

NOHO PRIDE'S 30TH ANNUAL LGBT PARADE & PRIDE RALLY



www.NohoPride.org

MAY 7, 2011 • NOON-5PM • NORTHAMPTON, MA

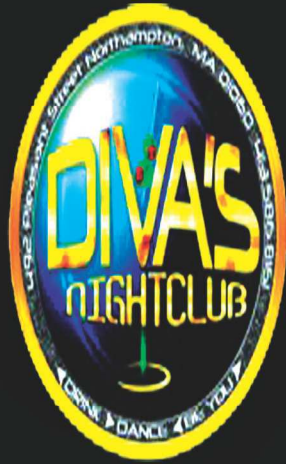
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A message from Pride Co-Chairs, Bear & Cid White

It has been another extraordinary year for Noho Pride. Last year, our parade and rally drew 15,000 people from all over the United States and Canada.

Over the years, Noho Pride has grown to become one of the biggest Pride events in Western New England. We would like to thank the community for keeping the Noho March and Rally going strong for 30 years. Noho Pride serves the purpose of gathering us together, for one glorious day, to celebrate our amazing diversity. Our struggle for inclusion and acceptance is an ongoing battle. Many of the people who will march in our parade have been and continue to be the people who work for LGBTQ rights. While we celebrate this day, enjoying our freedoms, we cannot forget our elders who fought so hard, at times with their lives, to give us the opportunity to march though Main Street in the manner we have come to know and love as Pride in Northampton.

In this tough economic time, I would like to thank all of our sponsors and advertisers. They have shown that even though times are hard, they value our community. I urge you to choose these businesses and organizations when you



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

Noho Pride's all volunteer board and planning committee. See who's who on page 9.

need a product or service, and show them how much we value them in return.

We are proud to be part of such a progressive and diverse community and continue to feel it is an honor to be serving as co-chairs of Noho Pride.

In Pride,

Bear and Cid White

About Noho Pride: Noho Pride is a 501(c)3 entirely volunteer-managed, tax-exempt, non-profit organization working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and all other people who support the struggle for equality in Western New England. Noho Pride is a member of the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Coordinators (Interpride), a not-for-profit organization that provides support to Pride events around the globe.

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Proclamation



CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER RECOGNITION DAY MAY 2011

WHEREAS, The City of Northampton is committed to uphold the provisions of the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, The City wishes to recognize the many positive contributions of its citizens, volunteers, and businesspeople who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender; and

WHEREAS, The City has set aside May 7, 2011 for the Lesbian/Gay Bisexual/Transgender Pride March; and

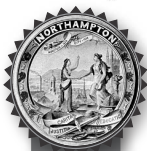
WHEREAS, This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Pride March in Northampton; and

WHEREAS, The protection of the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act and the pride demonstrated through this March should be extended throughout these United States and the world,

NOW,

THEREFORE, I, Mary Clare Higgins, Mayor of the City of Northampton, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2011 a day of recognition and pride for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in our communities, and urge support by all Northampton citizens for the civil rights of all.

In Witness Whereof, I have set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Northampton.



Mary Clare Higgins, Mayor

NOHO PRIDE'S 2011 ALL VOLUNTEER BOARD & PLANNING COMMITTEES

Operations and Director:

- Bear White

Operations and Web Guru:

- Cid White

Pride Event Vendor Coordinator:

- Karen Howery

Communications and Social Media:

- Kelli Ashlaw

Pride Event Children's Area:

- Amy Epstein

Parade and Event Security:

- Chair - Kathy Silva
- Valley Womens Martial Arts Group, Danica Ali

Parade Committee:

- Acting Chair - Kathy Silva
- Members - Tracy Gamble, Cole Dvar
- GSA Coordinator - Mary Belge
- Motorcycle Coordinator - Elizabeth Greco

Pride Event Entertainment Committee:

- Co-chairs - J.C. Ortiz Calcaño & Lorelei Erisis
- Stage Manager - Mary Beth Silva
- Assistant Stage Manager - Nick Fowler
- Stage Hand - Eunice Aviles
- Entertainment Consultant - Tammy Twotone

ASL Interpreter Crew:

- Crew Coordinator - Cat Dvar
- Caity Cross-Hansen, Nathan Fowler, Mikey Krajnak, Beth Lucey, Mary Jo Schwie, Dianne Shearer, Fatima Silvestre, Joan Wattman, Molly Wilson

Merchandise and Volunteer Committee:

- Chair - Corey Scribner
- Members - Myra Quick & Sherri Green

Marketing\Fundraising Committee:

- Co-chairs - Ryan DiMartino and Cat Dvar
- Members - Hannah Ward, Ethan Kramer, LeslieAnne Rios

Additional Planning Committee Members:

- Theme - Rev. Tinker Donnelly
- Anniversary Historian - J.M. Sorrell
- Academic Liaison - Larissa Hopkins

Noho Pride's Official Photographer:

- Glenn Koetzner

Pride Program Design & Production:

- The Rainbow Times

Northampton Proudly Celebrates 30 Years of Pride!



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City Council President

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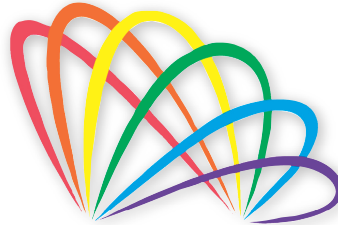
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“Rights of Passage”

By: Reverend Tinker Donnelly

From ancient times to present, *rites of passage* have been transformational ceremonies for change, growth, and readiness. Traditional rituals of initiation symbolize milestones in the continuum of life's progress to herald transitional demarcations between what has been, and what yet may be. Their purpose is to prepare initiates for the journey of life – to compel resourcefulness, stamina, and courage – developing the ability to transcend hardship, sacrifice, and pain.

Indigenous cultures use public *rites of passage* to establish common expectations and protocols within a community. Relational accountability in a village or tribe reflects the role and status – rights and responsibilities – of its members.

To our credit and benefit, the LGBTQ community demonstrates a degree of that kind of intimate accountability. We hold one another to standards of integrity that we desire from general society. We strive to treat each other with the respect and goodwill that we ask from those who have criminalized, institutionalized, marginalized, and ostracized us. We monitor ourselves and those that represent us with expectations of conduct that reflects inclusivity and consideration. We make every effort to be our best while championing the right to simply be *ourselves*.

By these threads we weave our disparate constituencies together into a fabric that is strong and beautiful. The LGBTQ community is a tapestry of diverse perspectives, but we are learning to collaborate toward a common vision in a unified stand for dignity and freedom. When we finally stand together *in* our differences, we will truly have “come of age.”

The “coming of age” process occurs within and between individuals, families, organizations, and communities as they evolve to advance beyond challenges and arrive at destinations congruent to their purposes.

After thirty years, NoHo Pride is still growing in

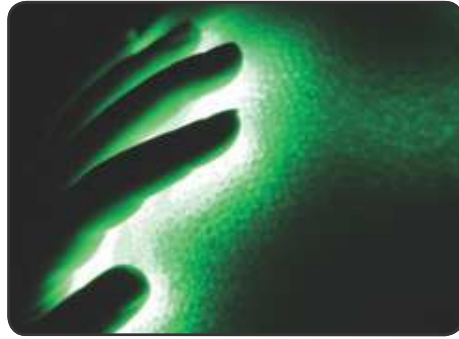


PHOTO: MORGUEFILE.COM

relevance and purpose through events and programs that continue to evolve with the people it serves. The organization now enters its fourth decade with expanding outreach and increasing capacity to provide resources to the LGBTQ community of Western Massachusetts.

This anniversary must not only commemorate past accomplishments, it must exhort us toward the *rights* yet to be gained through *passages* ahead. With the passage of each piece of legislation that provides for our rights and protections, we are further empowered to take the next steps toward equality. Let us appreciate what we've achieved and encourage ourselves toward continued progress in the work before us. We are not celebrating the end of our struggle – we are celebrating who we are becoming *through* our struggle.

NoHo Pride's anniversary is a reminder to look within the contexts of our own lives and see the evidence of thirty years of progress. Some *rites of passage* take place by means of actual ceremony, others occur over the day-to-day course of experience. However we cross thresholds of change, the results are the same – growth beyond perceived limits, and realized potential. We are created with a capacity to transcend limitation and the power to integrate what is gained in the process. By the alchemy of transcendence, we emerge from adversity greater than as we entered it. Every difficulty is a *rite of passage* by which we are transformed!

The Sufi mystic poet, Hafiz, wrote, “*This place where you are right now God circled on a map for you.*” Our journey to equality is not over, but we can celebrate “the place where we are right now.” This anniversary is an occasion to take pride in ourselves – individually and collectively – as we continue mapping the journey through unfolding “*Rights of Passage.*”

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PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER



The Magicians behind the curtain are...

Noho Pride's All Volunteer Board and Planning Committee Members

Bottom seated left to right: Hannah Ward, Ryan DiMartino, Rev. Tinker Donnelly

Seated on couch L-R: J.M. Sorrell, Karen Howery, J.C. Ortiz Calcaño, Corey Scribner

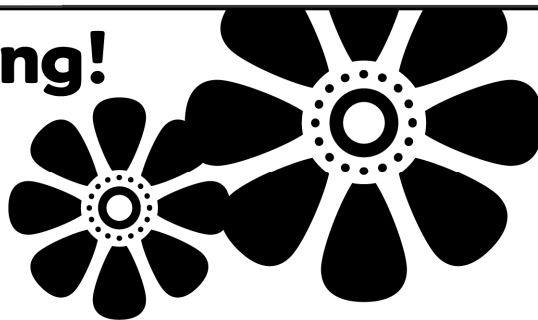
Standing L-R: Leslie Anne Rios, Bear White, Larissa Hopkins, Amy Epstein, Kelli Ashlaw, Melissa Borchardt, Kathy Silva, Cid White, Elizabeth Greco, Cole Dvar, Cat Dvar

Back row standing L-R: Ethan Kramer, Lorelei Erisis.

Missing from photo: Tracy Gamble, Mary Beth Silva, Tammy Twotone, Mary Belge, Eunice Aviles, Myra Quick, Sherri Green and Nick Fowler.

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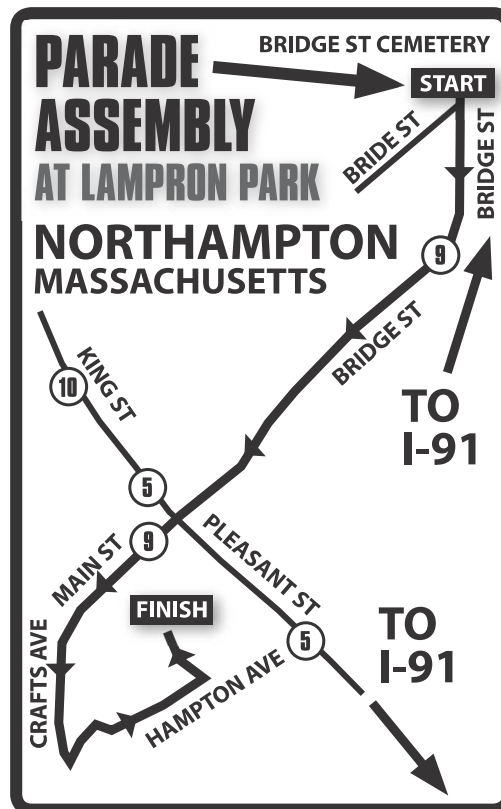
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FROM THE STAGE • SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 12 Noon-12:30 .. Pride March - Begins at Lampron Park**
- 12:45-12:55..... Welcome by M.C. Jim Lauletta**
- 12:55-1:00..... Proclamation by Mayor Higgins**
- 1:00-1:05..... Rev. Tinker Donnelly**
- 1:05-1:20..... Grand Marshals**
- 1:20-1:35..... Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus**
- 1:35-1:55..... The Steamy Bohemians**
- 1:55-2:15..... Robert DeMayo**
- 2:15-2:20..... Russel J. Peotter**
- 2:20-2:35 Andrea Paquin**
- 2:35-3:15..... Calpernia Addams**
- 3:15-3:20..... Robyn Ochs**
- 3:20-3:30 William Urich**
- 3:30-4:10..... God-Des & She**
- 4:10-4:25..... Diva Dolls**
- 4:25-4:50 Carrie Ferguson & the Cherry Street Band**



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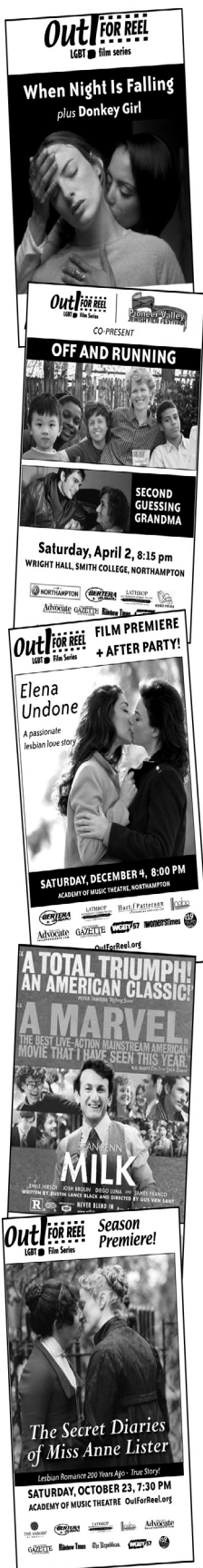
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¹www.hrc.org. Rating is for calendar years 2007-2010. CRN201301-143172

God-Des & She to rock the mic at Noho Pride

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

Ever since appearing on Showtime's hit series, *The L Word*, God-Des & She's talent and their fans insatiable appetite for their music have launched the hip hop duo into star-studded status. Selling over 30,000 albums and holding down the No. 1 spot on MTV LOGO with their song *Love You Better*, God-Des & She will share their love with Northampton, Mass. as they rock the stage at Noho Pride on May 7.

Self-described as driven, eclectic and hilarious, God-Des & She's multifaceted talent is comprised of more than just musical chemistry, they have musical alchemy. God-Des' quick-lipped rapping talent is developed from a family of classical musicians while She is the product of working class heroes, whose powerful, natural talent could not be contained from an early age. As different as their two backgrounds are, God-Des' irreverent rhymes with She's soaring voice, create shimmering, irresistible tracks which captivate crowds all over the world.

The *Rainbow Times* caught up with the international music sensation to bring you this exclusive and intimate interview.

CHRISTINE NICCO: How has your appearance on *The L Word* affected your career?

SHE: The *L word* changed everything. We got to quit our crappy day jobs and do music full time. How's that for change? I always said I was going to be a singer for my job and now I get to be. *The L Word* gave us immense visibility in the LGBT community. It was *amazing*. It has definitely been a roller coaster but I wouldn't change a thing. Well, maybe a couple things (laughs).

CN: What was the most challenging aspect of your life and career when you moved to NYC in 2004 to take them to the next level? Did you ever have doubts about your destiny?

See *God-des & She* on page 14



PHOTO: ALISON NARRO PHOTOGRAPHY

God-Des & She

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God-des & She from page 13

SHE: NYC is no joke. When I moved there from WI I was terrified. It was such a different culture and pace than I was used to. Talk about going out of your comfort zone. It was the most crowded lonely place I have ever experienced. Yet, as they say, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. I'm thankful for the strength and tenacity it gave me. I was buying bodega sandwiches with nickels at one point but somehow made it through. We found a community of people there that helped us through the hard times. Of course there were times that I doubted everything in NYC but I kept pushing. I am so proud of how far we have come as people and musicians. Without the hard times the good wouldn't be so great. Right?

GOD-DES: In Madison, I was a big fish in a small pond, and in NYC, I become a tiny minnow in a huge ocean. That was difficult to adjust to but actually extremely humbling. It made me grow as a human and musician and realize that I still had and have a lot more to learn.

CN: According to your website your new album, Three, confirms your status as an underground act about to hit the mainstream. What do you attribute to your widespread success?

SHE: I attribute our success to our drive, talent and love of our fans. We truly love our fans. At every show and every pride we stay and take pictures and sign autographs for every single person that wants one. It means a lot to us to have our fans support us for so long. We are just real. People seem to really appreciate that.

CN: Let's talk about bullying. What do you say to kids who are experiencing anti-LGBT bullying? Were you ever bullied? If so, what got you through it?

SHE: Bullying makes my heart break. As a kid I was teased a lot for being overweight. It was such an awful feeling. Kids are so interested in being the same and anything that sets you apart is attacked. People are taught to fear differences instead of embrace them. How boring would our world be if we were all alike? Gross. I want to say to all the beautiful queer kids out there ... Find your family, get some support, you are not alone, we love you. It's so sad that later in your life it's

your uniqueness that you end up celebrating.

GOD-DES: I was certainly teased a lot for being a Tomboy and hanging out with the only African American kid in my school. I can't even say the names I was called. But I tried not to get too discouraged. I knew the kids were ignorant and that I would eventually be out of that horrible place. And look at me now? A lot of them stayed in the small town and aren't doing much with their life. Stay strong.

CN: What would be your advice to young LGBT artists who want to make it as you have in the industry?

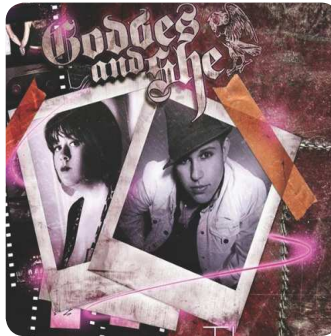
SHE: The one thing I would say to any LGBT artist just starting out is to believe. You have to believe you can make it happen. You have to have a plan and work towards it every day—even if it's only for 30 minutes every day. The other part is that you're going to hear "NO" a lot. Your belief has to be strong enough to get you through the no's. Be humble and real. Smokey Robinson once said "we are all equal in reality; I'm not going to trip on Smokey Robinson. I am William Robinson Jr. I get to live my dream." He has been working for 50 years. I think we should listen to him.

GOD-DES: I agree with She. Belief is by far the most important key, and, NEVER giving up. You also need to realize that you are not the God of music. You can learn something from anyone. Never think your music is too good. Also grow and figure out why you think certain artists are successful. What kinds of similarities do they have? What kinds of songs have worked and what are the key similarities in them? Educate yourself and music and be multi-dimensional.

CN: How has your music evolved since you first embarked on this journey?

SHE: Our music has evolved over time to a crazy unique sound. I can't think of one group that we sound like. I think God-des and I have just brought out the best in each other. The music keeps becoming more melodic on her part and rhythmic on mine. We challenge each other to be the best we can be. If that means saying "dude, that hook sucks", or "homie that verse is

See God-des & She on page 20



God-Des & She's new CD Three



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GRAND MARSHALS • NOHO PRIDE 2011

Kate Clinton

Kate Clinton is a faith-based, tax-paying, America-loving political humorist and family entertainer. With a career spanning almost thirty years, Kate Clinton has worked through economic booms and busts, Disneyfication and Walmartization, gay movements and gay markets, lesbian chic and queer eyes, and eight presidential inaugurations. She still believes that humor gets us through peacetime, wartime, scoundrel time and economic down times.

In 2011 Kate's THE GLEE PARTY will tour the US and Canada. This year's tour follows previous tours: Lady HAHHA (2010) Yes on K8 (2009), Hilarity Clinton (2008), and Climate Change (2007). In April, 2010 Kate took part in BACK TO BACK, a special performance with Lily Tomlin in New York.

In 2006, Kate Clinton celebrated her 25th Anniversary of performing with a 50-city It's Come To This! tour. A documentary DVD of her hilarious performance is available with extra features along the tour route, of rare interviews, backstage banter, readings from her book, and celebrity cameo appearances.

Website: kateclinton.com



PHOTO: DAVID RODGERS
Kate Clinton

Robyn Ochs

Robyn Ochs marched in her first Northampton Pride Parade sometime in the 1980s. Robyn is the editor of the 42-country anthology, *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World* and the *Bi Women* newsletter. Her writings have been published in numerous bisexual, women's studies, multicultural, and LGBT anthologies. She has taught courses on LGBT history & politics in the US, the politics of sexual orientation, and the experiences of those who transgress the binary categories of gay | straight, masculine | feminine, black | white and/or male | female, and she has spoken at hundreds of colleges, conferences and youth groups in the US and beyond. Robyn served on the Board of MassEquality from 2004-2010. Kate Bornstein has called her "the absolute empress of sexual fluidity."

Website: www.robynochs.com



PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES
Robyn Ochs

See Grand Marshals on page 20

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Jim Lauletta

A favorite act wherever he goes, Jim mixes his cynical, biting, self-deprecating material with some of the most off the wall off the wall and original impressions you'll EVER see. Quoted by the Boston Globe as "...off-beat and original." Not only is Jim one of the most popular headliners in New England, he's a regular performer in Las Vegas and Atlantic City! Jim also has an impressive resume of national television credits which include: HBO's U.S. Comedy Arts Festival's "Best of the Fest", NBC, A&E's "Caroline's Comedy Hour", Comedy Central's "Two Drink Minimum", "Stand-up, Stand-up", "Make Me Laugh", "Comic Re-mix" and "Shorties Watchin' Shorties" and Comcast's "Comedy Spotlight". Without a doubt, Jim's show will leave you wanting more. No two shows are exactly alike but do, however, include his signature closing bits: the insane Roy Schieder as Chief Brody in the film "JAWS" with a surprising twist. Not to mention, the ever popular trip to insanity and homage to a true comedy legend: Don Knotts as BATMAN!! No hugs from his Dad means a great night of entertainment for all! Not a bad trade off, huh?

Website: www.facebook.com/JimLauletta,
www.facebook.com/pages/Comedian-Jim-Lauletta/373552966014?ref=mf



PHOTO: JIM LAULETTA
Jim Lauletta



PHOTO: LAWRENCE MCFARLAND

Pioneer Valley Gay Mens Chorus

Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus

The Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus (PVGMC) has, since the early 1980s, presented a positive image of gay men to the community and provided a warm, accepting environment for gay men to create music. That tradition is rekindled under its current conductor, Lawrence McFarland. The Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus (PVGMC) has, since the early 1980s, presented a positive image of gay men to the community and provided a warm, accepting environment for gay men to create music. That tradition is rekindled under its current conductor, Lawrence McFarland.

Website: pvgmc.org/

Andrea Paquin

Andrea has been performing music since she was 15 years old. She is a self taught musician and has been writing and performing her original music since the beginning of her career. Andrea feels fortunate to have played all over the Northeast sharing many stages with talented musicians including Melissa Ferrick, Chris Pureka, Zoe Lewis, Edie Carey, Anne Heaton, Howie Day and Blessed Union of Souls. In addition to her passion for music, Andrea also has a passion for serving others. Andrea has also dedicated most of her life to working with and for people with developmental disabilities. Andrea manages a group home for a nonprofit agency in Connecticut. She is proud to assist in the ongoing education and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities. Andrea volunteers much of her time performing at benefit concerts that help raise awareness about people with developmental disabilities. Volunteering is very important to Andrea and she continues to donate her time as often as she can. Andrea enjoys using her musical gifts in an effort to help others.

Website[s]: www.andreapaquin.com,
www.facebook.com/andreapaquin,
www.sonicbids.com/andreapaquin



PHOTO: CEASER PHOTOGRAPHY
Andrea Paquin

The Reverend Tinker Donnelly

The Reverend Tinker Donnelly is an "Omni-faith" minister, honoring the traditions and practices of all religions. She is licensed by the International Centers for Spiritual Living as their premier ministry in Massachusetts, and is the Founder and Director of HeartWorks outreach and QueerSpirit. She has demonstrated a strong and compassionate consciousness. Her outreach work has touched hundreds of hearts, helping people to realize their inner power & potential. For information contact: revtinker@heartworks.org.

Website: www.heartworks.org



PHOTO: REV. DONNELLY
Reverend Tinker Donnelly

Robyn Ochs

In addition to speaking at this year's Pride, Robyn is also proudly serving as one our 2011 Grand Marshals. You can read her bio and contact info in her Grand Marshal listing on page 15.



PHOTO: MARILYN HUMPHRIES
Robyn Ochs

PERFORMERS • NOHO PRIDE 2011

The Steamy Bohemians

Sexy smart purveyors of edgy irreverent comedy and hooky smart pop - releasing their hotly awaited debut album entitled "Technicolor Radio." Their ongoing live variety show "Jerkus Circus" is happening in Boston, MA and Worcester, MA and everyone wants a strand from the unicorn's tail.



PHOTO: RON NORDIN

The Steamy Bohemians

With comparisons to Tenacious D, The Smothers Brothers, Schoolhouse Rock, 70's Saturday Night Live, and the Muppets (burlesque Muppets, that is), it's no wonder The Steamy Bohemians are making people urinate themselves with laughter. The Steamy Bohemians - Niki Luparelli (brilliant riotous comedian, skilled coloratura soprano, percussionist) and Lainey Schulbaum (multi-instrumentalist, sharp acerbic comedian, full soprano) - are a libertine, femme-comedy, art-pop duo act. Part of their act is bawdy, artful chaos humor set to original and infectious pop-style music. The other part is comic banter, a mix of ad-libbing, with roots in the traditional stand-up comedy duo acts of classic (i.e. Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello, Martin and Lewis) and upgrowth into modern irreverent spontaneity.

Website: www.steamybohemians.com,
www.myspace.com/thesteamybohemians

Robert DeMayo

Robert DeMayo, an actor, educator, and ASL consultant, is a Connecticut native. He currently resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Robert happily travels across the country acting, educating, and consulting in both theatre and film projects. Robert wrote and nationally performs a One-Man-Show entitled, Me Hear None. Me Hear None covers a variety of topics including: Growing up in a Deaf Residential School, Family Interactions, and Daily Life as a Deaf Adult (including a hilarious commentary on Videophone and Pager usage). His talents include: Clown/Pantomime, Finger Mime, ASL Storytelling for Children, Sign Dancing to popular songs from the '70's to today, Audience Interactive Non-Verbal Body Movement including a wild and hilarious roller-coaster ride. He is excited to bring his talent to your community.

Website: <http://robertwhere.com/>,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTYfSVnKfak>



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER VOELKER

Robert Demayo

Calpernia Addams

Calpernia Addams is an actress, musician, author and activist, also known for her work in and for the transsexual community through Deep Stealth Productions. Deep Stealth produces entertainment and educational material promoting understanding and growth centering on the trans community. Recently she performed alongside Jane Fonda in the 10th anniversary production of "The Vagina Monologues" at the New Orleans Super Dome to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Calpernia starred in MTV/Logo's "Transamerican Love Story," a show examining dating and romance for trans people. Her memoir, Mark 947, details her Southern childhood and service as a field medical combat specialist with the Navy and Marines in Saudi Arabia during the first Gulf War.

Website[s]: calpernia.com, [facebook.com/calperniaaddams](https://www.facebook.com/calperniaaddams),
twitter.com/calpernia

Video[s]: [youtube.com/calperniaaddams](https://www.youtube.com/calperniaaddams),
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEhcAQqS82o



PHOTO: KRISTA BENSON

Calpernia Addams

God-Des & She

A hip-hop/pop/soul duo bred in the Midwest, God-Des & She now play to packed venues all over the world from New York to Sweden. God-Des & She's energy and talent have caught the attention of industry and listeners alike, ever since they appeared on Showtime's hit series "The L Word." The pair haven't had a moment's rest since selling more than 30,000 albums, holding down the No. 1 spot on MTV LOGO with their song "Love You Better," performing with and hip hop icons Salt N' Pepa and signing autograph after autograph for eager fans. New album, produced by Brian Hardgroove of Public Enemy (Wu Tang Clan, Burning Spear, Aerosmith), confirms their status as an underground act about to hit the mainstream.

Their latest album "Three" is a genre-straddling tour-de-force, which frustrates categories and simple descriptions. It fills a massive void, missing in current popular music. She's breathtaking alto crackles and burns throughout, leaving you with goose bumps. God-Des's lyrics turn language into a playground for her to do wild somersaults in. "They are easily as good as the best that hip hop has to offer," Hardgroove says of the duo, "and far more interesting."

Website[s]: www.god-desandshe.com,
twitter.com/goddesandshe



PHOTO: ALISON NARRO

God-des & She

See Performers on page 18

PERFORMERS • NOHO PRIDE 2011

Performers from page 17

William Urich

William Urich has been involved in Human Rights and GLBTI Pride activism in the US and abroad for many years. In addition to his work with Connecticut Pride Hartford Rally and Festival, Inc., he is Vice President of Operations for InterPride, the International Association of GLBTI Pride Coordinators. He has also chaired the InterPride Committee on International GLBTI Human and Civil Rights since 2002, maintaining a focus on educating peers and the general public on the plight of Queer people throughout the global theater. He has participated in and facilitated at numerous Human Rights conferences and Pride events around the world and actively advocates for increased education on Human Rights and Equality issues.

Mr. Urich has been in the Human Services and Behavioral Sciences field for 22 years. He works in intensive clinical psychiatric case management providing counseling and services to adults and children who have prolonged mental illness and co-occurring disorders.



PHOTO: WILLIAM URICH
William Urich

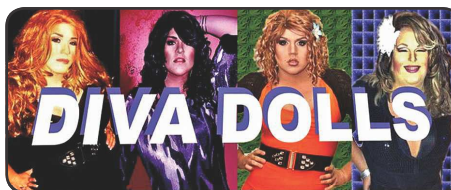


PHOTO: MICHAEL AVIGLIANO

Diva Dolls

Diva Dolls

Almost three years ago, after many different drag shows at Divas Nightclub... the idea of a new night DRAG-IT-OUT WEDNESDAY night with a set cast of "queens" was born! Once the spark ignited, nothing could stop it. The next month the first night and cast (Jenayah, Lexi Deville, Cuntessa Yolanda Velvet, Stranje, and hostess Bianca DuBois) launched the event. Each night comes full of dancing, lip-syncing, scandalous fashion, big hair, and some "fishy" make up. Each month brings a different theme ranging from Mariah to Christina, from Britney to Janet; a great show and performance is always given. The Diva Dolls are not just a cast, but a family, creating an amazing time. Come check out the "Dolls" and they guarantee to serve it to you.

Website: divasofnoho.com

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Carrie Ferguson & the Cherry Street Band

Hailing from Western MA, Carrie Ferguson and the Cherry Street Band use a shifting pallet of organ, piano, violin, mandolin, acoustic guitar, bass, drums, percussion and voices to create soaring, high-energy folk pop with haunting melodies, exquisite harmonies, and smart, beautiful lyrics. Their live shows are jubilant affairs, full of humor and warmth, featuring original songs ranging from ambient ballads to rootsy, country-tinged folk and straight up rock. Carrie recently celebrated the release of her debut record, *Riding On The Back Of The Wind*, with a sold-out show at the Iron Horse Music Club in Northampton. She and her band have opened for Antje Duvekot, The Mammals, Tin Hat Trio, The Lonesome Brothers, and Seth Glier.



PHOTO: KENDRA ROSENBLATT
Carrie Ferguson

Website: www.carriefergusonmusic.com

Russell J. Peotter

Russell J. Peotter is Vice President of the WGBH Educational Foundation and General Manager for WGBY, Springfield; Public Television for Western New England and has been in the position since July 2001. Previously, he was Vice President for Marketing and Development at Maine Public Broadcasting where he had overall responsibility for fund-raising and promotion for public TV and radio, prior to that he served as Production and Promotion manager for almost fifteen years, during which he received a New England Emmy the ELMO AWARD from Sesame Workshop. He was named PBS Communications Professional of the Year in 1999 and PBS Development Professional of the Year in 2003.



PHOTO: COURTESY WGBY
Russell J. Peotter

Website: <http://www.wgby.org/>

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God-des & She from page 14

weak towards the end,' that's what we do. We push each other to always be learning and growing. No true musician is ever done evolving. Ever.

GOD-DES: I am starting to make a lot of our beats. It gives us far more flexibility and adds even more creativity. It's really awesome to have an idea in my head and be able to go to my keyboard and paint my canvas I had visualized in my mind.

CN: What is the hardest lesson you've ever learned? How has it helped you grow?

SHE: The hardest lesson was not to fixate on the intended end result of our journey and be in the moment and be present for the ride. We are lucky enough to already be living our dream. Why be sad about what you don't have yet when what you do have is way awesome? I think it has really helped us grow to be humble and grateful for what we do have. However, don't get it twisted, we are driven business women who will never give up our quest to be the first openly queer group to win a Grammy. I'm a Libra girl, there has to be a balance.

GOD-DES: And, I am a Pisces and sensitive to the world and its inequalities. It is so important to me to open people's minds to hatred, discrimination, love and inspiration.

CN: What is your most memorable performance? Why?

SHE: There are a few performances I remember with great fondness. It's always the firsts, you know? The first time we played Michigan Women Fest. I remember waking up to hear the Indigo Girls sound check and I felt such a sense of, "wow I made it." I am a peer of the Indigo Girls! No self-respecting queer doesn't know every word to *Closer to Fine*! [During] the time we opened up for Vixen at the Whisky A GoGo, God-des wore a blond wig for a song we do called "Give 'em what they want." When she ripped that wig off and said, F**k your image and F**k this hair—the crowd went nuts! When we were singing "Lick It" in front of the White House while Bush was still in office ... amazing. Playing San Francisco Pride last summer, standing on stage while the Back Street Boys were playing and then rocking over a hundred thousand queers. I could go on and on.

CN: You are going to be performing at Noho Pride on May 7th. What can attendees expect from your performance?

SHE: We are indeed rocking NOHO pride this year! People can expect to feel inspired and be blown away by our energy and love! Not to mention our kick a** songs (smiles).

God-Des & She will perform at Noho Pride on May 7 in downtown Northampton, Mass. For more information or to purchase any of their albums, please visit, www.god-desandshe.com.

Grand Marshals from page 15

Jack Hornor

Jack Hornor is a longtime LGBT activist and volunteer. Jack was a founding board member of MassEquality, where he continues to represent Western Massachusetts. He has served on the boards or steering committees of many local LGBT organizations, including the Valley Gay Alliance, Venture Out, the Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus, and the Western Mass LGBT Political Alliance. Jack has also been active in Northampton's civic life, where he has served on the Northampton Housing Partnership, State Hospital Citizens Advisory Committee, and Community Preservation Committee. A former English teacher, partner in a real estate company, and fundraising executive and consultant, Jack is married to Ron Skinn.



PHOTO: RON SKINN

Jack Hornor

Email: Jack@JackHornor.com

Gunner Scott

Gunner Scott, Executive Director of The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, is a nationally recognized activist, educator, and community organizer on Transgender Rights, LGBT health issues, and LGBT partner abuse. He has written articles for What's Up magazine, Sojourner Women's Forum, and "Agitate and Activate," the introduction to *Pinned Down by Pronouns*, a 2003 Lambda Literary nominee anthology published by Conviction Books. He is on the Board of Directors for the Equality Federation, on the National Board of Advisors for the National Center for Transgender Equality, a Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission for GLBT youth, and a founding steering committee member of the Transgender Advocacy Network, a national coalition of state-level transgender political groups. He holds a BA in Liberal Arts from Goddard College, where he completed an oral history project titled "Boston Area Transgender Community Leaders and the ENDA Crisis." He has been advocating for the Transgender Equal Rights Bill in Massachusetts since 2007 and for a transgender inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) on the Federal level since 2001.



PHOTO: TRT ARCHIVES

Gunner Scott

Website: gunnerscott.blogspot.com

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A BIT OF LGBT HISTORY: Did you *(really)* know that...?

- **There is a Gay Pride Application** from iTunes that tests your knowledge of Gay Pride, gay issues, etc.?
- **Lavender Rhinoceros**, as a symbol for the lesbian community, first appeared on posters for Boston subways in 1973 because rhinoceros are animals of docile nature until challenged, when they can become vicious?
- **The Rainbow Flag** was first used as a symbol of Gay Pride in 1978?
- **Trans people** were most involved in the Stonewall Riots which spawned the gay rights movement?
- **The first state** to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation was Wisconsin?
- **The Rainbow flag colors** reflect the diversity of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community and it originated from California?
- **The first dismissal** of an American gay soldier from the armed forces for being gay was in 1778?
- **Illinois was the first state** to decriminalize "homosexual acts?"
- **In 1973, the American Psychological Association (APA)** removed the definition of homosexuality as a "mental disorder?"
- **The Pink Triangle symbol** of gay pride originated in Nazi concentration camps?
- **The Greek word "Lambda"** was first used it in the 1970s by the New York City Gay Activists' Alliance, and it is now use by Lambda Legal Defense Fund?
- **Purple, pink and blue** are the most used colors of the bisexual community, which comprise the colors of the Bisexual flag too?

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Gay Penguins are Awesome!

By: Eva M. Watson

My three and a half year old daughter received a book for Christmas from our friends named "And Tango Makes Three." The true story tells of two zoo penguins that paired up, prepared a nest together, nurtured a penguin egg given to them, and became eager parents to a long-awaited chick. It's a wonderful children's book about unconventionality and the unlikely union of two male penguins.

My first thought was, "How could I have missed this in the library?" My second thought was, "Why don't we have more books like this in our house? Hooray for gay penguins!"

I wished some of my less-than-tolerant neighbors would have dropped by unannounced that evening; they could have seen the deplorable children's literature on our rug bound by the evils of homosexual propaganda. "See, George? I told you they were like that."

Homophobics are silly. At times, they made me giggle, and some of them have even made me cookies.

The night our friends read the story to our daughter I felt deep admiration for their ideals – a heterosexual, married couple, planning on conceiving sometime next year, who believes



PHOTO: MORGUEFILE.COM

basic rights and familial unity applies to everyone; a belief my husband and I share as well. The importance of our friends purchasing this book for our daughter was not only a necessity for her social growth and self-evolution, but a glimpse of what she will encounter as she grows up.

Our kind is everywhere. We may even take over the world.

Now, I didn't expect our little one to have burning questions after the book was read. In fact, I was really impressed she took the time to sit down with us 'poo-poo head' grown-ups for a few minutes. She commented how cute the penguins were, flipped through the book again, thanked our friends for her present, then went on her merry way; spastically running arm-flailing circles around the dining room table with a glob of beige, mystery paste oozing out of the corner of her mouth, and shouting, "Silly juicy! Silly juicy!"

As Syd's mom, my duties include everything that

See Gay Penguins on page 24

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Gay Penguins from page 23

all parents do anyway; wipe the tears away, read the same bedtime story five times over, and trying to figure out what the hell a 'silly juicy' is. The basics will always be covered; and that includes the basics of human understanding.

It's so very easy to turn away from the uncomfortable issues; to nod our heads in false agreement and tell ourselves, "Well, that issue really doesn't concern me. It doesn't have anything to do with my kid, either." I've done that. I still do with some things, but after I had Syd, I owed it to her to give her every opportunity in her life so she may see what her world is and what it could be.

And what could it be? Perhaps it could be a sunny, happy place full of gay and lesbian parents that don't give a \$hit what others think anyway. Wait. Oh, that's our world now-cool!

My husband and I don't expect Syd to be the ultimate humanist; we do expect to expose Sydney to life around her with the hope she will embrace the diversity and views of others as she grows and matures. We expect her to ask questions; to seek and understand others' opinions on politics, race, religion, as well as human sexuality. She doesn't have to accept anything that won't ring true for her. If she calls out bull\$hit to anything it's up to her to find out why.

To simply tolerate the plethora of opposing philosophies out there would be the easy way out for Syd; and quite boring for her. Tolerance doesn't include open dialogue— it's a stagnant behavior. My husband and I don't wish that for our daughter.

We only wish for her mind to be open ... and stay that way.

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Promises not so empty after all

By: Nicole Lashomb*/TRT Editor-in-Chief

We've all heard it. President Obama is not living up to his promises he made to the LGBT community. I beg to differ. Not only has this President's administration done more for the LGBT community than any other President's in the history of this nation, he is unwavering in his support of it, regardless of how "vocal" he is.

Since his inception, President Obama has repealed the discriminatory ban on gays to serve openly in the military (DADT), he has extended hospital visitation rights to same-sex couples regardless of their marital status, he has granted federal employment benefits to same-sex coupled government employees and most recently, has declared Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional as it describes marriage as only between one man and one woman – not a bad track record for someone sworn in just over 2 years ago.

I get it. I am just as eager as the next person who is waiting for their day to wipe away the face of bigotry from the nation, our nation. I am waiting for the day that my wife and I can travel throughout the United States without the fear of being without our health care proxy and power of attorney; when we can adopt a child without worrying about the legalities surrounding it, regardless of where we live –when we can

live completely free. But, politics is a game after all. If Obama had waived his rainbow flag mighty and high on Capitol Hill, my guess is we wouldn't even have achieved what we have today.

We have to be realistic with how expedient our rights are able to be attained. I am not happy with how treacherous the road is either. It should not be that way. However, like with the failed economy, which was doomed long before President Obama ever took office, the President does not have a magic wand to make it all go away; he doesn't even hold that type of power without the cooperation from Congress and other members of government.

Before casting stones and pointing fingers at our "friend" in the White House, we have to remember that we are indeed breaking through the chains that have entrapped our community for decades, even if that means one link at a time.

**Nicole Lashomb is the Editor-in-Chief of The Rainbow Times, holds a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Potsdam, and an MBA from Marylhurst University.*



PHOTO: TRT/GLENN KOETZNER



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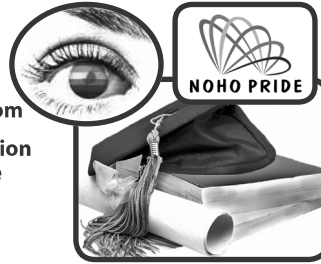
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