



# PRIDE PRESS

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## Pride Seeks Board Nominations

It's that time again, time to select the new members of the Indy Pride Board of Directors. Does someone you know want to be a leader of the organization that hosts the largest LGBT Pride festival in Indiana, the organization that awards scholarships to members of the LGBT community, the organization that hosts other events throughout the year such as Laugh Out Loud and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner?

Now is your chance to nominate that person (people) to serve this growing, dynamic organization. Simply complete a Nominations Form available on the Indy Pride website ([www.indyprideinc.com](http://www.indyprideinc.com)). The address is given on the application. Forms should be submitted to Tiffany Dow, Nominations Committee Chair, by e-mail at [qleap77@sbcglobal](mailto:qleap77@sbcglobal) or by U.S. mail.

There are three requirements that have to be met in order for a person to qualify to serve: 1) Must be a resident of the State of Indiana; 2) Must be 21 years of age or older; 3) Must have been a member in good standing for at least one year. The deadline to submit a nomination is Wednesday, August 27.

## Bag Ladies Plan Annual Bus Tour – October 25

*Indianapolis* – Everyone is cordially invited to join the Pride Bag Ladies for the 28th Annual Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour on **Saturday, October 25**. This year's theme will be *A Fairy's Tail – Every Story Comes with A Happy Ending!*

### Registration & Costs

The cost to ride the bus(es) will be **\$50.00**. Indy Pride members may register for \$40.00. Forms must be postmarked by **Monday, October 20**. Late registration (if space is available) will be \$65.00. Checks should be made payable to: **Indy Pride, Inc.** Registration forms will be available on the Indy Pride website ([www.indyprideinc.com](http://www.indyprideinc.com)) or from Gary Brackett, Pride Bag Lady Coordinator, at [gkbracke@iupui.edu](mailto:gkbracke@iupui.edu).

### Details on Queen Selection

Each year a Pride Bag Lady Queen is selected. If anyone is interested in being considered for the title of 2008 Pride Bag Lady Queen, the procedure is outlined below: All individuals who wish to be considered for the honor of Queen will need to participate in the Pride Bag Lady Pageant/Show on Sunday, October 19 at Talbott Street. During the Pageant/Show, individuals will: 1) Be introduced in some type of evening wear during the show; 2) Be asked an interview question during the show; 3) Raise as much money as possible for the Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour. A point system will be used to award points towards becoming Queen. The **FINAL** Queen selection will be determined by the Former Bag Lady Queens on the Bus Tour.

### Bus Tour History

The Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour is the oldest HIV/AIDS fund-raising event in Indiana. Twenty-eight years ago around Halloween, 70 or so men

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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."*



## Quentin Crisp

**Denis Charles Pratt** was born in Sutton, Surrey. He was the fourth child of solicitor Charles Pratt and former governess Frances Pratt. Denis he changed his name to Quentin Crisp in his twenties after leaving home and cultivating his outlandishly effeminate appearance to a standard that shocked people in London and provoked homophobic attacks. By his own account, Crisp was effeminate in behavior from an early age and found himself the object of teasing at Kingswood Preparatory School, from where he won a scholarship to Denstone College in 1922. After leaving school in 1926, Crisp studied journalism at King's College London, but failed to graduate in 1928.

Around this time, Crisp began visiting the cafés of Soho. His favorite café was the Black Cat in Old Compton Street. There he met other young gay men and "rent boys," and experimenting with make-up and women's clothes. For six months he worked as a prostitute, looking for love, he said in a 1999 interview, but finding only degradation. At the outbreak of World War II, Crisp attempted to join the army, but was rejected and declared exempt by the medical board on the grounds that he was 'suffering from sexual perversion'. He remained in London during the 1941 Blitz, "stocked up on cosmetics, purchased five pounds of henna rinse and paraded through the blackout, picking up American soldiers," whose kindness and open-mindedness inspired his love of all things American. In 1940 he moved into the room he would occupy for the next forty years, the first floor apartment at 129 Beaufort Street. Here he stayed until he immigrated to the United States in 1981. In the intervening years he never attempted any housework, saying famously in his memoir that "the dirt didn't get any worse after the first four years."

In 1942, he became a model in life classes in London and continued posing for artists for the next three decades. "It was like being a civil servant," he explained in his autobiography, "except that you were naked." Crisp had published three short books by the time he was commissioned to complete what would become *The Naked Civil Servant*. Having heard Crisp interviewed on radio in

1964, the publisher was keen to print something, and the book appeared in 1968 to respectable reviews. When the book was reprinted in 1975 on the strength of the success of the television version of *The Naked Civil Servant*, *Gay News* commented that the book should have been published posthumously. Quentin said "this was a polite way of them telling him to drop dead." Crisp was later approached by documentary maker, Denis Mitchell to be the subject of a short film in which he was expected to talk about his life, voice his opinions and sit around in his flat filing his nails. This broadcast brought enough attention to Crisp and his book that he soon entered talks about a dramatization.

In 1975, *The Naked Civil Servant* was broadcast on British and American television and made both actor John Hurt and Crisp himself into stars. This success launched Crisp in a new direction: that of performer and lecturer. He devised a one-man show and began touring the country with it. The first half of the show was an entertaining monologue loosely based on his memoirs, the second half was a question and answer session with Crisp picking the audience's written questions out at random and answering them in an amusing manner. In 1978, Crisp took his show to New York. As he had done in London, Crisp allowed his phone number to be listed in the telephone directory and saw it as his duty to converse with anyone who called him. For the first twenty or so years of owning his own telephone he habitually answered calls with the phrase "Yes, Lord?" ("Just in case," he once said.) Later on he changed it to "Oh yes?" in a querulous tone of voice. His openness to strangers extended to accepting dinner invitations from almost anyone. While it was expected that the inviter would pay for dinner, Crisp did his best to "sing for his supper" by regaling his hosts with wonderful stories and yarns much as he did in his theatre performances. Dinner with him was said to be one of the best shows in New York. He continued to perform his one-man show, published groundbreaking books on the importance of contemporary manners as a means of social inclusivity as opposed to etiquette, which socially excludes, and supported himself by accepting social invitations and writing movie reviews and columns for U.S. and U.K. magazines and newspapers. In 1996 he was among the many people interviewed for *The Celluloid Closet*, a historical documentary on how Hollywood films have depicted homosexuality. In December 1998, he celebrated his ninetieth birthday performing the opening night of his one-man show, "An Evening with Quentin Crisp" in New York City. A humorous pact he had made to live to one hundred, with ten years off for good behavior, proved prophetic. In November 1999, Quentin Crisp died, nearly one month before his ninety-first birthday in Manchester, England, on the eve of a nationwide revival of his one-man show. His body was cremated with a minimum of ceremony as per his request, and his ashes flown back to New York and scattered over Manhattan.

*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

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13**

**INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING**

PLACE: INDY PRIDE OFFICE

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21**

**INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER**

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

**INDY PRIDE ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ELECTIONS**

PLACE: LEGEND S BAR AT TALBOTT STREET

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

**INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER**

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1**

**INDY PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE!**

VISIT INDY PRIDE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING**

PLACE: INDY PRIDE OFFICE

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER**

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

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

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**EVENTS – OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

**AUGUST 8-10**

**INDIANA BLACK PRIDE**

**OSCAR CHARLESTON PARK**

[HTTP://WWW.INDIANABLACKPRIDE.COM](http://www.indianablackpride.com)

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dressed in drag, boarded three buses, and began a journey to help in the fight against AIDS calling themselves “The Bag Ladies.” The Bag Ladies got their name from an article out of a New York City newspaper. Coby Palmer, one of the original Bag Ladies, read in the article that the New York “bag ladies” were fun and campy and had lots “chutzpah”, similar to what the Indianapolis Bag Ladies are like today. The Bag Ladies are men willing to dress in high heels and wear outrageous costumes who, each year around Halloween, travel from bar to bar soliciting money until the early hours of the morning on what is called The Bag Lady Bus Tour. Originally, at the end of the night the Bag Lady who raised the most money was crowned Bag Ladies Queen for a year. While raising money is still a major factor in crowning the Queen, the organization now hosts a Bag Lady Queen Pageant prior to the annual Bus Tour.

#### Ride the Bus & Continue the Cause!

Remember, the fight against HIV/AIDS is not over. Everyone is encouraged to not only register to ride the bus, but to ask friends, neighbors, relatives, etc. to help support the Bus Tour through a donation. Every little bit helps - \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more!

#### Get Your Pride Bag Lady Calendar – only \$10!

Don't forget we have Pride Bag Lady 15- month Calendars for sale! Orders can be placed online at [www.indyprideinc.com](http://www.indyprideinc.com) or calendars can be purchased from various local vendors. The calendar runs from October 2008 – December 2009.

The TENTATIVE Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour Itinerary will be posted on the Indy Pride website after Monday, October 13, 2008. As always, the itinerary is subject to change! If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact Gary Brackett by e-mail at [gkbracke@iupui.edu](mailto:gkbracke@iupui.edu) or by phone at 435-4923.



Special Offer for Pride Members:

The Devil's Dance Halloween Ball  
Cruxshadows Ayria & I:Scintilla  
October 30, 2008  
Talbot Street Nightclub  
2145 N. Talbot Street

Indy Pride Members may purchase \$5.00 discounted tickets at [www.groovetickets.com](http://www.groovetickets.com).  
Just enter Promo Code: GAYINDY Admission for Non-Pride Member is \$10.00 pre-sale & \$15.00 the day of the show.

Sponsors:



Special Thanks to Agio!

*The Indy Pride Board of Directors offers special thanks to Agio and the owner -- Jeff Wright and Joseph Heidenreich! Jeff and Joseph have been graciously hosting and donating the appetizers for the Indy Pride Membership Mixers each month for the past several years. In addition, Agio has allowed Indy Pride to use their catering license to be able to provide alcohol at the annual Circle City IN Pride events! The Indy Pride Board encourages all of our members to support this wonderful restaurant and the owners & staff throughout the year!*

*Special thanks also to Doug, Ron & Kirsten!*

