



PRIDE PRESS

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Shimmering Shamrocks **Raises \$4000 for IYG**

Indianapolis – Over 20 Pride Bag Ladies put on a St. Patrick's Day Show which raised over \$4,000 for the Indiana Youth Group (IYG). The annual ***Shimmering Shamrocks*** Show was held at Talbott Street on Monday, March 17. Over 250 people attended this year's event. In addition to the cover charge and performer's tips, Indy Pride Board members sold St. Patrick's Day merchandise to help raise additional funds.

Mary Bryne, the new Executive Director of IYG, gave a brief explanation of the mission of IYG and the programs and services offered. The Pride Bag Ladies also presented a check in the amount of \$6,513.52 to Steve Everett, Director of the Indiana AIDS Fund. This is the money raised from the 27th Annual Pride Bag Lady Bus Tour.

Mark your calendars now for the next event – The Pride Bag Ladies Country & Gospel Brunch. The event will be held at Talbott Street on April 20.

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Experience the Music **March 28-30, 2008**

The Pride of Indy Band is proud to be partnering with the Lesbian and Gay Band Association (LGBA) for the first ever *Experience the Music!* Experience the music will be a weekend of music-making and social interaction. No meetings or agendas; just great music with great people!

During the weekend of March 28-30, musicians will flock to Indianapolis for a fun-filled weekend! Highlights of the three-day experience will include a mixer on Friday, a social event after rehearsal Saturday and will conclude with an afternoon Concert Sunday. For more information visit: www.prideofindy.org/experience. Everyone is welcome to attend the FREE concert on Sunday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the Southport High School Auditorium.

Dixie's Tupperware Party at Laugh Out Loud Makes \$4000

Indianapolis – Approximately 250 people attended this year's Laugh Out Loud event. The headliner was Miss Dixie Longate. Miss Longate is a former number one Tupperware seller in the world. During her show, she educates her guests on the many alternative uses she has discovered for her plastic products! The event was held at Talbott Street on Thursday, February 21.

According to the Chad Walker, Indy Pride Treasurer, the event made a profit of \$4000.38. "Brad Plunkett and Vivian Farris did an excellent job at keeping expenses to a minimum which maximized the profit," stated Walker.

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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."



John Rechy

John Rechy was born on March 10, 1934 in El Paso, Texas. He is an American author whose novels reflect his background as a gay man of Mexican-Scottish descent.

Rechy's first novel, *City of Night*, was an international bestseller, and is now taught in contemporary-literature courses throughout the country, along with others of his books. His *The Miraculous Day of Amalia Gomez* is required reading in many Chicano Literature courses. His work has been translated into approximately 20 languages. His second novel, *Numbers*, was also a national bestseller, as was his nonfiction documentary, *The Sexual Outlaw*. In addition, he has written, *This Day's Death*, *The Vampires*, *The Fourth Angle*, *Rushes*, *Bodies and Souls*, *Marilyn's Daughter* and *Our Lady of Babylon*.

He has twice been nominated for the Los Angeles Times Book Awards Body of Work designation. He is a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow. He has received Phi Kappa Phi and Longview Foundation awards for his fiction.

Greeted with controversy when they first appeared, Rechy's books have in recent years been singled out for major prominence. In 2008, *City of Night* was named as one of the 25 all time "best gay novels" by the Publishing Triangle in New York. His *The Sexual Outlaw: A Documentary* was included by the *San Francisco Chronicle* Book Review as among the 100 Best Non-Fiction Books of the century. In a recent issue of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Review devoted to "L.A. Literature," Rechy was repeatedly named by other writers, including Critic and Author Mike Davis (*City of Quartz*), as among the five most important writers to have written about Southern

California.

Rechy is the first novelist to receive PEN-USA-West's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. The previous winners are Billy Wilder, Neil Simon, and Betty Friedan.

In April, 1999, Rechy received his second Lifetime Achievement Award, the William Whitehead Lifetime Achievement Award from The Publishing Triangle, at the New School in New York. In his introduction of Rechy at the presentation, author and critic Michael Bronski said, "[He] super-radically and forever altered how mainstream American culture wrote about, saw, experienced, and conceptualized homosexuality... All of [his] novels are vital to both gay and American literature ... What [he] has given for more than 30 years is a wonderful and terrifying gift. . a vision of a complicated, complex, and wonderful world... He has given us life and literature." And critic and author Jameson Currier wrote in the April 2, 1999 *New York Blade News*, "Perhaps more than any other American author in the 20th century, his writings have helped shape the sexual consciousness of several generations of gay men."

The CD Rom of Rechy's life marks the first time that a writer's life and works have been so explored. After a press preview of it, Los Angeles Times Film critic Kevin Thomas wrote: "It interweaves three parts, 'Memories, Bodies and Cruising,' which bring alive visually Rechy's reflections upon his complex, impassioned life as a gay icon."

Rechy has lectured at Harvard, Yale, Duke, UCLA, USC, Occidental College, University of Northern Illinois, among other academic institutions. He was the keynote speaker at the 1999 Writers' Conference at UCLA and at the 1990 Out/Write National Writers Conference at San Francisco. He has been a key participant at numerous other literary conferences, including the 1999 Los Angeles Times Book Festival, the Guadalajara International Book Fair, Miami Book Fair, and New Orleans Literary Festival.

He has written essays for *The Nation*, *Los Angeles Times Books*, *Washington Post Book World*, *The Saturday Review*, *New York Times Book Review*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Dallas Morning News*, *London Magazine*, *Evergreen Review*, *New York Magazine*, *The Advocate*, *Mother Jones*, *Premiere*, and many other national publications. Of Mexican-Scottish descent, he makes his home in Los Angeles, California, where he teaches literature and film courses, for writers, in the graduate division of the University of Southern California.

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, MARCH 19

CIRCLE CITY IN PRIDE PLANNING MEETING

PLACE: PRIDE OFFICE – OLD CENTRUM

TIME: 7:30 – 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER

PLACE: AGIO

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING

PLACE: TO BE DETERMINED

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

PRIDE BAG LADIES COUNTRY & GOSPEL BRUNCH

PLACE: TALBOTT STREET

DOORS OPEN: 12:00 NOON

BRUNCH: 1:00 P.M.

SHOWTIME: 1:30 P.M.

PRICE: \$20.00 INCLUDES BRUNCH & SHOW

PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO START A FUND FOR A NEW INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING

PLACE: TO BE DETERMINED

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 15

INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

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



Kristine W to Headline Circle City IN Pride 2008

International Recording Artist, Kristine W, will be this year's headliner at Circle City IN Pride 2008. Known internationally as one of the "Greatest Dance Music Divas of Our Generation," Kristine W continues to remain on top of the charts and is creating much buzz due to the anticipation of her newest projects, *Straight Up With A Twist*, a double CD Jazz album she recorded with some of the most respected musicians in the industry and *The Power of Music*, her fourth and long-awaited dance album. Her current single is a cover version of the Diana Ross disco hit, *The Boss*.

Listed below is the schedule for Circle City IN Pride 2008.

Sunday, June 8

Circle City IN Pride 2008 Cookout – Pagoda at Garfield Park – 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

(Event co-sponsored by Indiana Black Pride)

Tuesday, June 10

Pride of Indy Band Anniversary Concert – Location to be determined – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 11

Circle City IN Pride Educational Seminar – *Health related topic to be determined* – Phoenix Theatre (downstairs) – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 13

Indiana Youth Group Pride Dinner/Event – *Additional details will follow*

Saturday, June 14

10:00 a.m. – Circle City IN Pride Parade
Mass Avenue to Vermont to University Park

11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Circle City IN Pride Festival
University Park

Important Dates in U.S. GLBT History

1610: Virginia adopts "sodomy laws" of England, making sex between two men a "capital crime" punishable by death. Although no longer a capital crime, sodomy remains an imprisonable offense in the laws of sixteen states.

1777: In a move seen as "liberal" at the time, Thomas Jefferson proposes a revision of Virginia law to reduce the penalty for sodomy from death to castration. This is never enacted.

1778: Gotthold Enslin becomes the first American discharged from the Army for sodomy.

1860: Walt Whitman publishes "Calamus" poems in Leaves of Grass, celebrating his "love for comrades," a veiled reference to his homosexuality.

1869: Hungarian psychologist Benkert invents the word "homosexual" to describe people attracted to the same sex. This signals an important attitude shift brought on by the new medical profession; rather than being a criminal act of a sin (as the act of sodomy was considered to be), loving someone of the same sex was now seen as a psychological "condition" or illness which should be cured, not punished.

1950: Harry Hay and others found Mattachine Society in Los Angeles, America's first ongoing gay rights organization.

1955: Phyllis Martin and Del Lyon found America's first lesbian rights organization, the Daughters of Bilitis, in San Francisco.

1965: Gay and lesbian people picket outside federal offices in Washington to protest the government's employment discrimination against gays. This is the first public protest by gay people in the nation's capital.

1969: Angered by police harassment, patrons of the Stonewall Inn, a New York gay bar, fights back during a raid, initiating several days of violence known as the "Stonewall Riots."

Pride Bag Lady Country & Gospel Brunch
Sunday, April 20th
Talbot Street

Doors open: 12:00 noon
Brunch served: 1:00 p.m.
Showtime: 1:30 p.m.
Brunch is catered by Hoaglin Fine Catering
Brunch & Show: \$20.00 Admission
Proceeds (including performer tips) will be used to start a fund for a new Community Resource Center.
For more information, please contact Gary Brackett at gkbracke@iupui.edu.

HOAGLIN FINE CATERING
TALBOTT STREET
THE WORD

Brunch menu includes: Assorted Danish & Breakfast Bakeries served with Sweet Cream Butter, Sliced Fresh Fruit and Seasonal Berries, Vegetarian Three Cheese Strata, Sausage & Cheese Strata, Roasted Redjacket Potatoes, Apple Wood Smoked Bacon, Cinnamon Baguette French Toast with Hickory Shagbark Syrup, Fresh Ground Roast Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee served with sugar, sweeteners and cream. Drink specials will be available!

For more information, please contact Gary Brackett at gkbracke@iupui.edu.