

## Shimmering Shamrocks Scheduled for March 15

*Indianapolis* – The Pride Bag Ladies will hold their traditional St. Patrick’s Day Show - *Shimmering Shamrocks* – on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at Talbott Street. Doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. Cover charge is \$5.00 donation. Money raised from the cover charge and performer tips will be donated to Indiana Youth Group (IYG).

The event will feature the reigning Pride Bag Lady Queen Sequoia Pentecost and the current Miss Blossom, Mustang Sally along with other Pride Bag Lady regulars including Fi Fi LaRue, Holly Luyah, Roada Kihl, Sydney Shepard, Carolina Fox, Tiawana Blue and Cadillac Barbie.

The Ladies of Legends will also be performing along with some special guests. Come out and show your support of the Pride Bag Ladies and IYG! Don’t forget we’ll have a special “cute boy” to help us monitor our progress towards our goal!



## Amy Armstrong & Freddy Allen Headline Laugh OUT Loud on Feb. 22

*Indianapolis* – Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen will headline this year’s Laugh OUT Loud which will be held at Talbott Street on February 22. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Showtime is 8:00 p.m.

This Chicago-based duo has been captivating audiences for over 10 years! Amy and Freddy have performed in cities from coast to coast. For over six years, they have been considered one of the most popular cabaret acts for RSVP cruise lines. In fact, RSVP cruises has hired Amy and Freddy to serve as 2006 “Entertainment Ambassadors.”

Rounding out the evening will be Bernie Lubbers from Louisville, Kentucky. Bernie has received coverage in *Rolling Stone Magazine* and has appeared on Showtime. He is a frequent guest on the *Bob & Tom Show*.

A limited number of Corporate Tables (10 seats) are available for \$500.00. General admission tickets are \$15.00 each. General Admission tickets can be purchased from Indy Pride Board members, BioScrip Pharmacy or Out Word Bound Book Store.

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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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## Sylvester

**Sylvester** (1946 - 1988) was a star, plain and simple. He was one of the first openly gay pop music stars, and, unlike the Village People, he was not a caricature. Sylvester was for real. His shows were wild and his personality flamboyant, but underneath was a sincere, talent-filled entertainer. A true superstar, Sylvester represented the black and gay cultural origins of disco to mainstream America and made it possible for RuPaul's success. His body of work includes crucial contributions to the disco songbook, but his ballads proved he was a versatile stylist who brought a realness and depth to all material.

Sylvester James was born in Los Angeles to a family that included the blues singer Joan Morgan. After moving to San Francisco, he spent time in the experimental troupe Cockettes, where he really began his performing career. Sylvester's luck changed after meeting Harvey Fuqua, one-time producer at Motown but now a scout for Fantasy Records. Fuqua signed Sylvester and began work on an album. In a stroke of luck, Izora Whitehead and Martha Wash were discovered singing background vocals at a concert and Sylvester jumped at the chance to hire them. Renaming the hefty pair Two Tons of Fun, they were an integral part of Sylvester's success, adding stage presence as well as reminders of his gospel roots.

His greatest achievement would be Step II. As the LP was being recorded, Sylvester let Patrick Cowley, then an up and coming re-mixer, hear an early version of "You Make Me Feel Mighty Real."

Cowley's synth overlays transformed the former ballad into a disco tour de force. The driving beat and keyboard flourishes reflected the intensity of gay disco at its best, while Sylvester's impassioned vocals communicated the anticipation of sex. Arriving at the height of "Discomania," the combination proved irresistible and much to the horror of disco haters and homophobes (who were largely one and the same), Sylvester was launched into the mainstream. The accompanying video made a mockery of Fuqua's attempts to tone down his flamboyance, as Sylvester strolled around a disco in full drag.

"Mighty Real" won several Billboard disco awards, placing Sylvester in disco's stratosphere. The other single from the album, "Dance (Disco Heat)," featured Two Tons of Fun on lead vocals and their performance was pure gospel spirit, so powerful that all Sylvester could do was come in halfway through the song with a scream that anybody familiar with the black church will recognize as the "happy shout."

Despite the obvious magic he had with dance material, Sylvester never viewed himself as a disco act. His ambition was to be Patti LaBelle. Therefore, he announced that *Stars* would be his only pure disco album. *Stars*, a celebration of nightlife, the four tracks dared one to "sit down as he and the Tons worked the hell out of "I Who Have Nothing."

Disco crashed among the popular audience in 1980, so Fuqua figured now was the time to branch out into other styles. He soon had Sylvester doing strange versions of "Ooh Baby Baby" and "Cry Me A River," while actually banning Cowley from entering the studio. Creative differences led to his signing with Cowley's Megatone label after doing the lead on Cowley's "Menergy." The timing was impeccable as the label had a completed album sitting in the vaults that they couldn't release due to the singer's outrageous financial demands. Sylvester simply cut new vocals and "All I Need" was born. The record was highlighted by the driving "Do You Wanna Funk," a more aggressive sequel to "Mighty Real" that was a huge hit and set the template for hi-NRG.

"Take Me to Heaven," "Sex" and "Band of Gold" were all dance hits, but didn't quite compare to the Fantasy material. Oddly enough, after years of paying dues with small companies, Sylvester found himself on Warner Brothers for Mutual Attraction. "Someone Like You" had a Larry Levan mix, but he was unable to take full advantage of his new resources as he was diagnosed with AIDS. Sylvester stopped performing, but stayed in the spotlight to raise awareness about the disease. He died at the age of 40 in 1988 but "his legacy will live forever."

*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

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM - GREGS

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 LAUGH OUT LOUD

PLACE: TALBOTT STREET

DOORS OPEN: 7:00 P.M.

SHOWTIME: 8:00 P.M.

TICKETS: \$15.00 GENERAL ADMISSION

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 IN PRIDE 2007 PLANNING MEETING

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM – GREGS

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING

PLACE: CONFERENCE ROOM – GREGS

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15 SHIMMERING SHAMROCKS – PRIDE BAG LADY ST. PATRICK'S SHOW

PLACE: TALBOTT STREET

DOORS OPEN: 7:00 P.M.

SHOWTIME: 8:00 P.M.

COVER CHARGE: \$5.00 DONATION

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Corporate Tables can be purchased by contact Gary Brackett at 317-435-4923 or by e-mail at [gkbracke@iupui.edu](mailto:gkbracke@iupui.edu). Corporate Tables are reserved seating and will have special alcohol beverages. Indy Pride Board members will be out in local bars the next two weekends selling General Admission tickets. Buy your ticket early so you don't miss out!

## Pride of Indy Elects New Board

The members of the Pride of Indy Band elected new Board members. The newly elected Board includes: Eric Munsch, President; Shelly Snider, Vice President, John Joannette, Community Liaison; Kai Holeman, Treasurer; Alicia LaMagdeleine, Secretary; and Allen Browning, Jef Furr, Travis Tester, Laura Blake, Bob Stuper and Natasha Dowell, Directors. The Conductor for the Pride of Indy is Eric Knechtges. Stephen McCoy is the organization's Webmaster.

The Pride of Indy Band & Color Guard serves as a musical and educational resource to the Central Indiana community. We are comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & LGBT-friendly musicians. We conduct our activities in a supportive, accepting and affirming atmosphere.



## Quote of the Month:

“People were saying that David Geffen and I had gotten married and it just blew me away. Not that they thought I was gay, but that they thought I could land a guy that hot.” - Actor, *Keanu Reeves*

## Plans Begin for IN Pride 2007

The IN Pride 2007 Planning has begun holding meetings to plan this year's Pride events. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room at Greys.

Everyone is welcome to attend! Committees are being formed. This year's committees include:

**Operations & Logistics** – Responsible for set-up, park maintenance and clean-up of University Park

**Parade** – Responsible for soliciting businesses and organizations to participate in Parade and for marshalling and de-marshalling parade

**Vendors** – Responsible for soliciting vendors, assigning vendor locations, greeting vendors the day of the event, collecting vendor fees, etc.

**Entertainment** – Responsible for obtaining local, regional and national entertainers for the stages during Pride 2007

**Pride Guide** – Responsible for selling ads for *Pride Guide*, designing ads, editorial content, layout and distribution

**Volunteers** – Responsible for soliciting volunteers for all Pride events

**Sponsorships** – Responsible for soliciting sponsors for Pride events

**Publicity/PR** – Responsible for advertising Pride events, designing posters, submitting press releases, soliciting radio & television interviews

**Alcohol/Beverage** – Responsible for soliciting bartenders to work event, managing bar and soft drinks areas during event, ordering supplies for bar/soft drink areas

**Picnic** – Responsible for logistics for the Pride Picnic – location, food, soft drinks, etc.

**Security** – Responsible for security and emergency assistance during events

**T-Dance** – Responsible for logistics for Pride T-Dance – location, decorations, etc.

**Retail Sales** – Responsible for ordering & selling t-shirts, CDs, caps, and other merchandise

## Other GLBT Events/Meetings

### NATIONAL LEADER CANDACE GINGRICH TO JOIN PROTEST AGAINST MARRIAGE DISCRIMINATION AMENDMENT

**Indianapolis** - Indiana Equality and its coalition partners have announced it will host a Statehouse gathering next month to rally against Senate Joint Resolution 7 (SJR 07). SJR 07 would permanently alter Indiana's Constitution, and discriminates against all unmarried couples in committed relationships. Candace Gingrich, a national human rights leader, will be a featured speaker at the rally. The rally will take place on **February 19th from 1 - 2:30 p.m.** in the North Atrium of the Indiana State House, 200 W. Washington St. (enter North Entrance, off Ohio Street). Candace Gingrich will speak at 1:40 p.m. A longtime advocate for issues of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, (LGBT), Candace Gingrich became active in the movement for equal rights when her brother, then-Rep. Newt Gingrich, was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. She is the author of the book, *The Accidental Activist*, and works for the Human Rights Campaign to empower and engage GLBT and allied youth in the fight for equality. Indiana Equality and its coalition partners have been mobilizing Hoosiers to fight SJR 07 since its introduction two years ago. If ratified, unmarried couples could lose every right or protection available to their families, touching nearly every facet of modern life, from health care, to domestic partnership benefits, to child and elder care. In stripping away these important rights, unmarried couples and their families would be vulnerable to future discrimination without legal recourse, severely limiting the opportunity for those of limited means to fight for their rights.

**Friday February 23, 2007**

## Pitch-In and Meeting/Prime Timers

Prime Timers Indianapolis is hosting a "Pitch-In/Meeting" on February 23, Friday @ 7 PM...

Location: Jesus MCC Church, Room 1. Prime Timers Indianapolis is a social, support, and cultural group intended for mature gay males over 40, and their admirers. Minimum age is 21. Prime Timers World Wide is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with over 67 chapters around the world. Contact: [manmate2000@yahoo.com](mailto:manmate2000@yahoo.com)