

June 2023 Issue 154

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## BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY

Jax Gay Magazine is published every first Friday of the month (12 issues/year).

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## WHO WE ARE

Jax Gay Inc. is a Community Marketing and Events organization incorporating Jax Gay Magazine, Rainbow Events, and Drag Queen Aholic.

Our mission as a 502(c)3 non-profit is to promote North Florida and especially in Jacksonville, as a welcoming LGBTQ+ destination through marketing and events. Jax Gay produces many events a year, including Jax Equality Festival in Jacksonville. Other events include the Rainbow Awards Show, White Party, Big Gay Picnic, Taste of Pride and Red Party. Visit [www.JaxGayMag.com](http://www.JaxGayMag.com) for more information.

Jax Gay Inc. also plans to launch our Jax Event Center & LGBTQ+ Art Gallery in Fall of 2023.

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## OUR AUDIENCE

Jax Gay Magazine is available in more than 150 locations from Pensacola to Jacksonville and reaches an audiences exceeding 300,000 monthly across our print, digital network. We offer comprehensive and cost-effective advertising programs on multiple platforms including:

- Print Magazine
- Web Advertising
- E-mail Marketing
- Event Marketing
- Social Media

# Monthly Group Schedule

1st  
Monday

6 - 7 PM: Anger  
Management Support  
Group in Rm 1

1st  
Tuesday

6 - 8 pm: Resume  
Workshop in Library  
6 - 7 PM: 50+ Social  
Hour in Rm 1

1st  
Saturday

10 - 11 AM: Coffee  
and Conversation  
in Library

2nd  
Monday

6 - 8 PM: Book  
Workshop in Library

2nd  
Tuesday

6:30 - 7:30 PM:  
De Colores LGBT Peer  
Group in Rm 1  
6:30 - 7:30 PM: The Real  
"T" M2F Peer Group in  
Rm 2

2nd  
Saturday

10 - 11 AM: Coffee and  
Conversation in  
Library  
2 - 4 PM: Book Club  
in Library (starts 5/13)

3rd  
Monday

6 - 7 PM: Sexual  
Identity Support  
Group in Rm 1

3rd  
Saturday

10 - 11 AM:  
Coffee and  
Conversation in  
Library



4th  
Monday

6 - 8 PM: Book  
Workshop in  
Library

4th  
Tuesday

6:30 - 7:30 PM: The  
Real "T" M2F Peer  
Group in Rm 1

4th  
Saturday

10 - 11 AM:  
Coffee and  
Conversation in  
Library

All events are welcoming, supportive, and safe environments that center the lived experiences of self-identifying lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual adults.

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# Cover

Florida Can Show The World That Love Conquers All During Pride Month In June

By Robert Kesten



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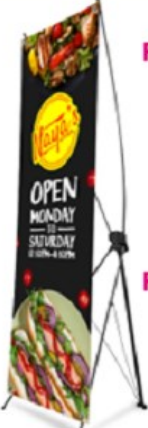
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# News & Politics

## Gay Congressman David Cicilline On 12 Years Fighting For LGBTQ Rights In The House

By Rep. David Cicilline



As I look back on the last 12 years representing Rhode Island in the House of Representatives, and my collective 30 years in public office, the LGBTQI+ community has a lot to be proud of.

When I was first elected to the House in 2011, I was one of only four openly LGBTQI+ members — three of whom were men — and there was not a single openly LGBTQI+ Senator.

Since then, we've more than tripled the number of openly LGBTQI+ members of Congress. More than one-third of currently out federal elected officials are women, nearly one-third are now people of color, and two are senators.

With this strength in numbers, we've been able to make incredible strides in our fight for equality.

In 2015, I authored the Equality Act, legislation that will explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics in employment, housing, and public accommodations, and other key areas of life. Thanks to the support and leadership of

LGBTQI+ members and key allies like Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and the late Rep. John Lewis, this transformative bill passed the House twice with bipartisan votes.

Last Congress, I was honored to serve as Chair of the Congressional Equality Caucus and proud to work with my colleagues, including House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler, to make history as we passed the Respect for Marriage Act into law — the first major piece of LGBTQI+ legislation to be signed by the President of the United States since the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." We finally repealed the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act and enshrined critical federal legal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages into law.

Last Congress, we were also able to pass my Global Respect Act out of the House with bipartisan support. This legislation would make clear that the United States will not abide by human rights abuses against the LGBTQI+ community abroad by denying visas to those who commit these abuses. The Caucus was also proud to support House passage of the LGBTQI+ Data

Inclusion Act, which would ensure that the federal government collects data on the experiences of LGBTQI+ people to better inform our policy priorities and implementation.

As we have worked to protect and expand LGBTQI+ equality here at home, I have remained committed to protecting our community around the world, leading efforts to increase LGBTQI-related funding at USAID and the State Department. As we continue to witness attacks on the LGBTQI+ community, this funding will be crucial in ensuring their wellbeing and ensuring that human rights are protected.

During my time as Chair of the Equality Caucus, President Joe Biden convened the first meeting between a sitting U.S. President and Equality Caucus leadership — illustrating his dedication to advancing LGBTQI+ equality. As I leave the House of Representatives, I know that my Democratic colleagues, and my colleagues in the Equality Caucus, in partnership with President Biden, will continue to do the important work of protecting the most vulnerable in our nation.



As we enter Pride Month and celebrate not only our vibrant community but also the many wins we have had for LGBTQI+ equality, we inspire hope for the future. As anti-equality extremists continue to increase these hateful attacks on the community, especially transgender and gender non-conforming people, it is more important than ever that we enshrine LGBTQI+ equality into law.

Attacks from state legislatures and anti-LGBTQI+ extremists are at an all-time high. They are attacking access to medically necessary care for transgender people, especially transgender youth.

They are banning books and attacking the right to even discuss and uplift LGBTQI+ families, stories, and kids in our schools. Anti-equality extremists are even advancing legislation that would forcibly out LGBTQI+ kids to their parents, even if it puts those kids in harm's way.

Anti-equality politicians — who have never done anything to

advance gender equity in sports — are even attacking trans kids who simply want to participate on sports teams with their friends. All kids, including transgender kids, should have the opportunity to learn sportsmanship, challenge themselves, and join a community that affirms who they are and provides a safe space for them to grow.

The House of Representatives has already considered two anti-LGBTQI+ bills on the House floor in the past few months. I was disgusted to see both pass the House, but grateful that all of my Democratic colleagues not only voted against, but many also spoke out vocally against these bills. Although my time in the House is coming to an end, I know my colleagues will continue to vocally oppose these attacks on our community.

But, we can't win this fight alone. This Pride, let us all recommit as a society to fighting back against these attacks and advocating for equal rights in the U.S. and

around the world.

LGBTQI+ youth are counting on us. Their lives are on the line with so much hate directly targeting them and their families.

Let's remember that Pride started as a riot — a deafening call for equality and a brutal fight against injustice. We need to harness that strength and power as we speak out now in support of the most vulnerable among us.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to represent the people of Rhode Island's First District in the House of the Representatives, and I am proud to have also been a voice for LGBTQI+ people across the country. While my role will change in the months ahead, my commitment to equality will never waiver. I hope you will continue to join me in the fight.

*U.S. Democratic Rep. David Cicilline represents Rhode Island and has been chair and co-chair of the Equality Caucus. His last day in Congress is May 31, 2023.*

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# OUT & HEALTH

## Trailblazing Trans Teen Model Zaya Wade Proves The Power Of Supportive Parenting

By Matt Bennett



Zaya Wade is fast becoming a well-known name around the world thanks to her striking looks, openness about her trans identity and flourishing modelling career, which included a runway debut at Paris Fashion Week in March 2023.

The teenage rising star is the daughter of former NBA player Dwyane Wade and Siohvaughn Funches-Wade. She is also the step-daughter of actress Gabrielle Union, who married Wade in 2014.

Despite her tender age, Zaya has already amassed more than 658,000 thousands followers on Instagram, where she often shares images of her modelling work.

Zaya's trans journey has sadly led to conflict between her father and birth mother, with Funches-Wade attempting – and subsequently failing – to legally block Zaya's legal name and gender change in 2022.

### Who are her famous parents?

Zaya was born on 29 May 2007. Her parents are former US pro basketball player Dwyane Wade and

businesswoman Siohvaughn Funches-Wade.

Dwyane, 41, spent his 16-year sporting career playing for NBA team The Miami Heat, with whom he won three NBA championships.

According to People, Dwyane met Siohvaughn when he was nine, and the pair married in 2022. The couple had two children together, Zaire and Zaya.

Dwyane met Siohvaughn divorced in 2007 after five years of marriage and Wade eventually received full custody of their kids in 2011.

Siohvaughn, also 41, has penned two books: *The True Story for God's Glory: The Life of Siohvaughn L. Funches-Wade* and *You Gotta Let God Finish!*

In 2014, Wade married Gabrielle Union, who is best known for her roles in 90s and 00s teen films *She's All That*, *10 Things I Hate About You* and *Bring It On*.

### When did Zaya come out as trans?

Dwyane Wade announced publicly that Zaya had come out as trans in 2020 during an interview with Ellen

DeGeneres, where he revealed how his daughter had come out to him and Union.

Dwyane recalled how a then-12-year-old Zaya came home and told her parents “Hey, so I want to talk to you guys. I think going forward, I'm ready to live my truth and I want to be referenced as ‘she’ and ‘her’ and I would love for you guys to call me Zaya.”

Dwyane explained that he told Zaya that the family had an “opportunity to allow you to be a voice”, and that while researching how best to support her stepdaughter, his wife Gabrielle Union reached out to the cast of trans-centric TV series *Pose* for advice.

### Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union have been vocal supporters of their trans child

Dwyane Wade and Gabrielle Union have done everything in their power to support Zaya through her transition. However, Zaya's transition has led to some legal conflict with her mother Siohvaughn.

In 2022, Dwyane stepped up a legal battle to protect his trans daughter from his ex-wife, who reportedly wanted to block her legal name and gender

change.

Both Dwyane and Gabrielle said during a heartfelt interview on the Met Gala red carpet that they trust and support Zaya to know herself.

Despite Siohvaughn's opposition, in 2023 Zaya's name and gender change were legally recognised.

Dwyane has been vocal about conflict with his ex-wife and has hit back at her accusations that he is "pressuring" their daughter for financial gain.

In February 2023, Gabrielle and Dwyane accepted the President's Award at the 54th annual NAACP ceremony, which was awarded to the pair because of their unwavering

support for Zaya.

In an acceptance speech dedicated to Zaya, Dwyane declared: "As your father, my job isn't to create a version of myself or direct your future, my role is to be a facilitator to your hopes, your wishes, and your dreams."

### **Zaya is making waves as a trans model in the fashion industry**

At just 15 years old, Zaya has already made waves in the fashion world, and in 2022 she secured a campaign with the prestigious jewellery brand Tiffany & Co., which saw Zaya elegantly posed with a gold Tiffany bracelet.

Zaya made her runway debut

in March 2023, walking in Miu Miu's womenswear fall/winter 2023 to 2024 show.

Zaya posted a carousel of content from the show on Instagram, including a video of her being embraced by her supportive dad, Dwyane.

Dwyane commented on the post: "To witness your grace is something @zayawade lam Proud of you."

The proud father also posted an overview of the show on his Instagram account, captioned "she's arrived".

Alongside modelling, Zaya is also making a name for herself and an activist and advocate for trans rights.

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## Sam Smith & Madonna Team Up To Release 'Vulgar' Single During Pride

By Gloria Davis



After being forced to end his tour early due to a vocal cord injury, Sam Smith is jumping back into the limelight by teaming up with legendary pop icon Madonna.

Smith and Madonna have collaborated on a new single that's set to be released during Pride Month!

Their brand new single is called "Vulgar" and will be released on June 9. But beyond the name and release date we know very little about the new track.

The pop duo has been very cryptic about the collaboration, but today we got our first real taste of what the vibe of the song might be. On May 31

Madonna released artwork for the track across her social media. It features the image of two tightly cinched black and white corsets with S&M emblazoned across (in a cheeky play on their initials).

Madonna captioned the image, "VULGAR.....new song out Friday June 9th @samsmith."

Smith first teased the new single at their "Gloria the Tour" show in Manchester, England, where the singer told fans they had a "surprise." Sadly because the performance was cut short when they got a vocal cord injury the audience never got a taste of the new song.

On May 24 Smith continued to

tease fans by posting a gif on social media of a black box that flashes "Sam" and "Madonna" while you hear the pair groaning their own names.

On top of the release of a hot new single, Madonna is gearing up for her Celebration Tour which will see the "Like a Prayer" singer globe trotting as she looks back on four decades of hit songs. And in case that wasn't enough to get you to snap up tickets, RuPaul's Drag Race season 8 winner Bob the Drag Queen will be a special guest on the tour.

We can't wait to get our greedy hands on the "Vulgar" single — all the best things happen during Pride Month!

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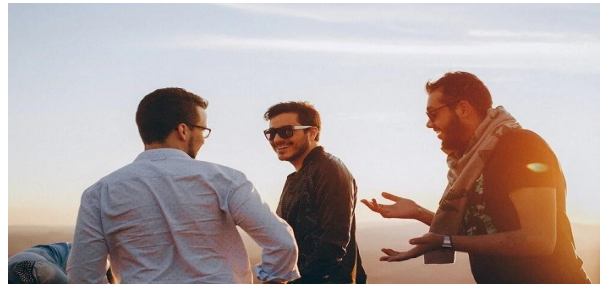
PrEP (HIV  
Prevention)



# OUT & HEALTH

## Despite Racial Inequity, U.S. Sees Drop In HIV Infections

By Michael Bryson



According to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, new HIV infections in the United States showed a promising decline of 12 from 2017 to 2021. Notably, the decrease was largely driven by a significant 34 percent decline in infections among 13- to 24-year-olds, particularly among gay and bisexual males.

Among young gay and bisexual males, who account for about 80 percent of new infections in this age group, annual HIV infections decreased from 9,300 in 2017 to 6,100 in 2021. This positive trend highlights the impact of improved HIV prevention efforts, including increased accessibility to HIV testing, treatment, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among this vulnerable population.

CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky emphasized the progress made but stressed the need for accelerated and strengthened efforts to ensure equitable access to HIV prevention and treatment services. “Longstanding factors, such as systemic inequities, social and economic marginalization and residential segregation, however, stand 18 [www.JaxGayMag.com](http://www.JaxGayMag.com)

between highly effective HIV treatment and prevention and people who could benefit from them,” she said. “Efforts must be accelerated and strengthened for progress to reach all groups faster and equitably.”

The decline in new HIV infections, however, was not evenly distributed across all racial and ethnic groups. The decrease was comparatively lower among young Black/ African American and Hispanic/ Latino gay and bisexual males, indicating persistent disparities in HIV prevention and treatment. These disparities reflect broader societal inequalities that impede progress in addressing the HIV epidemic.

While the CDC report highlighted an increase in the number of people prescribed PrEP for HIV prevention, reaching approximately 30 percent of the 1.2 million individuals who could benefit from it in 2021, disparities in prescription rates were observed among racial and ethnic groups. A relatively low proportion of Black and Hispanic/Latino individuals who could benefit from PrEP received prescriptions compared to their white

counterparts.

The CDC data also revealed that the majority of new HIV infections in 2021 occurred among gay and bisexual men, with more than half of the infections among women affecting Black women. These statistics emphasize the ongoing need for comprehensive prevention strategies that reach all communities at risk.

To achieve the goal of ending the HIV epidemic in the United States, the CDC calls for increased investments in proven HIV prevention programs, expansion of HIV self-testing, and the incorporation of HIV services into various health care settings and emphasizes the importance of centering equity in all aspects of HIV prevention and treatment to ensure that interventions effectively reach those disproportionately affected by the virus.

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# Life and Style

**The Gender-Affirming Style Coach Spreading Trans Joy – One Empowering Look At A Time**  
*By Donald Jenkins*



As a style coach with more than 20 years experience working with the LGBTQ+ community, Annaliese Cherry knows a thing or two about crafting an empowering and gender-affirming look that goes further than simply the clothes you wear.

“A lot of my clients are women [who] are transitioning later. So they’ve been thinking about it a lot and they don’t know how to translate it,” said Cherry.

For Cherry, style is the key word here, rather than fashion, which she feels is what is being “dictated” by brands rather than individuals themselves.

“I don’t promote ‘buy this for this trend’ ever. It’s more, ‘Buy this because it’s practical and you’re gonna look hot, amazing and gender affirmed’.”

The founder and head stylist of AnnalieseStyle, Cherry launched her business – now based in Los Angeles – in San Francisco in the 2000s and began by supporting the gay and lesbian community.

Around 2016, people began asking her for help crafting looks which affirmed their gender – such as presenting as more masculine or finding

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something that expressed their non-binary identity.

Her shift into working more with trans clients happened “organically within the community”, she says and offered her “another next level of how [she] can be of service” to queer folks.

‘They look at themselves in the mirror and see the possibility’

For trans people, the clothes they wear, the way they do their hair and makeup and the accessories they choose are an important way of expressing their authentic self to the world.

While clothes are just a small fraction of the trans experience, the joy felt when an outfit just clicks is undeniable.

The road to that perfect look is not always easy, though. As Forbes has pointed out, gender-affirming lingerie is hard to come by in mainstream shops, while Sartorial Magazine’s Liam Hill has noted how clothing is designed and cut with cis people exclusively in mind.

This means finding clothes that offer a euphoric moment of self-expression can be tricky for those who are transitioning and they may be buying certain

items for the first time.

Orange Is the New Black even touched on the topic in its first season, when a pre-Litchfield Sophia – played by trans icon Laverne Cox – tried on a feminine outfit she bought in front of her wife, Crystal.

The sparkly top, denim skirt and cowboy boots combo made Sophia look like Hannah Montana, Crystal told her. Sophia replied that this is what happens when she “shops for [herself]” because she “never got to be a teenage girl”.

Crystal then said: “And you never will be. You should be dressing like a classy, grown-up lady,” before proceeding to offer her a form-fitting purple dress to try on.

“Holy s\*\*t, I look hot,” Sophia said, seeing herself in the mirror.

Cherry is sometimes only the second person a client has told they are trans and she is “honoured” to be allowed to witness that self-actualisation.

“They’re trusting me so deeply,” she explains. “We meet up and maybe I have got a whole fitting room of clothing for them or we’re meeting at

the salon for the first time.

“There’s that moment of transformation, where they look at themselves in the mirror and they see the possibility, or they see their true selves, and it’s pure joy.

“It’s why I do this work. It feeds my soul.”

Cherry is surprised that more stylists don’t offer similar services to clients in 2023. A lot of people she works with have previously used a salesperson at a department store to help them, but “that can only get you so far”, as a transitioning person might not feel comfortable using a public changing room and the sales staff will not know what they have at home.

“Having somebody who really can guide you is everything,” Cherry says, citing the importance of having stylists out there who are either part of the community or true allies.

Trans people are ‘warriors’

Cherry’s work with and her commitment to the trans and wider LGBTQ+ community, comes amid growing anti-trans sentiment across the United States and wider world.

In recent months, states across America have sought to crack down on the freedoms and rights of trans people, with politicians invoking legislation banning gender-affirming care, toilet access and participation in sports based on people’s gender identity.

The legislation is part of an increasing panic which seeks

to remove trans people from all facets of public life and paint them as criminals and child abusers.

In the wake of this “toxic, frightening and horrifying” situation, Cherry says it is 100 per cent her mission to spread trans joy and support the community in any way she can.

“Now more than ever people need just one person, or a couple of people, in their lives to say: ‘I see you. You’re beautiful. What can I do to help you feel the most authentic?’” she says.

Outside her day job, she also offers styling lessons at LGBTQ+ centres and universities and holds clothing-swap parties for trans people as a means of further supporting the community.

To her, trans people continuing to live their lives in truth and authenticity, despite the onslaught of political, emotional and physical attacks, are warriors.

She explains: “We’re just go about our regular days, having a bad day at work, having to pay our taxes or our car breaks down. But we don’t have to think ‘Oh my God, my hormones are off’, or ‘My surgery got cancelled’ or ‘My whole family has shunned me’.

“They’re next-level humans, next-level warriors of just what it is like to be so aware and having to synthesise their feelings all the time.

“I want to do everything I can to support, empower, uplift and create trans joy.”

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# BUSINESS & TRAVEL

## Bud Light Pledges \$200k To Support LGBTQ+ Business Owners Of Color

By James Warren



Bud Light and the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce announced on Tuesday that they have will expand their existing partnership with Bud Light donating \$200,000 to the chamber's Communities of Color Initiative.

"Bud Light was brewed to be an 'Easy to Drink, Easy to Enjoy' beer for everyone 21+ and that still holds true today," said Anheuser-Busch, Bud Light's parent company, said in a release. "We look forward to extending our work with the NGLCC to continue making a positive impact on the LGBTQ+ businesses that play a critical role in bringing people everywhere, together."

The Communities of Color Initiative support LGBTQ+ business owners from diverse backgrounds through developing certificates, scholarships, and business development opportunities.

The funds will go toward the LGBT Chamber of Commerce's first-ever CoCi Biz Pitch. The competition will allow the winning minority LGBTQ+ business owner to receive \$5,000 and a chance to compete at the LGBT Biz Pitch competition at the chamber's 2023 conference. The winner of that competition will receive \$50,000 in cash and prizes.

"We're honored to continue our partnership with Bud Light in support of LGBTQ+ businesses," said the NGLCC. "We appreciate the brand's ongoing efforts to bolster our Communities of Color Initiative that empowers and supports both minority LGBTQ+ business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as the vital roles they play in communities across the United States."

The NGLCC is the largest

advocacy group working to expand economic opportunities for LGBTQ+ people, the organization said. It is also the group that certifies businesses as LGBT-owned.

Anheuser-Busch's announcement comes weeks after the company was caught up in controversy after conservative commentators attacked the company for a brand partnership with influencer and model Dylan Mulvaney, who is transgender. LGBTQ+ rights groups also called the company out after it seemingly caved to right-wing pressure and released a statement about not wanting to offend anyone.

The Human Rights Campaign earlier this month suspected Anheuser-Busch's perfect Corporate Equality Index score, which measures a company's policies for LGBTQ+ workers.



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## Florida Can Show The World That Love Conquers All During Pride Month In June

By Robert Kesten

I came to Florida to take on the executive director position of Stonewall National Museum, Archives & Library starting on June 1, 2022 — the first day of Pride Month, when the LGBTQIA+ community around the world celebrates the start of a liberation movement that began on the streets of New York City at the Stonewall Inn in June of 1969.

Sitting in Fort Lauderdale in 2022, you could feel separated from the worst of the hate-mongering going on in Florida and elsewhere in the United States. You could tell yourself: Not here.

Then the “Parental Bill of Rights” law went into effect and “Don’t Say Gay” was born. Miami-Dade’s School Board went from a majority in favor of designating October as LGBTQ+ History Month to a majority opposed. The school board in Broward County was replaced by the governor, bookshelves in Florida schools and classrooms were increasingly bare, rainbows became clouds and teachers, administrators and parents were silenced by fear.

As a repository of historical and cultural artifacts and

documents, it fell on us to put this into context. The LGBTQIA+ community is resilient. We might, at first, reject and ignore attacks believing they will pass. Some will be fearful and retreat. But when the pushing starts, we push back.

We have learned from the civil rights movement, the women’s movement, the labor movement and our own fights — against AIDS, for marriage equality and the right to defend our country in the military. We know how to organize. We know how to mobilize. We know how to fight back.

Gays, lesbians, trans, bi, queer, intersexed and others in our community are everywhere, including in the families, churches, offices and neighborhoods of those who fear us the most. We are members of every ethnicity, religion and economic class. We always have been. We are still in Uganda and Nigeria, Iran and Tennessee, places that have made it clear we are not wanted. We will not be moved, and we shall overcome.

When far right activists find that we are their children, they change. When your favorite aunt or uncle comes out of the closet, there is change. I can

think of a number of leading national politicians whose sons and daughters came out and the LGBTQIA+ issue was taken off the table. There is power in love.

This Pride Month we look to turn allies into friends and friends into family. We look at the rainbow flag and remind our fellow citizens that they, too, are part of the rainbow.

The LGBTQIA+ movement is not about liberating some people from oppression; it is about lifting oppression so all people can live as who they are. It is not about converting people or canceling anyone. It is about opening hearts and minds. We should not need a common enemy to work towards the common good. Using religion or tradition as an excuse to attack others for being different is always a dangerous path to take as it exposes you to the same hatred.

*Robert Kesten is executive director of Stonewall National Museum, Archives & Library in Fort Lauderdale.*



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## Raven-Symoné Reveals Why She Made Her Lovers Sign NDAs

By Jennifer Wilson



If you're hoping to hear all the salacious details of Raven-Symoné's love life, too bad, because her partners won't be kissing and telling anytime soon — legally!

The Raven's Home star opened up about her policy of having her romantic partners sign NDAs to keep the details of their romances just between them. "When I started dating, I had to get people to sign NDAs [non-disclosure agreements]," she revealed on the *Howie Mandel Does Stuff* podcast last week.

While initially she had some hesitation about requiring legal paperwork, Raven-Symoné eventually saw the need to do so "It took me a while to wrap my head around it, because it's just very impersonal. But someone in our position needs to do that," she shared.

As for when she expects the docs to be signed on the dotted line? "Before the naughty times come. I'm serious. Like, right, before naughty time comes," she dished, adding that paperwork offers all kinds of surprising protection. "Now,

they have consent forms, to where they're like... 'Are you okay with this? Can I do this? You can do this to me. That's a part of it now.'"

These days, the actor is happily married to her wife Miranda Pearman-Maday, but even she had to sign an NDA back when they were dating, although not right away. Raven-Symoné explained it was her mother pushing her to file the paperwork two months into the relationship that made the actor finally agree. "I was really reluctant," Raven-Symoné said. "Because I knew something was different about Miranda."

Also reluctant to sign was Pearman-Maday, who eventually agreed to for her future wife's sake. "She did it for me because she knew that I was being pushed elsewhere, and she understood. But we both were like, this takes away the genuineness of it all," recalls Raven-Symoné.

And it wasn't the last time that the two would protect themselves legally. When asked about a prenup, the actor said simply, "We have

paperwork in place."

As for her previous relationships, Raven-Symoné talked briefly about her first relationship with a boy, explaining that it began in her early teens and lasted about seven years — she refrained from sharing further details because, you guessed it, there's an NDA in place "We just have a mutual understanding that we just don't talk about it," she said.

As much as we love some dishy deets about our favorite stars, this is honestly so smart.

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# Life and Style

**Trevor Project And Puma Team  
Up To Provide Free LGBTQ+  
Inclusivity Training In Sports**  
*By Ginger Green*



The Trevor Project — the leading suicide prevention organization for LGBTQ+ young people — and sports brand Puma have launched a free digital education program, #REFORMTheLockerRoom, a specialized online training course for coaches, athletic directors, and others who work in youth sports.

The purpose of #REFORMTheLockerRoom is to educate these leaders on best practices to cultivate safe, inclusive, and welcoming sports environments for LGBTQ+ young people both on and off the field. The Trevor Project and Puma initially announced plans to create this training in 2021 as part of their multi-year strategic partnership, focused on supporting the mental health of young LGBTQ+ athletes in sports environments via education, visibility, and awareness.

The curriculum was informed by extensive research and community involvement via roundtable seminars with public educators, sports leaders, and LGBTQ+ peer organizations with the goal of creating a tangible, actionable program to provide youth-serving adults

with LGBTQ+ cultural competency training. It will provide information on such topics as how to use respectful language, promote gender-inclusive spaces, and support equitable policies in sports. The program is available on an ongoing basis and is self-paced, so users can move through it at their own speed.

Officials with the Trevor Project and Puma point out that the project is more timely than ever, with hundreds of anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced across the nation this year alone, many of which seek to ban transgender and nonbinary young people from participating in school sports. According to the Trevor Project's polling, 86 percent of trans and nonbinary youth say recent debates about state laws restricting the rights of trans people have negatively affected their mental health.

Research has also indicated that transgender and nonbinary young people who were more out about their gender identity were less involved in sports than those who were not out. Further, transgender and nonbinary young people reported significantly lower rates of sports participation than their cisgender LGBQ peers. Young

people who identified as transgender (17 percent) were nearly half as likely to report sports participation compared to cisgender LGBQ (27 percent) young people.

A 2021 research brief on youth sports participation found that 68 percent of LGBTQ+ young people reported that they had never participated in sports, with many citing concerns about discrimination and harassment from peers and coaches, fears of how others would react to their LGBTQ+ identity, and policies preventing them from playing on the team that matches their gender identity. However, the Trevor Project's 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People shows that LGBTQ+ youth who had access to affirming homes and schools reported lower rates of attempting suicide in the past year, emphasizing the role that all adults can play in creating safe spaces for these young people.

“Peer communities can be a lifeline for LGBTQ young people, and historically, sports have not been a welcoming or accepting space for LGBTQ young people to participate openly as their authentic

selves,” Nova Bright, head of internal training at the Trevor Project, said in a press release. “While the sports community is making strides in the right direction and influential athletes are opening up about their LGBTQ identities, there is still more work to be done to ensure that LGBTQ young people can feel safe to participate in sports without fear of bullying

or discrimination. Thanks to Puma’s partnership, we’re hopeful that this training will reach coaches and athletic directors across the country and equip them with the tools necessary to foster greater understanding and acceptance.”

“As a leading sports brand, we strive to create and promote a more inclusive environment for the LGBTQ youth that want to

play sports,” added Michelle Marshall, director of diversity, equity, and inclusion at Puma. “We are excited to launch the training course, in partnership with The Trevor Project, that will become a fundamental educational tool for all youth-facing adults in sports.”

Go here to learn more about #REFORMTheLockerRoom.



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## Yvie Oddly Drags 'Drag Race' Producers, Speaks Out On Insider Details

By Ryan Massengill

Her name is Yvie Oddly and she has something to say!

While many of us were at the beach or grilling for Memorial Day Weekend, RuPaul's Drag Race season 11 winner Yvie Oddly was catching up on All Stars season 8. The way we know? Her viewing of the episodes on Paramount+ brought up a few thoughts she wanted to share with her 280,000+ followers and the rest of Twitter.

"Catching up on AS8 and I have two thoughts," she tweeted.

After competing on All Stars season 7, Oddly took to social media to voice a number of issues she had. She described the entire experience as "pretty gruesome from the start" and took issue with production reducing her to "some goofy big-dicked mascot, bravely laughing through my chronic illness, happy to be along for the ride." Suffice it to say, she was displeased with her edit. But now, she's taking the producers to task for their overall handling of the massively successful series.

According to Yvie it's the

queens that make the show. Their creativity keeps us coming back week after week. And it's their personal stories that win our hearts.

"All the things we love: the looks, the catchphrases, the memes, the drama," Oddly writes. "It all comes from the queens." And that can not be denied. While the producers certainly do invaluable work in casting, and even sometimes nudging or positioning the performers, it's really up to the performers to do the things. As RuPaul said in that shady "Blame It On the Edit" track, it's ultimately the competitors saying the things that are only being edited in or out of the final cuts.

But for Yvie, the producers are "often the greediest, most-calculating, capitalist culture thieves."


"They fuck with real people's lives, career opportunities, and health," she wrote of the World of Wonder production team. "They drive themselves home in their luxury cars when their contestants are sleep-deprived, depressed, and DRASTICALLY underpaid for their contributions to the cultural phenomenon."

"Then they tell themselves they're good people for showcasing queer content & creating opportunities for us while ignoring the irreparable damage they cause, and creating a chokehold monopoly on how drag artists can succeed."

Oddly did acknowledge that she was thankful for the series which changed her life. But as she pointed out, the change has been for specified groups — drag kings have never been cast.

"I'm hopeful for a future where queer people have opportunities to flourish outside of a fake competition to make a few rich old gays richer," she wrote.

And then there was the "tea:" After reading production on points they've been criticized for over the years, Oddly opened up about her own experience. "They took over a year to pay me my winnings because they conveniently kept forgetting they owed me 100k," she wrote. Later she followed up on the point writing that Jaida (presumably Jaida Essence Hall who won season 11, one season after Yvie) received her prize money first.



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# News & Politics



## Biden Proclaims June As LGBTQ+ Pride Month, Denounces Oppression

By David Vandygriff

On the last day of May, President Joe Biden issued a proclamation from the White House declaring June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Pride Month. It comes amid a wave of conservative attacks on the LGBTQ+ community.

“During Pride Month, we honor a movement that has grown stronger, more vibrant, and more inclusive with every passing year,” the proclamation read. “Pride is a celebration of generations of LGBTQ+ people who have fought bravely to live openly and authentically. And it is a reminder that we still have generational work to do to ensure that everyone enjoys the full promise of equity, dignity, protection, and freedom.”

Biden referenced the laws Republican-led legislatures have introduced in states nationwide, calling it an “inflection point.”

“In 2023 alone, State and local legislatures have already introduced over 600 hateful laws targeting the LGBTQ+ community.

Books about LGBTQ+ people are being banned from libraries. Transgender youth in over a dozen States have had their medically necessary health care banned. Homophobic and transphobic vitriol spewed online has spilled over into real life, as armed hate groups intimidate people at Pride marches and drag performances and threaten doctors’ offices and children’s hospitals that offer care to the LGBTQ+ community.”

At least 20 states have restricted access to gender-affirming care for minors and, in some states, adults as well. In Florida, the Republican governor and declared 2024 presidential candidate, Ron DeSantis, has initiated an all-out war on LGBTQ+ people with bans on topics in schools, books in libraries, and access to care for young people suffering from gender dysphoria.

Five states alone advanced some form of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation within the last week, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

White House Press Secretary

Karine Jean-Pierre explained to Jax Gay Magazine why the LGBTQ+ community is front of mind for Biden.

“During Pride Month, we celebrate the strength, resilience, and bravery of the LGBTQ+ community and reaffirm our commitment to fighting for equality and freedom for all people,” Jean-Pierre said. “This year alone, more than 600 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been filed in statehouses across the country and a significant portion of these bills target transgender youth.”

She continued, “As President Biden says, these young people are some of the bravest people he knows, but no one should have to be brave just to be themselves. The Biden-Harris Administration is going to continue to speak out and stand up against these attacks and we are going to remain focused on advancing equality for LGBTQ+ people across the country.”



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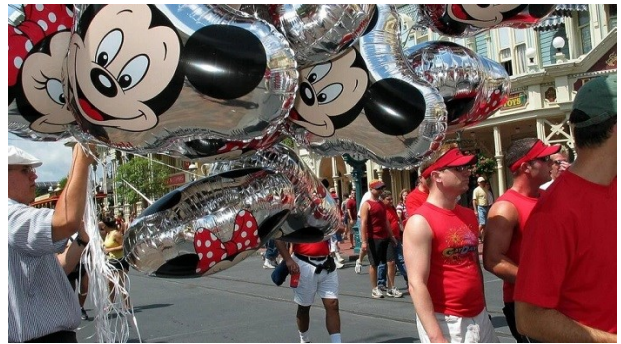
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# BUSINESS & TRAVEL

## Disney Gay Days Orlando Is On — And Some Attendees Are Worried

By Neal Hayes



Hundreds of thousands of LGBTQ+ revelers are expected to descend on Orlando for Disney Gay Days, a four-day schedule of parties and meet-ups not officially sanctioned by the Mouse House.

The timing is precarious, with anti-LGBTQ+ governor (and Republican presidential candidate) Ron DeSantis waging a high-profile war against the behemoth media and entertainment company, mostly because its leadership dared to stand up for LGBTQ+ customers and employees by speaking out against DeSantis's "don't say gay" law. Disney recently slapped DeSantis with a lawsuit, saying he targeted the company for political retribution over its stance on "don't say gay." For

his part, DeSantis has tried to sully Disney's reputation with the larger public by referring to it as a "woke" corporation. DeSantis is pinning his White House hopes on scapegoating transgender people and drag queens, passing laws targeting both communities. The situation for LGBTQ+ people in Florida is so dire that the Human Rights Campaign, Equality Florida, and even the NAACP issued travel warnings for the Sunshine State.

Most of the events of Gay Days begin Thursday, the beginning of Pride Month, with the start of Red Shirt Days, where LGBTQ+ Disney fans wear red to the various Disney theme parks to identify themselves as queer (some Red Shirt Days occur at neighboring amusement parks, like

Florida's Universal Studios and SeaWorld). At the sold-out Gay Days host hotel, the Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld, there are also various pool parties and even drag shows, even though DeSantis signed a bill limiting such performances.

"We continue to be that blue speck in a sea of red, but ultimately laws are laws, and that is the interesting situation we are in," Joseph Clark, the CEO of Gay Days, told Deadline, adding that many have reached out to ask whether it's safe to visit Florida.

A representative from the Orange County sheriff told Deadline that security measures will be in place, including unmarked police officers and vehicles, but declined to offer more details.

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**June 2**

**Jack Pride - Birdie's 5 Points**

www.Facebook.com/JackHappy  
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**June 3**

**Stone Age Pride Prom**

www.JASMYN.org

**June 6**

**Pride Proclamation Reading At City Hall**

Fernandina Beach City Hall  
www.Facebook.com/FernandinaBeachPride

**June 7**

**Adult Coloring Night: Pride Edition**

Alewife Craft Beer Bottle Shop  
www.AleWifeBottleShop.com

**June 7**

**Downtown Art Walk**

Celebrating Pride Drag Show  
Unspoken Treasure Society  
The Corner Gallery 40 E Adams St

**June 8**

**Jumbo Shrimp Pride Night**

121 Financial Park  
www.JaxRCPride.org

**June 9**

**Duval Folx Pride 2023**

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

36 www.JaxGayMag.com

**June 10**

**Rainbow Awards Jax 2023**

WJCT Studios www.RainbowEvents.org

**June 10**

**Rainbow Awards Jax After Party**

Manifest Distilling www.RainbowEvents.org

**June 10**

**Fernandina Beach Parade & Festival**

Central Park, Fernandina Beach  
www.FernandinaBeachPride.com

**June 10**

**Pride Drag Brunch**

Tulua Bistro www.TuluaBistro.com

**June 11**

**Summer Splash 2023**

Eclipse Nightclub T-Dance  
www.Facebook.com/EclipseBarJax

**June 11 & 18**

**The Art of Pride Tour**

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens  
www.CummerMuseum.org

**June 11**

**Paint Nite: Hamburger Beach Chairs**

Hamburger Mary's Jacksonville  
www.PaintNite.com

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**Fernandina Pride Annual Drag Brunch**

Disco Witch Brewing, Yulee  
www.DiscoWitchBrewing.com

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**Rainbow Foodie Dinner & Cocktails**

www.RainbowEvents.org

June 17

**St Augustine Pride Parade**

Downtown St. Augustine

[www.Facebook.com/HouseOfPrism](http://www.Facebook.com/HouseOfPrism)

June 23

**Big Gay Party Volume 3**

Celebrating Gay Pride Month 2023

The Glass Factory [www.TheGlassFactory.com](http://www.TheGlassFactory.com)

June 23

**10th Annual Stonewall Pride Night**

InCahoots Nightclub

[www.InCahootsNightclub.com](http://www.InCahootsNightclub.com)

June 23

**The Magic Mike XXL Show**

Hamburger Mary's Jax

[www.Facebook.com/HamburgerMarysJax](http://www.Facebook.com/HamburgerMarysJax)

June 25

**Big Gay Picnic & T-Dance**

Riverside North [www.RainbowEvents.org](http://www.RainbowEvents.org)

June 25

**Pride In Duval Clean Up**

Kings Rd & Myrtle Ave

One Love Project

[www.Facebook.com/OneLoveProject](http://www.Facebook.com/OneLoveProject)

June 25

**Trek Jacksonville Lakeshore Pride Ride**

**Baldwin Trial Ride**

[www.EventBrite.com/](http://www.EventBrite.com/)

[TrekJacksonvilleLakePrideRide](http://TrekJacksonvilleLakePrideRide)

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Free

**LGBTQIA+ Friendly Anger Management Support Group**

Facilitated by Keesha Williams  
Florida Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern

First Monday of the month  
6 to 7 pm

Registration is required  
[info@colorsjax.com](mailto:info@colorsjax.com)  
904-658-0408  
[colorsjax.com](http://colorsjax.com)

A program of  
COLORS Community Center

A 501c3 nonprofit organization working to meet the needs of Northeast Florida's LGBTQIA+ adult community.

**OLDER ADULT LGBTQIA+ SOCIAL HOUR**

Supporting the social needs of LGBTQIA+ adults aged 50 and up

1st Tuesday of the month  
6 - 7 PM

2650 Park St  
Jacksonville, FL 32204

A program of COLORS Community Center, a 501c3 nonprofit organization working to meet the needs of Northeast Florida's LGBTQIA+ adult community.

QUESTIONS?  
Visit [colorsjax.com](http://colorsjax.com) or  
Email [outreach@colorsjax.com](mailto:outreach@colorsjax.com)

"OH LOLA... THE THINGS YOU DO TO  
THAT STREET CORN..."

HAPPY HOUR  
MON - SAT  
11am-10pm  
SUNDAY  
11am-9pm

BRUNCH  
SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY  
11am - 3pm



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# Save The Date

## 2023 Greater Jacksonville Gala



**September 30, 2023**  
**TIAA Bank Field - East Stadium**  
OPEN BAR • MUSIC • DANCING



*Mark your calendar, you won't want to miss this!*

# Big Gay



Benefitting  
**Transcending**  
ADOLESCENCE



*Presented By*

RAINBOW EVENTS

SIPPIN' TEA

# PICNIC

WILLOWBRANCH PARK (RIVERSIDE) - LIVE DJ Spinning The Hits  
Sunday June 25, 2023 12pm-2pm Hamburgers & Hotdogs [www.RainbowEvents.org](http://www.RainbowEvents.org)