



# PRIDE PRESS

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## Ticket Sales for Laugh OUT Loud – Feb. 19

Indianapolis - Indy Pride members are encouraged to purchase tickets for Laugh OUT Loud early. Tickets for Laugh OUT Loud are on sale from Indy Pride Board members and at Talbott Street, 2145 N. Talbott Street. General admission tickets are \$15.00. A couple of Corporate Reserved Tables are still available for sale. The Corporate Table is \$400.00 for ten people (\$40.00 per person). The Corporate Table guarantees reserved seating and cocktail service along with other “perks”. Corporate Tables can be purchased from Gary Brackett at [gkbracke@iupui.edu](mailto:gkbracke@iupui.edu).

This year’s event will feature comedian William Brown, Britney Spears impersonator, Terra Jole (aka “Mini Britney”) and the Rubi Girls from Dayton, Ohio. Photos and additional information about the performers can be found in this issue.

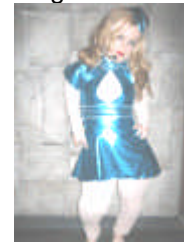
Laugh OUT Loud is an annual evening of GLBT comedy presented by Indy Pride as a fundraising event to raise money for Pride events. This year’s event will be held at Talbott Street on Thursday, February 19. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Showtime is 8:00 p.m.

## Laugh Out Loud Entertainment



Comedian William Brown

William Brown, also known as DJBearCub, has been entertaining the Bear Community with not only music for dancing since 2001, but also with his colorful humor. William’s comedy has become notorious thanks to his interesting observations of life. He has been traveling the nation sharing his opinions on everything from pop culture to what happens at bear runs everywhere. His premiere DVD release of Apple Brown Betty has gained clamor in the gay community since its kickoff party back in December 2008. William has worked in Chicago, Orlando, Detroit, St. Louis, and Indianapolis and now brings his latest show here to Erie. So join us for an evening to remember with headlining comedian William Brown!



Terra Jole (aka “Mini Britney”)

Originally from San Antonio, TX, Terra has been singing, dancing and acting since the age of 5. In her previous entertainment work, Terra is most recognized for the MTV special, *True Life: I’m A Little Person*. She is known for countless other television and film projects such as *The Daily Show With John Stewart*, *Austin Power 3*, *Tales From Beyond*, *The Osbournes*, and *Friday Night Lights*. As of January 2008, Terra completed a six-month run as a headliner in the show *Little Legends* on the strip in Las Vegas. *Little Legends* was the worlds only tribute show headlined entirely by Little People. Aside from performing as “Mini-Britney,” she also performs as “Mini-Alanis Morissette,” “Mini-Cher,”

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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."*



## Langston Hughes

James Mercer Langston Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri on February 1, 1902. He was the second child of Carrie Mercer Langston (a school teacher) and James Nathaniel Hughes. Hughes was named after both his father and great-uncle, John Mercer Langston. In 1888, his great-uncle was the first African-American to be elected to the United State Congress from Virginia.

Langston's father, James, left his family and later divorced Carrie. His father went to Cuba and then to Mexico seeking to escape "the enduring racism in the United States." After the separation of his parents, Langston was raised by his maternal grandmother, Mary Langston, in Kansas while his mother sought employment. Mary Langston, drawing from the activist experiences of her generation, instilled in Langston a "sense of racial pride." After the death of his grandmother, Langston went to live with family friends, James and Mary Reed for a couple of year. Langston eventually lived with his mother Carrie, who had remarried while he was still an adolescent. According to researchers, Langston's unstable early life heavily influenced the poet he would become.

While in grammar school in Illinois, Langston was elected class poet. Hughes reflected later in life that he "thought it was because of the stereotype that African Americans have rhythm." He went on to say "I was a victim of a stereotype. There were only two of us Negro kids in the whole class and our English teacher was always stressing the importance of rhythm in poetry."

In high school, Langston wrote for the school newspaper, edited the yearbook, and began to write his first short stories, poetry and dramatic plays. His first piece of jazz poetry, *When Sue Wears Red* was written while he was still in high school.

Hughes had a strained and "unhappy" relationship with his father. This led Langston to attempt suicide multiple times. Upon graduating from high school in June 1920, Langston attempted to convince his father to provide money for him to attend Columbia University. His father agreed to provide financial assistance to Langston if he would study engineering. Langston agreed and enrolled at Columbia where he managed to maintain a B+ average. Langston left Columbia in 1922 because of racial prejudice within the institute. His interest by this time revolved more around the neighborhood of Harlem than his studies.

Hughes worked various odd jobs before serving a brief tenure as a crewman aboard the S.S. Malone in 1923. Hughes left the S.S. Malone for a temporary stay in Paris. During his time in Paris, he became part of the black expatriate community. In 1924, Hughes returned to the U.S. to live with his mother in Washington, D.C. Eventually, Hughes obtained work as a busboy in a hotel where he met the poet Vachel Lindsay. Lindsay publicized his discovery of a new black poet. The following year, Hughes enrolled in Lincoln University, an historically black university in Chester County, Pennsylvania. There he became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the second black fraternal organization founded at a historically black college. Thurgood Marshall, who later became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was an alumnus and classmate of Hughes. Hughes earned a B.A. degree from Lincoln University in 1929 and moved to New York.

Academics and biographers believe that Hughes was a homosexual and included homosexual codes in many of his poems but to retain the "respect and support of black churches and organizations and avoid exacerbating his precarious financial situation, Hughes remained closeted." His love of black men is evidenced in a number of reported unpublished poems to a black male lover.

Hughes died in 1967 at the age of 65 from complications after abdominal surgery related to prostate cancer. His ashes are interred within the Arthur Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**  
**INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING**  
PLACE: INDY PRIDE OFFICE  
TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
**INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER**  
PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT  
TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
**PLANNED PARENTHOOD YOUNG LEADER'S**  
**SECOND ANNUAL '80S PROM**  
**WEARING A CONDOM ISN'T A DRAG!**  
(PRIDE BAG LADIES WILL BE FEATURED)  
PLACE: TALBOTT STREET  
TIME: 8:00 P.M. – MIDNIGHT  
TICKETS: \$10.00 PRESALE ([WWW.PPIN.ORG](http://WWW.PPIN.ORG))  
TICKETS AT DOOR: \$20.00

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
**PRESIDENT'S DAY DRAG BRUNCH**  
PLACE: TALBOTT STREET  
TIME: 12:00 NOON  
CATERING: HOAGLIN FINE CATERING  
TICKETS: \$15.00 IN ADVANCE  
TICKETS AT DOOR: \$20.00  
RESERVATIONS:  
[RESERVATIONS@TALBOTTSTREET.COM](mailto:RESERVATIONS@TALBOTTSTREET.COM)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**  
**LAUGH OUT LOUD**  
PLACE: TALBOTT STREET  
DOORS OPEN: 7:00 P.M.  
SHOWTIME: 8:00 P.M.

“Mini-Madonna,” and a member of the Mini-Village People. In 2009, “Mini-Britney” will release her first original song.



*The Rubi Girls*

Known throughout Ohio as The Rubi Girls, this dynamic, close-knit troupe of professional men has been performing since the late 1980's. Comprised of elementary school teachers, an occupational therapist, a clinical counselor and business owners, the group began performing for one another in an attic during college. What started on Rubicon Street in Dayton, Ohio has grown into a frenzy for seating arrangements upon the announcement of a show. Dayton City officials have even recognized the Rubi Girls with its honorable Community Service Award for their efforts in raising over \$150,000+ for various AIDS and gay-related causes.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
**Presidents Day Drag Brunch**  
\$2.50 Screwdrivers & Bloody Mary's  
Noon-4pm  
Reservations suggested • \$15/Advance • \$20/Door  
reservations@TalbottStreet.com • CATERED BY Hoaglin Fine Catering  
A fundraiser for Indy Pride, Inc.  
Check out our Drink Specials!  
Friday's \$2.50 Wells & \$2.50 Domestic Beer  
Saturday's \$4.75 Absolut's  
Sunday \$2.50 U-Call-Its & \$2.50 Domestic Beer  
WHERE CULTURE AND DIVERSITY MEET  
2143 TALBOTT STREET • (317) 921-1243 • FRIDAY 9-3 • SATURDAY 9-3 • SUNDAY 9-11 • talbottstreet.com • myspace.com/talbottstreetnightclub

### **Talbott Street Hosts President's Day Brunch**

Indianapolis – Talbott Street will host a President's Day Brunch on Sunday, February 15 from 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. This is a fund-raising event for Indy Pride, Inc. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at the door. Reservations are suggested. Please send all reservation requests to: [reservations@talbottstreet.com](mailto:reservations@talbottstreet.com). Catering is provided by Hoaglin Fine Catering.

## Quote of the Month

***“Humor is laughing at what you haven't got when you ought to have it.”***  
*Poet, Langston Hughes*

### Circle City IN Pride 2009 Committees

The first planning meeting for Circle City IN Pride 2009 was held on Monday, January 26. Brad Plunket and Nic Hensley are serving as Co-Chairs of this year's events. The following committees have been established:

**Kick-Off Event** – *Tiffany Dow (Chair) & Steve Turner* – Responsible for planning, organizing and publicizing the Pride Kick-Off Event.

**Parade** – *H.R. Jung (Chair) & Scott Vankirk* - Receives parade applications; sells parade floats to businesses and organizations; establishes order of parade entries; arranges for security for the parade; checks in parade applicants the morning of the event; during parade – works with organizations to line up parade, works with security to start parade on time

**Vendors** – *Gary Brackett (Chair) & Nicole Griffin* - Receives vendor applications; notifies vendors who are selling items of city regulations and permits required; works with Operations Chair to make sure that sufficient tables and chairs are ordered for the Festival; prepares list of all food vendors for Health Commission; prepares master vendor list with organization contact, address, phone number, etc.; checks in vendors at the Festival and notifies vendors of their assigned location

**Publicity** – *Nicholas Murphy (Chair)* - Writes and sends out press releases after approval by Indy Pride Board; arranges interviews and publicity for events; updates websites; assists with poster and other graphic design.

**Security/Safety** – *Bob Smith (Chair)* - Arranges for security officers for Pride Parade & Festival; works with Indiana War Memorial Police & Indianapolis Police Department during parade & festival; arranges for emergency medical services on site at Festival

**Volunteers** – *Neal Carnes (Chair)* - Solicits individuals to volunteer to work at Pride Parade & Festival; arranges schedule for volunteers to work at entry points to collect donations; arranges schedule for volunteers to set up and clean up at the Festival

**Ticket Sales** – *Dan Maxwell (Chair)* – Arranges for staff to sell drink tickets during the Pride Festival. Assists with reconciling ticket and actual alcohol sales.

**Bar Operations** – *Marc Gary (Chair)* - Arranges for the sale of alcohol at the Pride Festival; arranges for special bar (catering) license/permit; sets up alcohol sales areas in cooperation with Operations Committee; monitors alcohol sales; staffs alcohol sales areas(s)

**Entertainment** – *Vivian Farris & Andy Gilliland (Co-Chairs)* - Recommends entertainment for main stage with final approval by Indy Pride Board; establishes stage line-up; arranges hotel accommodations for headliner; arranges transportation for headliner(s) (air and limo); arranges for staging (lights/sound) for event

**Logistics** – *(Chair Needed – Set Up) & Kevin Warren (Chair – Tear Down)* - Orders tables and chairs for Festival; transports tents, banners, etc. from storage area to Festival; distributes tents, tables and chairs to vendors; assists vendors with tent construction; puts tents together for vendors who have paid fee; takes tents down at end of Festival; monitors trash cans – changing trash bags, as needed; cleans park at end of Festival

**Educational/Town Hall Meeting** – *Gary Brackett & Nicole Griffin (Co-Chairs)* - Arranges for educational seminar(s) to be held in conjunction with IN Pride Celebration; arranges for location of seminar(s); arranges for speakers; works with Indy Rainbow Chamber of Commerce to arrange reception

**Picnic** – *Tiffany Dow (Chair)* - arranges for picnic facilities; orders food, ice, paper products for picnic (or arranges for donations); provides signage/map to picnic location; cleans picnic area after event

**Skating Party** – *Charlie Mauer (Chair)* - Arranges for Pride Skating Party

**Retail Sales** – *Doug Mellinger (Chair)* – Obtains merchandise to sell for event (*i.e.*, t-shirts, CDs, trinkets); coordinates staffing of sales booth during Pride

**Donations** – *(Chair Needed)* – Sets up and coordinates donation drop boxes at all entrances to the park; recruits volunteers to work shifts at donation drop boxes

**Finance** – *Jason Grisell & Steve Turner (Co-Chairs)* – Responsible for budget, donations, deposits and disbursement of funds