



PRIDE PRESS

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Pride Bag Ladies Plan Events

Indianapolis – The Pride Bag Ladies has announced plans for events through December 2006. The “Ladies” will kick off the events with a Pride Bag Lady Show at Illusions, 1446 East Washington Street, on Friday, September 8 at 9:00 p.m. Cover charge is \$5.00. Funds raised will be donated to Step Up. Step-Up, Inc. (Services, Training, Education and Prevention) provides education, training, advocacy and technical assistance to promote health and well-being; with a focus on HIV/STD prevention and diversity.

On Friday, October 13, the Pride Bag Ladies will host a show to raise money for the AIDS Walk which will be held on Sunday, October 15 in downtown Indianapolis. Individuals who would like to be considered for the title of Pride Bag Lady Queen should assist with this show.

The 26th Annual Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour will be held on Saturday, October 28. Watch for details. Additional information about the Pride Bag Lady Events can be obtained by contacting Gary Brackett at gkbracke@iupui.edu.

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Indy Pride Annual General Membership Meeting Scheduled for September 13

Indianapolis – The Indy Pride Board of Directors has scheduled the Annual General Membership Meeting for **Wednesday, September 13** at Talbott Street. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

According to the Indy Pride Bylaws, “An annual meeting of the members for the election of the Board of Directors and transaction of other business to come before the membership shall be held each year in the first week of September or within 30 days. Time shall be set by the current board and communicated as noted in Section 4.03 (Notice). Section 4.03 Notice: Written notice of the location, date and time of any membership meeting and the reason for any special meeting, will be sent by U.S. mail or email to each currently enrolled member at their last known address/email address not less than ten (10) days nor more than sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting.”

The following members have accepted nominations as candidates for the Indy Pride Board of Directors (5 open positions):

Julie Anderton
Andy Gilliland
Jason Grisell
Doug Mellinger (aka Asia LaBouche)
George Miller
Kevin Morgan
Ann Marie Predovich
Brian Sirtosky

ELECTIONS PROCESS:

The elections process has been revised this year, and proxy votes will no longer be accepted, nor will nominations be accepted from the floor during the

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GLBT HISTORY

Part of the mission and purpose of Indy Pride, Inc. is "to educate the GLBT Community about GLBT history, of the issues which affect it, both social and political and of the resources which are available to its members within the community."

Charles Pierce



Charles Pierce, "master and mistress of disguise" was an impressionist and comedian who entertained audiences from 1954 until his death from cancer in 1999.

Charles Pierce was born on July 14, 1926, in Watertown, New York. He was educated there and during his last two years in high school worked part-time after school at the local radio station, WWNY, as an announcer.

After graduating from Watertown High School, he worked full-time until he packed up and moved to California to attend the Pasadena Playhouse in 1946. In 1948, upon graduating from this drama school, he worked summers in Newport, Rhode Island, at the Casino Theater as actor and stage manager. In New York City he was seen in several off-Broadway productions.

In the early '50s he returned to the Pasadena Playhouse as an actor. During this period he was impressed with several night club acts in Los Angeles and decided to do an act himself. After appearing as a Sunday afternoon guest at Club La Vie, in Altadena, California, the crowd's response was so great that the owners made their own decision about Charles' career. They knocked out walls, put in a stage, grand piano, lights and hired him to "do the show"!

Beginning in September, 1954, he performed there many months, then moved onto engagements in Florida and San Francisco. For the next 36 years, he

played clubs and theaters in the United States, Canada and London, England, while acting in films and television.

Stars came to his shows to relax and be entertained. His audiences included Ingrid Bergman, Claudette Colbert, Ethel Merman, Carol Channing, Peter O'Toole, Peter Allen, Barry Manilow, Bette Midler, Dixie Carter, Bea Arthur and Angela Lansbury.

His last show was at the Pasadena Playhouse Balcony Theater on October 7, 1990, where he began in 1952 with a book reading one-man show.

Charles said, "Now I have come full circle and it is time to hang up the dresses, take off the wigs and be myself for awhile. I will not retire. I have just abdicated."

Charles Pierce resided in Hollywood, California, until his death on May 31, 1999. Among his many friends and neighbors were Bob and Dolores Hope; Jo Anne Worley; Jonathan Winters; Alice Ghostley and her husband, Felice Orlandi; and veteran actor and acting school classmate, Bill Erwin.

His TV appearances included guest shots on *Laverne & Shirley*, *Chico & The Man*, *Designing Women*, *Fame*, *Starsky & Hutch* and *Wonder Woman*. On film, he appeared in *Torch Song Trilogy* and *Rabbit Test*.

As a female impersonator, Pierce left his audiences weak with laughter and brightened their lives with his wicked impersonations of film stars ranging from Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Tallulah Bankhead.



As Bertha Venation in *Torch Song Trilogy*

Pierce described the perfect man as "a guy who makes love to you until four in the morning, then turns into a pizza."

Information obtained from various websites.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Listed below are upcoming Indy Pride Events. Mark your calendars to come out and join the fun!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

PRIDE OF INDY CONCERT IN THE PARK

PLACE: MACALLISTER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS - GARFIELD PARK

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31 - 5:00 P.M.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD POSITION - CONTACT CHAD WALKER AT CTWJD027@GMAIL.COM FOR NOMINATIONS FORMS.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE: TALBOTT STREET

TIME: 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

INDY PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

DETAILS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INDY PRIDE WEBSITE!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

2006 AIDS WALK & RIDE

NEW LOCATION: UNIVERSITY PARK

YOU CAN REGISTER TO BE PART OF THE INDY PRIDE TEAM AT:

[HTTP://INDIANAIDSWALK.KINTERA.ORG/INDYPRIDE](http://INDIANAIDSWALK.KINTERA.ORG/INDYPRIDE)

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general membership meeting. During the week prior to the Annual General Membership Meeting, members may vote via absentee ballot as proscribed pursuant to the Bylaws. Absentee votes may be cast by members of the Corporation in good standing by casting such vote on a form prescribed by the nominating committee and approved by the Board and delivering such form to the Chair of the Nominating Committee no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the annual meeting of the Members. Absentee voting shall close 24 hours prior to the annual meeting (September 12, 2006). Please contact Chad Walker at ctwjd027@gmail.com for details on how to vote by absentee ballot.

Voting will occur via secret ballot during the Annual General Membership Meeting. Votes will be tabulated and fully reported at the Annual General Membership Meeting. Immediately following the Annual General Membership Meeting, the newly elected Board of Directors will elect officers.

In order to vote at the annual Membership Meeting, one must be a paid Indy Pride member. Pride members, who need to renew their membership, may do so at the Indy Pride Membership Mixer on Thursday, August 17 at Agio or online at www.indyprideinc.com.



Indy Pride Presents:
A Concert in the Park
August 27, 2006 - 4:00pm
The MacAllister Center
for the Performing Arts
Garfield Park

The Pride of Indy Band and Color Guard will present its second CONCERT IN THE PARK of the season on Sunday, August 27, at 4:00 pm in the MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts at Garfield Park. At the concert, you will be treated to some great music, in the best atmosphere to enjoy a band concert. So pack a picnic and come on out!

Quote of the Month:

I'd rather be black than gay because when you're black you don't have to tell your mother. ~Charles Pierce, female impersonator

Indy Pride Helps Sponsor AIDS Walk

Staff from the Indiana AIDS Fund asked Indy Pride Board members for assistance in helping sponsor and promoting this year's AIDS Walk. According to Steve Everett, Director of the Indiana AIDS Fund, "Due to anticipated federal changes through the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) funding Indiana receives, current emergency financial assistance costs that are covered could be taken away in 2007. This will greatly impact the Indiana AIDS Fund's Gregory R. Powers Direct Emergency Financial Assistance (DEFA) Fund. DEFA is primarily supported by the Indiana AIDS Walk and Ride each year. In 2005 (most recent stats), the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority spent approximately \$330,000 on Short-Term HOPWA. In 2006, the federal government planned to remove that line item and Indiana was able to secure a waiver and continue that funding for this year. However, staff at the Indiana AIDS are concerned the federal government won't be as flexible in 2007. If so, DEFA funding will be hit particularly hard.

The success from the event October 15th, 2006 in Downtown Indianapolis at University Park will decide how many HIV-impacted families will have access to emergency support next year. Emergency expense covered include medication co-pay and assistance, rent and utility assistance, transportation, clothing, food and other unexpected expenses that people with HIV deal with. Every HIV Care Coordination site in Indiana receives DEFA grant funding for people with HIV. Over 50% of the AIDS Walk/DEFA grant funding supports Care Sites in Marion County—The Damien Center, Concord, LifeCare, Wishard and Bridging The Gap. The remaining fund support sites around Indiana. For additional information, please contact Steve Everett at (317) 630-1805 or at severett@thfgi.org.

Now, more than ever, the GLBT community needs to come out and support the AIDS Walk & Ride. Read below to see you can join the Indy Pride team (or at least donate to the cause)!

Join the Indy Pride AIDS Walk Team

Now is the time to get involved and make a difference in the lives of fellow Hoosiers that are afflicted with HIV/AIDS. This year, the Indiana AIDS Walk will be held at University Park, Indianapolis on Sunday, October 15. The AIDS Walk & Ride is an annual event that supports programs and services serving the more than 10,000 Hoosiers with HIV/AIDS. The pandemic is far from over – infection rates are increasing among women, youth and minorities. Indiana remains above the national average of young people under 25 who are living with AIDS. **In fact, there is a HIV Alert. At the local Bellflower Clinic between mid-March and mid-May 2006, there has been a major increase in HIV cases among young gay men, over a 100% increase from the same period last year!**

To register to become part of the Indy Pride Team, simply go to this website: <http://indianaaidswalk.kintera.org/indypride>. Our goal is to have at least 25 people to be part of our team and to raise \$2,500.00. If you can't walk (or ride), please consider making a donation. To make a donation online, use this link: <http://indianaaidswalk.kintera.org/indypridegaray>.

Funds raised through the Indiana AIDS Walk benefit the Greg Powers/Direct Emergency Financial Assistance Fund (DEFA). DEFA provides funds for those with HIV/AIDS who need assistance with emergency shelter, utilities, food, medicine, and other daily living needs.

This is the 16th year for the 5K AIDS Walk and the third year for the 10K bicycle ride. In 2005, over 1,000 people participated, raising a total of \$150,000.