queencitypride.ca)

**SASKATOON**  
SASKATOON DIVERSITY  
NETWORK  
June 5–12  
[saskatoonpride.ca](http://saskatoonpride.ca)



**CHINA**

**HONG KONG**  
HONG KONG PRIDE PARADE  
COMMITTEE  
[hkpride.net](http://hkpride.net)

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**PRAGUE**  
PRAGUE PRIDE  
[praguepride.com](http://praguepride.com)

**DENMARK**

**COPENHAGEN**  
COPENHAGEN PRIDE  
[copenhagenpride.dk](http://copenhagenpride.dk)

**FRANCE**

**MONTPELLIER**  
LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE  
MONTPELLIER  
[montpelliergay.com](http://montpelliergay.com)

**GERMANY**

**BERLIN**  
BERLINER CSD E.V. / BERLIN  
PRIDE  
July 23  
[csd-berlin.de](http://csd-berlin.de)

**BRAUNSCHWEIG**  
BRAUNSCHWEIG PRIDE /  
VEREIN FÜR SEXUELLE  
EMANZIPATION E.V.  
July 15–30  
[csd-bs.de](http://csd-bs.de)

**COLOGNE**  
COLOGNE PRIDE  
June 18–July 3  
[colognepride.de](http://colognepride.de)

**HAMBURG**  
HAMBURG PRIDE E.V.  
July 30–August 8  
[hamburg-pride.de/en/home](http://hamburg-pride.de/en/home)

**KONSTANZ, BADEN-  
WÜRTTEMBERG**  
CSD IN KONSTANZ E.V. /  
KONSTANZ PRIDE  
[csd-konstanz.de](http://csd-konstanz.de)

**MANNHEIM**  
CSD RHEIN-NECKAR  
August 6–14  
[csd-rhein-neckar.de](http://csd-rhein-neckar.de)



**GREECE**

**ATHENS**  
ATHENS PRIDE  
[athenspride.eu](http://athenspride.eu)

**THESSALONIKI**  
THESSALONIKI PRIDE  
[thessalonikipride.gr](http://thessalonikipride.gr)

**HUNGARY**

**BUDAPEST**  
BUDAPEST PRIDE  
[budapestpride.com](http://budapestpride.com)

**ICELAND**

**REYKJAVIK**  
REYKJAVIK GAY PRIDE  
[reykjavikpride.com](http://reykjavikpride.com)

**IRELAND**

**DUBLIN**  
DUBLIN L.G.B.T.Q. PRIDE LTD.  
[dublinpride.ie](http://dublinpride.ie)

**ITALY**

**MILANO**  
ARCIGAY MILANO  
[milanopride.it](http://milanopride.it)

**ROMA**  
ROMA PRIDE / CIRCULO  
DI CULTURA OMOSESSUALE  
MARIO MIELI  
[romapride.it](http://romapride.it)

**KOREA**

KOREA QUEER CULTURE  
FESTIVAL  
[kqcf.org](http://kqcf.org)



### LATVIA

**RIGA**  
MOZAİKA - LGBT AND THEIR  
FRIENDS ALLIANCE  
April 17  
[mozaika.lv](http://mozaika.lv)

### LITHUANIA

**VILNUS**  
LITHUANIAN GAY LEAGUE -  
VILNIUS PRIDE  
[igl.lt/en](http://igl.lt/en)

### MEXICO

**TIJUANA, BAJA CALIFORNIA**  
TIJUANA GLBTI PRIDE MEXICO  
[tijuanaipride.com](http://tijuanaipride.com)

### MOLDOVA

**GENDERDOC-M**  
May 17-22  
[gdm.md/ro/news/category/pride](http://gdm.md/ro/news/category/pride)

### NORWAY

**OSLO**  
OSLO PRIDE  
[oslopride.no](http://oslopride.no)

### POLAND

**WARSAW**  
FUNDACJA ROWNOSCI (EQUAL-  
ITY FOUNDATION, POLAND)  
[paradarownosci.eu](http://paradarownosci.eu)

### PORTUGAL

**MADALENA, AZORES**  
PRIDE AZORES  
[prideazores.com](http://prideazores.com)

**PORTO**  
PORTUGAL GAY PORTO  
[orghuloporto.org](http://orghuloporto.org)



### SERBIA

**BEOGRAD**  
BELGRADE PRIDE PARADE/  
PARADA PONOSA BELGRADE,  
SERBIA  
[parada.rs](http://parada.rs)

### SPAIN

**BARCELONA, CATALUNYA**  
ACEGAL  
[pridebarcelona.org](http://pridebarcelona.org)

**MADRID**  
MADRID PRIDE / AEGAL  
MADRID  
[madridorgullo.com](http://madridorgullo.com)

**PLAYA DEL INGLES,  
GRAN CANARIA**  
MASPALOMAS GAY PRIDE  
BY FREEDOM  
May 1-15  
[maspalomaspridegrancanaria.org](http://maspalomaspridegrancanaria.org)

### SWEDEN

**GÖTEBORG**  
WESTPRIDE/GOTHENBURG  
[westpride.se](http://westpride.se)

**STOCKHOLM**  
STOCKHOLM PRIDE  
[stockholmpride.org](http://stockholmpride.org)

### SWITZERLAND

**ZURICH**  
ZURICH PRIDE FESTIVAL  
June 3-12  
[zurichpridefestival.ch](http://zurichpridefestival.ch)

### THE NETHERLANDS

**AMSTERDAM**  
AMSTERDAM PRIDE  
[pride.amsterdam](http://pride.amsterdam)

**ROTTERDAM**  
ROZE ZATERDAGEN NEDERLAND  
[rozezaterdag.nl/index.php](http://rozezaterdag.nl/index.php)



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**JUNE 21**

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**

**JUNE 24**

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**JUNE 25**

**VIP ROOFTOP PARTY · TEAZE  
GRAFFITI**

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## What Pride Means to Me...

by  
**Matthew  
Lister,**

*World Champion  
and reserve  
Olympic canoeist*

"Pride to me means a total true and honest representation of myself—something that only became apparent to me after I took the plunge and officially came out. Immediately afterwards, I felt more myself on the water. I was more focused on the training I had ahead of me; and the results showed more and more.

"Pride can be a quiet confidence, or a loud obnoxious boom. It's so individual to each and every person that I believe there's no real way to describe it, yet it encompasses every twist and turn that comes along the way.

"My pride for my community and my sport has helped me to reach further than I thought I could. I've talked at schools and small businesses to large groups of children, teenagers, and adults from all walks of life about my experiences. I've taken part in charity events, been invited to awards evenings and this all because of my achievements and staying true to myself. And that's something I am very proud of."

*To keep up with Matt's shenanigans both in the canoe and out, follow him @MrMattLister on Instagram and Twitter.*

LEE ROBERTS

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