

## **December Events Raise Funds for IYG & United Christmas Services**

*Indianapolis* - The first annual Holiday Diva Show sponsored by Indy Pride and the Pride Bag Ladies was held on Sunday, December 7 at Talbott Street. The event featured the live vocal talents of Brenda Williams, Tobin Strader, Dave Ruark, Marni Lemons, Holly Petree, David Ward, Brent Marty, and Tyler Sawatzky signing holiday songs. Admission for the event was a wrapped present for our “adopted” family. In addition to the presents, over \$900 was raised and donated to United Christmas services!

On Sunday, December 14, the Indy Pride Bag Ladies held their annual Holiday Show – *The Stockings Were Hung* at Talbott Street. The event raised \$1,575 for Indiana Youth Group (IYG). The show featured the 2008 Indy Pride Bag Lady Queen, Dona Rhea along with performances from Carolina Fox, Ladonna Williams, Amanda Love, Sequoia Pentecost, Halle Pino, Summer Clearance, Cheri Forever & Holly Luyah as well as the live vocal talents of Holly Petree. Mark your calendars now for *Shimmering Shamrocks* – March 17!



## **Rubi Girls to Headline Laugh OUT Loud!**

*Indianapolis* – The Rubi Girls from Dayton, Ohio will headline this year’s Laugh OUT Loud event which will be held at Talbott Street on Thursday, February 19. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Showtime is 8:00 p.m.

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. Dayton City Officials have even honored the Rubi Girls with its honorable Community Service Award. Since their inception, the “Girls” have raised over \$150,000+ for various AIDS and gay-related causes. Check out their website ([www.rubigirls.com](http://www.rubigirls.com)) for a peek at a documentary about them!

The opening act will be “Mini Britney.” Terra Jole’, aka “Mini Britney” celebrates pop icon Britney Spears “live never seen before with flawless costumes and live vocals. Her short statured frame of 4’2” combined with a huge spirit and energy never fails to delight audiences.”

*Continued on page 3*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Holiday Shows Raise Funds!
- 1 Rubi Girls to Headline Laugh OUT Loud
- 2 GLBT History: Ellen DeGeneres
- 3 Upcoming Meetings & Events
- 4 Indy Band Members to Play at Obama Inaugural

# 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.”

---



## Ellen DeGeneres

Ellen DeGeneres was born on January 26, 1958 in Metairie, Louisiana. Her parents are Elliott, an insurance agent and Betty, a speech therapist and best-selling author. Ellen has a brother, Vance DeGeneres, who is an actor and guitarist for the rock band, Cowboy Mouth.

Ellen was raised as a Christian Scientist until the age of 13. In 1974, her parents divorced. Shortly thereafter, her mother married a salesman named Roy Gruessendorf. Ellen and her mother moved with Gruessendorf from the New Orleans area to Atlanta, Texas.

After graduating from Atlanta High School in 1976, Ellen returned to New Orleans to attend the University of New Orleans where she majored in communications. After one semester, she left school to work in a clerical position at her cousin's law firm. Prior to becoming a stand-up comedian, Ellen worked as a waitress, a sales clerk, a hostess, a painter and a bartender.

In 1981, DeGeneres started performing stand-up in small clubs and coffeehouses. In the early 1980s, she began to tour nationally. Eventually, she won the title “Funniest Person in America” in a contest sponsored by Showtime Network. This led to higher profile venues. In 1986, she appeared for the first time on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*.

DeGeneres' comedy material became the basis for a very successful TV sitcom, *Ellen*. The show ran on ABC from 1994-1998. The show was called *These*

*Friends of Mine* during its first season. Some critics referred to the show as the “female Seinfeld.”

In February 1987, Ellen came out publicly as a lesbian on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. In April of that year, her character, Ellen, came out of the closet to her therapist, played by Oprah Winfrey. The coming out episode, *The Puppy Episode*, was one of the highest-rated episodes of the series. Subsequent episodes failed to pull the ratings and the series was cancelled.

In 2001, Ellen returned to series TV with a new sitcom, *The Ellen Show*. Although her character was also a lesbian, this was not the central theme of the show. On November 21, 2001, Ellen received wide exposure when she hosted the *Emmy Awards*. The network had postponed the awards twice that year over concern that an awards ceremony would appear “insensitive” after the September 11 attack on the United States. DeGeneres received standing ovations that evening for her performance which included the line, “We’re told to go on living our lives as usual, because to do otherwise is to let the terrorists win, and really what would upset the Taliban more than a homosexual woman wearing a suit in front of a room full of Jews?”

In the summer of 2003, Ellen lent her voice to the character of Dory, a fish with short-term memory loss in the Disney film, *Finding Nemo*.

In September 2003, Ellen launched a daytime talk show, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. The show was nominated for 11 Emmy awards in its first season, including Best Talk Show.

On September 7, 2007, Ellen was selected to host the *79th Academy Awards*, making her the first openly gay or lesbian person to host the event. Ellen won an *Emmy Award* as host of the Academy Awards broadcast.

DeGeneres' personal life has provided material for the tabloid press. Her relationship with actress Anne Heche (*Another World, Men In Trees, Psycho*) began in 1997. Heche ended the relationship in 2000 and married cameraman Coley Laffoon. Since 2004, Ellen has been in a relationship with former *Ally McBeal* actress Portia deRossi. DeGeneres and deRossi were married on August 16, 2008 in front of 19 guests including their respective mothers. Highlights of the wedding and reception were featured on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* and in *People* magazine.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MONDAY, JANUARY 26**

**CIRCLE CITY IN PRIDE PLANNING MEETING**

PLACE: INDY PRIDE OFFICE

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 11**

**INDY PRIDE BOARD MEETING**

PLACE: INDY PRIDE OFFICE

TIME: 7:00 – 9:30 P.M.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

**INDY PRIDE MEMBERSHIP MIXER**

PLACE: AGIO RESTAURANT

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

**LAUGH OUT LOUD**

PLACE: TALBOTT STREET

DOORS OPEN: 7:00 P.M.

SHOWTIME: 8:00 P.M.

---

### OTHER GLBT EVENTS

**Sunday, January 25**

**Indiana Youth Group Drag/Variety Show**

Place: Comedy Sportz – Mass Avenue

Time: 6:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD YOUNG**

**LEADER'S 80'S PROM**

PLACE: TALBOTT STREET

TIME: 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 MIDNIGHT

PRIDE BAG LADIES WILL PERFORM!

TICKETS: \$10.00 ONLINE OR \$15.00 AT DOOR

*Laugh Out Loud Continued from page 1*

In the short time Terra has been performing as “Mini Britney” (since February 2007), she has become a “itb” of a press darling and has been featured on the following programs: *CSI: Las Vegas*, *Entertainment Tonight*, *Good Morning America*, *Access Hollywood*, *ABC News* and *CNN*.

General Admission tickets are \$15.00 each. A limited number of Corporate Tables (10 seats) are available for \$400.00. General admission tickets can be purchased from Indy Pride Board members and Talbott Street. Corporate Tables can be purchased by contacting Gary Brackett at 317-435-4923. Corporate tables are reserved seating and will have special alcohol beverages.

---

## Circle City IN Pride 2009 Planning Meeting – Monday, January 26

(Indianapolis) – The first Circle City IN Pride 2009 Planning Meeting will be held on Monday, January 26 in the Indy Pride Office. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Brad Plunkett and Nic Hensley, are the Co-Chairs of this year's events. Committees include: Picnic, Skating Party, *Pride Guide*, Publicity, Vendors, Entertainment, Parade, Logistics, Alcohol/Beverage Tent(s), Town Hall Meeting, Kick-Off Event, Volunteers, Ticket Sales, and Merchandise. Volunteers are needed. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting and get involved in planning this year's events!

.....

### Want to Play Basketball in the Gay Games?

The Gay Games will arrive next year, in Cologne, Germany! At the last gay games in Chicago the Indiana Spartans Basketball Team won silver medals. The Spartans are now looking for interested parties who want to play in a gay/lesbian basketball league and participate in next year's games in Cologne, Germany. The Spartans are in a recruiting stage and are trying to build a major gay and lesbian basketball league in Indianapolis. If there are any interested gay, lesbian players (any level), please contact William Johnson at [williamindn1@aol.com](mailto:williamindn1@aol.com).

=====

## ***Quote of the Month***

*"Sometimes you can't see yourself clearly until you see yourself through the eyes of others."*

*- Comedian & Talk-Show Host, Ellen DeGeneres*

### **Pride of Indy Band Members to Play in Obama Inaugural Parade**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Pride of Indy Band, as part of The Lesbian and Gay Band Association (LGBA), a musical organization comprising marching and concert bands from across the United States and around the world, has been chosen to perform in the parade for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration on January 20, 2009. This is the first time in history that a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group will march in a Presidential Inaugural Parade.

The 177-piece LGBA band will join groups from across the country as well as from the Armed Forces in the historic parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, which follows President-elect Barack Obama's swearing-in ceremony on the steps of the United States Capitol.

"I am honored to invite these talented groups and individuals to participate in the Inaugural Parade," Obama said in a news release. "These organizations embody the best of our nation's history, diversity, and commitment to service. Vice President-elect (Joe) Biden and I are proud to have them join us in the parade."

Local Pride of Indy Band members that will be taking part in the LGBA parade unit are Laura Blake, Ray English, Adrian Hartsough, Dan Johnson, Eric Munsch, Joel Ray, Bryan Sirtosky, Lori Stone Sirtosky, Shelly Snider, Bob Stuper, and Travis Tester.

The LGBA concert band performed in 1993 at the inaugural celebrations for President Bill Clinton, becoming the first lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group to perform at an inauguration -- and receiving a "thumbs-up" gesture from the President as they played "America the Beautiful." The LGBA band also performed at President Clinton's second inauguration in 1997.

The selection process was conducted by the Presidential Inaugural Committee, which, with the help of experienced military musicians, assessed the presentations of the nearly 1,400 marching bands, drill teams and musical groups that submitted applications to appear in the parade. The number of groups hoping to perform in President-elect Barack Obama's inaugural celebration represented unprecedented interest in marching in the parade.

The Lesbian and Gay Band Association, founded in Chicago in 1982 by seven member bands, has grown to 34 member organizations in the United States, Canada and Australia.

Formed in the spring of 2005, the Pride of Indy Bands have several talented ensembles in its family – a concert band, marching band, pep band, jazz ensemble, woodwind ensemble and brass ensemble. The group also boasts a yearly performance calendar filled with over 20 concerts and special appearances at community events locally and in cities outside of Indiana. The Pride of Indy Band & Color Guard serves as a musical and educational resource to the Central Indiana community and is comprised of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and LGBT-friendly musicians. Activities are conducted in a supportive, accepting and affirming atmosphere. For more information or to offer financial support, or to volunteer with this organization, please visit their website at [www.prideofindy.org](http://www.prideofindy.org).

