



# PRIDE PRESS

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## Pride of Indy Band & Indy Pride Will Have AIDS Walk Team

Indianapolis – Members of Indy Pride and The Pride of Indy Band will sponsor a team in the 2006 AIDS Walk & Ride. The 2006 AIDS Walk & Ride will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2006 with registration at University Park in downtown Indianapolis. For more information about the 2006 AIDS Walk & Ride, check out the website at [www.indianaaidswalk.org](http://www.indianaaidswalk.org) or call 317-630-1805.

Members of Indy Pride who would like to walk with the Pride of Indy Band team should contact Stephen McCoy at [smccoy12345@yahoo.com](mailto:smccoy12345@yahoo.com) or Gary Brackett at [gkbracke@iupui.edu](mailto:gkbracke@iupui.edu).



## Another Successful Pride Despite Rainy Weather

Indianapolis – Celebrate With Pride, a celebration of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Pride, was held the week of June 6-11, 2006. Despite the cold and rainy weather, 25,000 people attended the IN Pride Parade & Festival which was held on Saturday, June 10 according to local police.

In addition to the record crowd, once again according to preliminary reports, Indy Pride had a profit of over \$14,000. Total expenses were \$140,155.10. Total Income was \$153,798.72.

Highlights of the week included the Pride of Indy Band Concert in Garfield Park; the IYG Open House & Cookout; the IN Pride 2006 Seminar: *Breast Cancer & The GLBT Community*; the IN Pride Parade & Festival; the IN Pride Picnic and the IN Pride 2006 T-Dance. Indy Pride President, Gary Brackett stated, “We are so happy and grateful to the GLBT community in Indianapolis. The community came out and supported the events despite the weather! Thanks so much for your continued support!”



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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."*

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## Johnny Mathis



Although born in Gilmer, Texas in 1935, John Royce Mathis grew up in San Francisco. His father was a limousine driver and handyman and his mother was a domestic worker. Mathis developed his musical ability at an early age.

His father, who had been a vaudevillian in Texas, bought him a used piano at the age of eight and began to teach his son vaudeville routines. His father introduced him to the music of Lena Horne and Ella Fitzgerald. In addition, he urged John to participate in church choirs and talent contests.

At the age of thirteen, Mathis met Connie Cox, an opera singer and voice teacher. Ms. Cox was so impressed with his signing ability that she offered to give him free voice lessons. Mathis studied classical technique for six years. Mathis credits Cox with teaching him to sing "the soft, high notes that are a signature of his style."

After high school, Mathis received an athletic scholarship from San Francisco State College (now San Francisco State University). Mathis competed on the track team and set a school record in the high jump. In 1956, he received an invitation to participate in the Olympic trials.

During his college years, Mathis developed an interest in jazz and began to work in local clubs. A Columbia record producer, George Avakian, caught Mathis' performance at a San Francisco gay bar called the 440 Club. Although impressed with Mathis' potential, Avakian did not sign him immediately. He did, however, return to San Francisco the following year and offered Mathis a contract to record an album.

The album offer occurred the very same week Mathis received the invitation to participate in the 1956

Olympic trials. Mathis signed with the recording company although he maintained an interest in his sport. Currently, he sponsors the Johnny Mathis Invitational track meet which has been held annually at his alma mater since 1982.

After the release of his first album, Avakian brought Mathis to New York where he continued working as a jazz singer performing at various clubs and concert halls, including the Apollo Theatre.

In 1958, Mathis released an enormously popular album, *Johnny's Greatest Hits* which held the number one spot on Billboard's pop chart for three weeks and remained on the chart for a record total of 490 weeks! The album included standards such as *The Twelfth of Never*, *It's Not For Me To Say* and *Misty*.

Mathis' career skyrocketed in the 1960s. Throughout the decade, he released three or four albums each year and was in demand on the concert tour. His rigorous schedule with as many as 101 consecutive one-night shows took a physical toll on him and caused him to become addicted to sleeping pills.

While Mathis was successful with his albums, his singles tended not to make the pop charts. This changed in 1978, when his duet with Deniece Williams, *Too Much, Too Little, Too Late* became his first #1 hit since 1957. The single also brought Mathis, whose fan base had previously been primarily white adults, increased attention among African-Americans and younger audiences.

Following the success with his duet with Williams, Mathis recorded duets with several other singers including Gladys Knight, Dionne Warwick, Natalie Cole, and Barbra Streisand.

Mathis' personal life remained a mystery to his fans. He deflected interviewers' questions about his bachelor life until 1982 when he acknowledged his homosexuality in an interview in *US* magazine. Mathis spoke of his first love at the age of 16 and said that being gay was "a way of life that [he had] grown accustomed to."

Acknowledging his homosexuality had little (if any) effect on Mathis' career. Indeed, the public hardly seemed to notice.

*Information obtained from various websites.*

*"Sometimes being famous gets in the way of doing what you want to do." – Johnny Mathis*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

**PRIDE BAG LADIES MEETING**

PLACE: METRO

TIME: 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

**INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER**

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

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

**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

WATCH FOR DETAILS!

### *Quote of the Month:*

“The only queer people are those who don’t love anybody.”

- *Novelist Rita Mae Brown*

## Pride Bag Ladies Hold Planning Meeting

The Indy Pride Bag Ladies will hold a Planning Meeting on Sunday, August 6 at 3:00 p.m. at Metro. Come out and join the “ladies” to help plan shows and events for the rest of the year. Assistance will be needed in organizing the Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour. The Bus Tour will be held on Saturday, October 28. Come out and share your ideas about how the 1<sup>st</sup> Pride Bag Lady Queen will be selected!



Indy Pride Presents:

**A Concert in the Park**  
August 27, 2006 - 4:00pm

**The MacAllister Center  
for the Performing Arts  
Garfield Park**

Get out your picnic basket, and dust off your grandmother's candelabra... the Pride of Indy Band and Color Guard presents its second CONCERT IN THE PARK of the season. On August 27th, at 4:00 pm in The MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts at Garfield Park 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!

## “Boogie Nights” Will Raise Money for IYG

On Wednesday, August 2, Sarah Vain & The Vault will hold **Wicked Wednesday**. The theme is “Boogie Nights” with special guest Ron Jeremy. The Vault is located at 120 E. Market Street in Downtown Indianapolis. There is a \$10.00 cover charge for the event. Funds raised from this special event will be used to support IYG (Indiana Youth Group). Events features: Autographs by Ron Jeremy! Roller Girl Contest! Charity Slave Auction! For more information visit the website:

<http://www.thereformatory.com/wickedwednesday.html>

Please come out and support the event and help raise funds for IYG.



## Gay Games History & Controversy

**Gay Games** – The Gay Games are a popular sporting and cultural event hosted by the gay & lesbian community. They were started in San Francisco in 1982, the brainchild of Tom Waddell, whose goals were to promote the spirit of inclusion and participation, and the pursuit of personal best into a sporting event. The Gay Games are open to all who wish to participate, without regard to sexual orientation. There are no qualifying standards to compete in the Gay Games. The Games bring together athletes and artists from all over the world, many from countries where homosexuality remains illegal and hidden. Dr. Waddell, the doctor and former Olympian who helped found the Gay Games, intended the Gay Games to be called the “Gay Olympics” but a lawsuit filed less than three weeks before 1982’s inaugural Gay Olympics forced the name change. Event organizers were sued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) under the U.S. Amateur Sports Act of 1978, which gave the USOC exclusive rights to the word “Olympic” in the United States. Defendants of the lawsuit contended that the law was capriciously applied and that if the Nebraska Rat Olympics and Police Olympics did not face similar lawsuits, neither should the Gay Olympics. Some believed homophobia to be a motivation behind the lawsuit. They cite the authorized use of the word “Olympics” by the Special Olympics and other organizations as evidence of this homophobia.

The seventh edition of the Gay Games was originally planned for Montreal in 2006, but the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) removed its sanction after differences arose between it and Montreal 2006, ostensibly over the size of the event. After withdrawal of its sanction, the FGG awarded the official Gay Games VII to Chicago, Illinois. Montreal, nevertheless decided to proceed to hold an athletic event without the sanction of the FGG. This plan developed into the first edition of the World Outgames, and the creation of its sanctioning body, the Gay & Lesbian International Sport Association.

An estimated 12,000 athletes participated in the Chicago Gay Games during the period July 15-23, 2006. The World Outgames begin in Montreal on July 29.

*Information obtained from various internet sites.*



## 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.”

In order to vote at the annual Membership Meeting, you must be a paid Indy Pride member. If you need to renew your membership, you may do so at the Indy Pride Membership Mixer on Thursday, August 17 at Agio or online at

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