PRIDE NEW HAVEN
OFFICIAL 2018 PRIDE GUIDE

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NEW HAVEN PRIDE CENTER

Gotham Citi Cafe

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IT'S TWO MAGAZINES IN ONE!
Flip this issue over to read the latest Centerline Magazine!
The mission of Anchor Health Initiative is to embrace and promote the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender individuals and others living in our communities by offering compassionate, comprehensive, and evidenced based medical care in a safe, welcoming and non-judgmental environment.
As I sit in my home office trying to write this letter about 20 years of Pride in New Haven, I ask myself what has not been said. When you have had the experience of celebrating “almost quarter of a century milestones,” two of which I have, Pride New Haven at 20 years and Gotham Citi Café soon to be 23 years, you find that much has already been said. So I’m going to talk about fulfilling dreams, mine and yours.

At one time I was very much like most of you, young (a long time ago), gay and with my whole life in front of me. Someone who enjoyed their friends and the times they spent together dancing and partying in clubs, Provincetown and NYC. I’ve had the pleasure of loving 5 men in my life, and I guess the benefit of being unable to sustain a permanent relationship when I was younger allowed me the opportunity to meet and fall in love with all five. The last one, will undoubtedly be my “last” as I’m getting way too old to change for anyone new in my life.

I didn’t start my life thinking I would own an “iconic” business. In actuality, when Gotham turned 6, I made a complete fool of myself trying to sing “Who Could Ask for More,” because at the time it was rare to see a 6 year old nightclub, never mind a 23 year old one. It’s something with time, perseverance and patience that just happens.

It’s the same thing with starting Pride New Haven. I didn’t start out on this path to be called “Founder” 20 years later. It was started because there was an opportunity for it to happen and I felt as the owner of a gay-based business I had a responsibility to the community. This is also the reason why Gotham has also been in so many NYC Pride Marches, about 11 over a 23 year period.

I was not a special person who did these things; I was just someone like you, trying to get through this crazy life and be with someone I loved. It is something that each and every one of you can do, by finding a passion that you love and sticking with it. It doesn’t matter how big or little that thing you find to do, because it will grow with the right nurturing into what you desire. There is going to be trials and tribulations along the way, God knows I’ve had mine, but with your dedication and support, who knows what you will create.

One of the greatest things you can leave is a legacy. By surviving your lifetime it says to the world “I was here.” As I grow older, my focus has been to ensure these legacies live on, and with the right young talent at the helm I believe that’s not only possible, but probable.

In closing, I’d like to welcome you to the 20th anniversary of Pride New Haven, and wish you the best of luck in following your dreams.

Robb Bartolomeo
Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Pride New Haven
Founder and President, Empire Entertainment Group and Gotham Citi Café
Welcome to Pride New Haven

Congratulations – PRIDE New Haven this year turns 20.

This is a celebration not just for the folks who have worked so hard to ensure the success and continuation of this event – which they have tirelessly – but is also a celebration for our community. Your attendance, your support, your performances, and your involvement over the last 19 years has made PRIDE New Haven possible. Thank you. Having a Pride Festival as diverse and community focused as PRIDE New Haven is, is a beacon of hope to our youth, a reminder of the work still to be done to our activists, and a safe and welcoming place for folks all over our LGBTQIP2sAA spectrum.

The New Haven Pride Center is proud to be a producing partner of PRIDE New Haven - one of the largest LGBTQ+ events (if not the largest) in our State! This year’s PRIDE features the talents of almost 100 LGBTQ+ artists and DJs, includes many of our LGBTQ+ owned businesses, highlights our bars and nightlife community, and is jam packed with activities aimed to engage as diverse an audience as possible. We have author events, performance programs, food, public displays, and more.

The most exciting part of PRIDE New Haven for me this year is all the new folks coming to the table and participating. It’s so amazing to have so many new volunteers, first time performers, and brand new partners and sponsors. It really makes a difference. Thank you.

I always say it, and I’ll say it again here – we NEED Pride celebrations to continue. Not because those of us who are lucky enough to live authentically in ourselves need a place to celebrate (although that’s another good reason). We need them, because it opens the closet door a crack for those who aren’t able or ready to come out. It tells that person who feels alone “hey over here, there is a community you can belong to.” And it says “we aren’t going away” to those who wish to take our rights and our equality away.

Thank you for being a part of PRIDE New Haven. Happy PRIDE!

Patrick J Dunn
Executive Director
New Haven Pride Center
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PRIDE New Haven could not take place without the volunteers, organizers, performers and sponsors that makes the event so robust each year. Thanks to everyone who made this possible!

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Sister Funk
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**THANK YOU!**
Stoli® is a proud supporter of the LGBT community. The Stoli® Harvey Milk Limited Edition was created in partnership with the Harvey Milk Foundation, commemorating the 40th anniversary of Harvey Milk assuming office. Stoli® is making a donation to the Milk Foundation to support its award winning work towards global equality.
Yale New Haven Health believes the sum is greater than all of its parts. When individual organizations work well together with a common mission, great things happen. This collaboration is what makes our community strong.

Yale New Haven Health is proud to support New Haven Pride Center.
PRIDE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

2–4p: All Sounds Fair Concert: TMBOY & Laura Clapp§
Space Ballroom, 295 Treadwell St, Hamden, CT

MONDAY, SEPT. 10

6–8p: Opening Reception: Alexander Mickens Exhibition

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11

6–8p: Author Talk and Book Signing with Sophie Labelle

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13

7p & 9p: Escapade: An Unusual Experience§
Lyric Hall Theater, 827 Whalley Ave, New Haven

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14

5:30-8p: A PRIDE-full Event: A Gathering of the Friends of PRIDE New Haven
The Rooftop Terrace at 70 Audubon Street, New Haven (cash bar)

7-10p: Pride Barbecue ($10) at Partners Cafe, 365 Crown St, New Haven

10p–2a: PRIDE Kick-Off & Mr and Miss Gay New Haven Pageant at Partners Cafe

SATURDAY, SEPT. 15

11a–1p: PRIDE Zumba-raiser§
Southern CT State University, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven

2:30-3:30p: PRIDE March

3:30–10p: PRIDE Block Party on Center Street (entire street)

10p–2a: PRIDE After Party
Gotham Citi Nightclub, entrance on Center Street

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16

11a–12:30p: LGBTQ+ History Walking Tour (Registration required)

12–4p: PRIDE Comedy Brunch ($5 donation + brunch cost)
Barracuda Bistro & Bar, 1180 Chapel St, New Haven

12–4p: PRIDE Drag Brunch ($5 donation + brunch cost)
116 Crown, 116 Crown Street, New Haven

4–8p: PRIDE Tea Dance ($5 donation at door)
168 York Street Café, 168 York Street, New Haven

§Ticketed event; tickets available at http://www.newhavenpridecenter.org
Events take place or meet at 84 Orange Street, New Haven unless noted.
BLOCK PARTY MAIN STAGE LINEUP

3:45 - 4:00  Music: Chief Acid Officer
4:00 - 4:15  Solo Drag Performances
4:15 - 5:00  Solo Music Performances
5:00 - 5:30  Chibi-Con
5:30 - 5:45  Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut
5:45 - 6:00  Zumba
6:00 - 6:30  Music: Sister Funk
6:30 - 7:30  Solo Drag Performances
7:30 - 8:00  Music: Luminous
8:00 - 9:00  Solo Drag Performances
9:00 - 9:15  Music: Nikki Exotika
9:15 - 9:45  Music: PRIMME

Full performer schedule available at http://www.newhavenpridecenter.org

168 York Street, New Haven
(203) 789-1915
Visit us online for upcoming events:
https://www.facebook.com/168yorkstreetcafe/
YOUR PRIDE HOSTS

ROBIN BANKS: COMEDY BRUNCH
Robin Banks is the product of a one-night stand between a Carnival Barker and a Lucille Ball impersonator. Ms. Banks is one of New Haven’s most entertaining drag queens whose dedicated fan base continues to grow at an impressive, uncontrollable rate. Ms. Banks, a valued member of the New Haven community, which she is proud to call home, hosts a popular and entertaining drag show that is of the highest quality. As Ms. Banks says; “I host a Drag Show of the highest quality you can get with man in panty-hose and lipstick.” This is Ms. Banks’ third time as a PRIDE New Haven host.

SYLVIA HEART: MR AND MISS GAY NEW HAVEN PAGEANT AND DRAG BRUNCH
“Started from the bottom now I’m here.” Sylvia Heart is self-proclaimed and publicly known as CT’s OG Barbie. She’s been in the game more than a minute and has earned her stripes. Golden rule goes far so be kind and respect each other. She is a newly found Pageant producer of the New Haven Mr & Mrs Pride Pageant and the Creator of Hearty Brunch @ 116 Crown, which is the 3rd Sunday of every month. WISHING EVERYONE a very happy pride! And remember, in life you need a great a** and a good pair of lashes.

KAREN JOSEPHINE: AFTER PARTY
Karen Josephine Bertini is a CT native, born and raised right here in New Haven. She has lived in California and Florida, but is now back here to stay. Currently a freelance makeup artist, hairstylist and devoted mom to her Gotham City Children, Karen has also been on the the Entertainment Committee Chair for PRIDE New Haven for the last 5 years. As a proud LGBT advocate and transwoman herself she has also led our float in the NYC pride parade. You may have seen her as “Wonder Woman” or “Queen of the Enchanted Forest.”

SCSU Social Justice Month
November 2018

Social Justice Month will bring increased focus and attention to challenging injustice, valuing diversity, and creating a climate of inclusion. It is our goal to promote awareness, increase knowledge, and inspire action among our students. Programs are focused on delivering meaningful learning experiences that educate, empower, and mobilize students to be active agents for social change on campus and in their communities.

For a complete list of Social Justice Month events, please visit socialjustice.SouthernCT.edu. #owls4justice

“THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR GOALS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT AN INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE AS A CORE VALUE OF SOUTHERN, ENSURING THAT OUR CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT IS SAFE, NURTURING AND WELCOMING FOR ALL.”
– President Joe Bertolino
April 2017
TIANA MAXIM ROSE: AFTER PARTY

My name is Tiana Maxim Rose, I’m a 27 year old trans showgirl based out of New Haven CT. I am originally from Upstate NY but am so glad to be here in New Haven, CT. I have spent the last 7 years making a name for myself as the queen with no pants and I’m your host for the night time show for a second year! It’s an honor and i hope you all enjoy yourself this weekend! Be proud be happy!! HAPPY PRIDE!

MIZ DESTINY NATIONS: BLOCK PARTY

I, Miz Destiny Nations, starting doing drag in 2011 when I won the Drag Wars Contest at the Polo Club in Hartford, CT. From the moment I walked on that stage I knew that this was what I wanted to do. I come from the Legendary House of Nations, where I constantly get my motivation and support to continue my passion. I get a lot of my inspiration from each of my Nations family and turn it into my own.

I do what I do not only for the passion I have for it but also as a role model for today’s gay youth. Nothing makes me more happy than to know that the younger generation not only looks up to me as a performer but also someone to come to for advice and guidance.

BARBRA JOAN STREETSA ND: BLOCK PARTY

Barb is humbly honored to be hosting the New Haven PRIDE Block Party for the second year in a row. She has been impersonating Barbra Streisand and other celebrities since Jesus Christ’s Bar Mitzvah and has been going strong ever since! She cohosts her own show with Summer Orlando, called the Boozy Barbra Broadway Bash, and cohosted Naugatuck PRIDE this past June. She also performs throughout New England and New York City. She cannot WAIT to see you all at New Haven PRIDE this year!

YOUR PRIDE HOSTS

WE’VE GOT AN EXCITING LINEUP OF CONCERTS FOR OUR 34TH SEASON, BURSTING WITH LIFE-CHANGING HISTORIC MOMENTS, PURE CROWD-PLEASERS, THE BEST OF THE HOLIDAYS, A FEW SHOW TUNES WITH SOME WICKED DIVAS, AND A WORLD PREMIERE THAT WILL BE EMOTIONAL, INSPIRING, AND A JOYFUL CELEBRATION FOR EVERYONE! IT’S ANOTHER FABULOUS YEAR WITH THE CTGMC!

Come with us as we explore the ways folks all around the globe celebrate their holidays. We’ll visit many exotic destinations before taking a few slight detours along the way, with some surprising “forgotten” carols from other lands that should probably stay forgotten! Start this year’s holidays with a magical trip around the world, CTGMC-style!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT 1PM
THE KATE, OLD SAYBROOK
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 8PM
THE THEATRE AT THE CO-OP, NEW HAVEN

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, we’ll be having a celebration of our own, featuring all the songs that made an impact on the lives of our own singers. From Diana Ross’s “I’m Coming Out” to Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way, you’ll recognize a part of your own life in every song. We’re commissioning a groundbreaking new work to be written just for this special event. Don’t miss it!

SATURDAY, MAY 18 AT 8PM
SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 4PM
THE THEATRE AT THE CO-OP, NEW HAVEN

In addition to these don’t-miss events, we’ve also been invited to help the New Haven Symphony celebrate its own 125th Anniversary Season, joining Broadway’s biggest divas to sing musical theatre showstoppers with the full NHSO, including music from Wicked, Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Chicago, Funny Girl and more! At various venues on February 9, 10, and 14, 2019. Visit newhavensymphony.org for more information.

VISIT US AT
CTGMC.ORG
FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION
ESCAPADE: AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE CAST

**Luis Antonio**
Luis Antonio is a New Haven based dancer and choreographer. Luis wrote, choreographed, and produced Escapade: An Unusual Experience, which premiered in October 2015 at Lyric Hall Theater in New Haven. Luis is a founding dancer of Elm City Dance Collective. Luis graduated from the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven, CT in 2005. World Premiere of Elevada at Yale Rep. Choreographer & Actor for The Murder Pact on Lifetime Network. Luis has performed with Nazorine Paglia (New Haven, CT), Full Force Dance Company (Hartford, CT), Salix Productions (Hartford, CT), and Image/256 Productions (Milford, CT). Luis has taught and choreographed at Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School and Cross Drama in New Haven, CT; New England Ballet Company in Bridgeport, CT.

**Karelys Bleau**
Karelys Bleau, with curves to kill and made straight outta punching bags, is a New Yorker who moved to New Haven as a kid. I started drag 7 years ago, but have been in the hair and beauty industry since I was 12. Now at 27, I find drag is her getaway, my outlet, my vacation from everyday life. I’m a celebrity when Karelys comes out, I forget all the stresses and really get to be as glamorous, fabulous, and expressive. I get the chance to embody what I see as my inner Amazon. I’m not perfect and I’m always learning new things, but with practice and a little patience anything is possible. You just have to stay true to you, and enjoy the ride.

**Vivienne LaFlamme**
Where there's smoke, there's fire. I like to start with a smoulder, move to a slow burn and finally leave the audience in ashes. I’m cute but quiet. Unknown but approachable. Classic with a twist. In 2010 I took classes at the NY School of Burlesque, since then, I’ve been performing all over New England and New York City. You’ll see me most of the time in New Haven, so catch up with me, but don’t get too close... or you might get burned! Viv, The Plan B of Burlesque.

**Kiki Lucia**
Kiki Lucia is a New Haven, CT-based drag performance artist with a vast training and performance background that includes numerous disciplines: classical ballet, aerial acrobatics, music theatre, modern dance, and acting. She regularly performs throughout Connecticut as well as appears at events in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. Her show Let’s Have a Kiki has regular performances at Partners Café in New Haven, Chez Est in Hartford, and Trevi Lounge in Fairfield. www.misskilucia.com @misskilucia on Instagram and Facebook

**Rory Roux Heart**
Rory Roux Heart is a newer queen to the New Haven drag scene, but certainly not new to appreciating and supporting this incredible art form. She appeared in Escapade as a dancer last October and returned in June for their performance at the International Festival of Arts and Ideas. Since then, she has performed in other various local shows and continues to try to be as visible as possible as a queer woman who does drag. Besides being a queen, Rory (aka Mimi Zschack) is a principal dancer with New England Ballet Company and teaches dance there as well as New England Dance Arts.

**Sorcia Warhol**
Sorcia Warhol is a mystic from planet Earth. Sorcia’s interest in the Arts is as physical and sensory means to metaphysical and extrasensory states that catalyze the evolution of human consciousness. This is Sorcia’s third appearance in an Escapade production.
DRAG PERFORMERS

JADA BEE: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
AND PRIDE AFTER PARTY
Jada Bee is 44 year old and from Baltimore, Maryland. She has been doing the art of female impersonation for 23 years. She has won Miss Maryland New Comer, Miss Gay Baltimore Maryland America, 1st Alt to Miss Gay Maryland USofA. Jade holds the title of Miss DC Pride of America and also is the promoter for Mr & Miss Vogue Pageantry and for Mr and Miss Leon's Pageant.

KARELYS BLEAU: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
AND PRIDE AFTER PARTY
Karelys Bleau, with curves to kill and made straight outta punching bags, is a New Yorker who moved to New Haven as a kid. I started drag 7 years ago, but have been in the hair and beauty industry since I was 12. Now at 27, I find drag is her getaway, my outlet, my vacation from everyday life. I’m a celebrity when Karelys comes out, I forget all the stresses and really get to be as glamorous, fabulous, and expressive. I get the chance to embody what I see as my inner Amazon.

SPARKLE DIAMOND: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
Sparkle A. Diamond was created in May 2006 by Kishorn Henry. Sparkle, or Sparky, hails originally from St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands. Her career in HR has required her to live and work in cities such as Baltimore/Washington DC, Philadelphia, NYC, and New Haven. Sparkle held a few titles including the coveted Ms. East Coast International Newcomer, Ms. Leons, and Queen of Pride Baltimore. Sparkle now resides in Bridgeport, CT with husband, Aharon, and family.

SELENA DUSOILEIL:
PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
AND PRIDE AFTER PARTY
Selena DuSoileil, CTs self-proclaimed skinny legend, returns to Pride New Haven! After 4 years of creating the fantasy, the passion has only multiplied. Back and revamped, take in some confounding talents and enjoy being captivated by the illusions to come!

MISS DANIE'L ESSENCE: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
AND PRIDE AFTER PARTY
Miss Danie’l Essence has been performing and entertaining crowds for 10 years. She is a member of The Imperial Court of Western Mass, a member of the First Royal Drag Family of Maryland, the Producer of Mr & Miss Gay Connecticut Pageant, the producer of the Mr Gay New England & New England Puppy Contest and Founder of Rainbow Illusion Entertainment.

DR. COOL ETHAN: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
Dr. Cool Ethan is super excited to celebrate his first New Haven Pride! A recent transplant from Columbus, OH, Dr. CE has been performing for over a decade. His credits include multiple solo events and projects around the globe, show directing and producing the country’s longest running Drag King troupe: The Royal Renegades. He is featured as one of 6 storylines in the recent documentary: Kings, Queens, and Inbetweens.

AAUHYAH FIERCEX:
PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
Hello my name is Aaliyah Fiercex and I’m Here to show people I still got it. I’m 21 and I’m Puerto Rican.

CASEY FITZPATRICK:
PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
AND PRIDE AFTER PARTY
She’s beauty, she’s grace but she doesn’t want to be Ms. United States. I’m very honored to be back in New Haven and a part of Pride. Florida was fun, but Connecticut is my home. Have a safe Pride everyone!

XIOMARIE LABEJA:
PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
AND PRIDE DRAG BRUNCH
Xiomarie LaBeija is known as Connecticut’s Plus Size Dancing Diva. She performs throughout New England. Between performances, pageants, mentoring, modeling, and private bookings, Xiomarie is well known throughout the community. You can follow her on xiomarielabeija.com for updates and merch.
HARLETTE LEFLEUR: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
Born and raised in Connecticut, Harlette has been performing across the state for the last 12 years. With a unique blend of fashion, eccentricity, and a sadistic sense of humor, Harlette is excited to be making her Pride New Haven premiere.

RARITY MOONCHILD: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
Rarity Moonchild is a drag queen best known for her high energy performances and fierce looks; custom made costumes and hair. Rarity is the reigning Miss Gay Connecticut and has also won competitions such as DragWars at Pieces Bar in NYC and Chez Queen in Hartford. Rarity enjoys helping her community and is an animal rights advocate. For more information visit www.raritymoonchild.com

SUMMER ORLANDO: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
Summer Orlando is CT’s Premier Theater Drag Queen. Known for her Broadway costumes, showstopping performances and live singing, Summer is the first male actor to play the role of Dorothy in a licensed production of the Wizard of Oz in the world. You can find her on Instagram: misssummerorlando or at Summerorlandoproductions.com.

LOTUS QWEEN: PRIDE AFTER PARTY
Lotus Qween is a gender bending queer dumpster fire (aka; a good time). She thrives with crazy, weird and funny performance art with zany mixes and characters.

MADISON SAPPHIRE DUCHANNES: PRIDE AFTER PARTY
Madison Sapphire Duchannes is Connecticut’s Louisiana native and monthly show runner at Partners café in New Haven. She started performing while getting her first college degree here then went to upstate New York for finish her second and is now and Electrical Design Engineer. Her focuses are her Career, Fitness, and Charity work with the Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut.

GIGANTA SMALLS: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
Giganta is an intergalactic anime space babe bringing quirky comedy stylings to the New England drag community and then the world! Normally found in Hartford, she is more than grateful to bring her bug eyed glamour to New Haven. For booking info, visit www.gigantasmalls.com

LUCIA VIRGINITY: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY AND PRIDE DRAG BRUNCH
Lucia Virginity, a New Haven-Based drag queen who has been active in Connecticut since 2007. She has stunned audiences with her beauty & upbeat personality. She has also performed/attended/supported at countless events, and as a member of the ISCofAllCT, she has donated a lot of her time for charity to better the community.

ALF LAIYLAH WA LAIYLAH: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
My first stage name was Ambrosia. “Oh! I get it - like the fruit salad… hahahaha?!” Pause. Force a polite but genuine smile, reply: “The food of the gods.” Next I decided my drag name should be black and beautiful, exotic and regal, something people/are more familiar with? Enter: Laiylah (Night). Adding a dab more, it became campy with a touch of pith, “Alf Laiylah Wa Laiylah”: the stories of Scheherazade, baby.

MIA E Z’LAY: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
If you’re looking for a comedic and glamorous queen who can fit into a size 10 than you’ve come to the wrong place. Mia E Z’Lay has it all. Comedy, Personality, Sewing skills, and a lot of overdue parking tickets. You can find Mia on instagram @miaezlay.

ALSO PERFORMING:
BLUE GENE: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
RORY ROUX HEART: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
SYLVIA HEART: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
MIZ DESTINY NATIONS: PRIDE AFTER PARTY
TIANA MAXIM ROSE: PRIDE DRAG BRUNCH
BARBRA JOAN STREETSTAND: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
MUSICAL PERFORMERS

**Ephraim Adamz: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

Ephraim Adamz is an American nightclub DJ turned Pop Performer. From your local skating rink to your iPhone speaker, he’s done it all! Find his album “Innocent” on Amazon, iTunes, and Spotify!

**Carrie Ashton: PRIDE TEA DANCE**

Carrie Ashton’s passion for music has been long standing; she began performing at the age of thirteen and never looked back. For almost 20 years, Carrie has been performing and perfecting a stage show that is unpretentious and captivating. She performs solo acoustic as well as with her band, and travels throughout New England and the east coast. Carrie has shared the stage with Natalie Merchant, the Go-Go’s, REO Speedwagon, Antigone Rising, Van Zant and Lucinda Williams. She has an innate ability to read the crowd and move them with her unique style and charisma, and her energy on stage is hard to ignore.

**Akira: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

Pop singer-songwriter Akira is best known for his catchy melodies and loud voice. Set to a blend of piano and synthetic driven tones, he looks to bring his own brand of pop music to CT and beyond. With the release of his debut EP “Autotune + Heart” in 2017, he is poised to do just that. Delivering an exclusive performance, he is excited and ready to take the stage! Visit AkiraAKmusic.com to learn more.

**Chief Acid Officer: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

Chief Acid Officer is Zachary Hollback, an electronic musician from suburban Connecticut by way of Chicago and Atlanta. Zachary has been performing live hardware-only sets of machine music since 2001, focusing on the acid house that he grew up with in the 1980s. His sets are a love letter to the classic energy of house music and the sound of the 303, peppered with experimentation, improvisation, and elements of modern electronic music.

**Nikki Exotika: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

Nikki Exotika, 36, has been a Pop/Dance Music Artist in the NYC underground for over a decade. Her songs and lyrics are Catchy, provocative and even inspirational. She has performed all across the USA and the world in places like London, Amsterdam and even Mykonos. Nikki Exotika is one of the 1st Trans Pop Superstars from the US of her kind to hit global success!

**Jai International: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

Jesus Rosa, also known as Jai International, is a Community Leader, HIV Activist, Poet, Rapper and Creative Director. Jai is a Program Supervisor for clients that battle with Mental Health. Jai is High Emperor Emeritus of The Imperial Court of Western Mass. In his free time, Jai likes to donate his time and services to his community by hosting community events, guest speaking and preforming his poetry.

**Myles Jeh: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

Myles Jeh is an artist from Springfield, Massachusetts who is growing his reputation as a singer/rapper. He connected with music at an early age and became known for his low tone, and laid-back, but thoughtful lyrics. His latest album “TWENTY-8” is now available. To find out more about Myles Jeh, visit his official site www.mylesjeh.com.

**Sara Longo: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

She has been singing for most of her life, but just began performing for larger crowds in the New Haven area. She recently performed with Barbra Joan Streetsand and Summer Orlando in the Boozy Barbra Broadway Bash as well as Cancer is a Drag at 168 York Street Cafe. Sing along with her and bring lots of energy. She can’t wait to see you at Pride New Haven!

**Luminous: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY**

Luminous is an American songwriter and producer that engages audiences with his universal sound. From feel-good rhythms of old school R&B and island flavored rhythms combined with today’s pop content, audiences will find themselves up and dancing while singing along to catchy hooks all created by Luminous.
ANASTASIA MIRAGE: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY

Hello my name is Anastasia. I am Trans and I love to express myself through the art of music & drag. I think the best thing to do in life is not hold back and being a artist truly makes me feel so free. Check out my instagram: @warningitsanastasia for pictures, events & music.

TAIJA NEW: PRIDE AFTER PARTY

Taija New, a.k.a. the Newbian King, is an all-around Hip Hop entertainer from Massachusetts. In 2016 Taija embarked on a short tour called “The Pride Tour” where she performed at three Pride Festivals in the U.S. In November 2017 New released her highly anticipated sophomore album “Heart on the Stage”. This was followed up by her very own YouTube Series “The Newbian King Show”. For more information please visit www.taijanew.com.

PRIMME: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY

Blending songwriting sensibility with a hybrid sound of pop, R&B, and EDM, PRIMME’s music has people dancing from coast to coast. As a singer-songwriter and producer, PRIMME aims to bring storytelling back to mainstream pop - masterfully crafting accessible lyrics into infectious hooks. Since the release of his debut EP, PRIMME has been carving out his own piece of the pop landscape, hoping to empower and bring people together through music. www.PRIMMEmusic.com // @PRIMMEmusic

SINTEHA: PRIDE TEA DANCE

Sinthea has been playing music for over 30 years in all genres with a passion for classic rock. When she is not performing live she spends her time writing and recording her own music. She loves to play music and enjoys collaborating with other musicians.

RADIO STEVIE: PRIDE AFTER PARTY

Radio Stevie is a rapper, singer, songwriter, and producer. His style is a mix of pop, hip-hop and dance music. While living in Brazil, he released his debut EP “Rap Queen” on Up Style Records. The EP featured the single, “Yas Queen” which has surpassed over 10,000 plays worldwide. He followed with singles such as “Hands Up!” and “KILLER.” His energetic and empowering lyrics are guaranteed to get any party started! http://radiostevie.com

THE ONE NIGHT STAND BAND WITH SUZANNE SHERIDAN: PRIDE TEA DANCE

Sheridan is well known to audiences for her performances at Voices Café, the Coffeehouse at the Wheelers’ series, and her much touted tribute concerts. This time she is pulling out rock legends like “Pretty Woman,” “Lay Down Sally,” “Maybelline,” “Devil with the Blue Dress,” and many more. She will be joined by her incomparable band with Bob Cooper on keyboards, Vange Durst on lead guitar, Jake Habegger on drums, and Joe Meo on sax.

SISTER FUNK: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY

Sister Funk (AKA Run Jenny) is a 5-piece high energy, hard rocking original/cover band from New England who for the past 16 years has been sharing stages with chart-topping headliners at some of the national largest events. Their diverse catalog of music and interactive stage performance is a perfect combination for any age event. Find all the interesting facts, band photos, live and concept videos, music, media and tour schedule at www.sisterfunk.com.

SEV7EN TAYLOR: PRIDE AFTER PARTY

Sev7en Taylor is 23 years old, born and raised in New Haven, CT. He is always looking to get his artistic views across. He penned 3 novels and recorded two mixtapes and one ground breaking debut album. As Sev7en rises to the top he re-writes history of being an out rapper. His incredible skills as an MC silences a loud room as he spits witty punchlines with a deep flow.

ALSO PERFORMING:

VANGE DURST: PRIDE TEA DANCE
SORCIA WARHOL: PRIDE BLOCK PARTY
As we celebrate 20 years of pride, let's take a look back at last year! PRIDE New Haven 2017 was the first produced with the assistance of New Haven Pride Center executive director Patrick Dunn, and brought new events such as a comedy night and Tea Dance, elements that repeat this year.

Photos by Megan McGory Gleason
PRIDE WEEK ARTISTS

SOPHIE LABELLE:
AUTHOR OF ASSIGNED MALE COMICS

Sophie Labelle is a young transgender artist from Montreal, Quebec. She is internationally known for her webcomic Assigned Male, about the adventures of a group of trans teenagers. She also published several novels and children’s books. Her work is used in kindergardens, schools and universities around the world.

RUPTURE BY ALEX MICKEN ON EXHIBIT THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST

Alex Mickens is an upcoming multimedia artist out of the New Haven County area of Connecticut and a recent graduate of Hamden High School. Alex will attend university this fall to study art. Alex has exhibited work in various art shows throughout the city of Hamden and New Haven. Alex’s influences come from the experience of growing up transgender in a culture that faces constant discrimination. Through art, Alex has established an alternate world with strong characters that defy gender and exemplify living life true to oneself. These beings are colorful and represent the freedom of being able to ‘Live out Loud.”

GLSEN CONNECTICUT

SCHOOLS ARE UNSAFE AND UNWELCOMING FOR THE MAJORITY OF LGBT STUDENTS

85% heard “gay” used in a negative way (e.g. “that’s so gay”)

52% were verbally harassed because of their gender expression

62% of transgender students were unable to use the school restroom that aligned with their gender

Visit our website to learn how you can get involved and help end bullying/harassment in K-12 schools.

GLSEN.org/Connecticut - Facebook.com/GLSENCT - Twitter: @GLSENCT - Instagram: @GLSENConnecticut
KENDRA DAWSEY: PRIDE COMEDY BRUNCH

Kendra Dawsey is an up and coming standup comic who has performed in clubs and showcases in NYC and all over New England. She was recently accepted into the Portland Maine Comedy Festival, the Midwest Queer Comedy Festival, She Makes Me Laugh Femme Fest, and has been a featured comic on the Sirius XM radio program Paid or Pain. Kendra garners humor from her identity and experiences by blending anecdote with higher concepts.

MINA HARTONG: PRIDE COMEDY BRUNCH

Award winning comedienne Mina Hartong (Triangle Community Center Gala, Headliner Mardi Gras Sydney, “Pick of the Fringe”, Minneapolis Fringe) hosts with warmth, raw intelligence and charm. Mina has been performing and traveling for over twenty years taking her to Amsterdam, Iceland, and Pride Festivals around the world. A Connecticut native, she is the girl next door who dares to say what is on everyone’s mind.

ALSO PERFORMING:

ROBIN BANKS: PRIDE COMEDY BRUNCH

365 Crown Street, New Haven
(203) 776-1014

Visit us on Facebook to see our upcoming events and happenings:
http://www.facebook.com/Partners-Cafe-105086882867431
The Sweetheart Invitational Bowling Tournament would like to wish The New Haven Pride Center and all Pride New Haven attendees a Happy Pride Weekend!

Join us for our upcoming fundraiser!

September 8
Pause And Paint: Stretch your creative muscles while supporting our beneficiaries!
Tickets are $40 per person. 2-4:30 p.m.
Brunswick Colony Lanes · 600 South Colony Road · Wallingford, CT

Our beneficiaries for 2019 are The New Haven Pride Center and the Connecticut-based no-kill animal shelter Our Companions

Stayed tuned to www.sweetheartinvitational.com for additional fundraisers, including:

Pampered Chef · Gourmet Olive Oil Tasting
Jonathan Cuebas: Pride Block Party

Jonathan Cuebas is a Marriage and Family Therapist at InterCommunity in East Hartford, Connecticut and has served in the Connecticut National Guard for the past 20 years. Outside of his work he is an active member of the community. He is the membership services chair and a singing member of the Hartford Gay Men’s Chorus. He also serves as President of the Board of the Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut. In January 2017, Jonathan followed his passion for fitness and became a licenced Zumba instructor.

ChibiCon: The Traveling Cosplay Show!

ChibiCon as we like to call it in short, started back in January 2015. “Chibi” means small(er)/tiny version of something in Japanese and “Con” is a common abbreviation for conventions. Cosplay is a word that comes from the mix of two other words, “Costume Play.” It is an act of dressing up to look like an anime, video game or comic character. A person who does this is called a Cosplay. We have performed at over 20 different venues, some which were private events, throughout New England and New York. We will be performing a version of our “Gotham City Sirens” at the New Haven Pride Fest Main Stage. ChibiCon has also donated a lot of their time and give back to the community by volunteering at many fundraisers and doing free events for the youth. Although ChibiCon is mostly a drag show, we perform on both LGBTQ+ and non-LGBTQ+ venues and events.

Imperial Sovereign Court

of All Connecticut:

Pride Block Party

The Imperial Sovereign Court of All Connecticut is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for Connecticut based non-profit organizations. Each year the Court’s membership elects two individuals to represent us in the community for the year, our Monarchs, who select different organizations to receive the funds raised throughout the year. The Reign 19 Monarchs are Emperor Dale McKinzie of Kintail and Empress Electra B. Flowers Devereaux and our beneficiaries are True Colors, Inc and The Jim Collins Foundation.

Allison McDermott: Pride Block Party, Saturday September 15

Allison McDermott is a circus artist raised and trained at the Children’s Circus of Middletown in Connecticut. She continued her circus education at the New England Center for Circus Arts in their Professional Track Program. She currently resides in Connecticut and is touring her two most recent circus works, This is Artstagram! and CYCLES.

Also Performing:

Lady Blaze of LBSpinnerz ArtZ:

Pride Block Party

Vivienne LaFlamme: Pride After Party

GayTalk 2.0

The Ultimate Podcast
The University of New Haven is proud to support the New Haven Pride Center and PRIDE New Haven.

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University of New Haven
www.newhaven.edu/myattcenter
GOTHAM Citi... SETTING THE STANDARD IN GAY CT NIGHTLIFE FOR 22 YEARS... HERE YESTERDAY, HERE TODAY, HERE TOMORROW!

ADVOCATE ★ BEST ★ OF NEW HAVEN READERS’ POLL

Repeatedly named “Best Gay Bar” by readers

GOTHAM Citi... SETTING THE STANDARD IN GAY CT NIGHTLIFE FOR 22 YEARS... HERE YESTERDAY, HERE TODAY, HERE TOMORROW!

Gotham Citi Cafe

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Only to be featured by Out and the Advocate Best of New Haven Readers’ Poll
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**HERE YESTERDAY...**
**HERE TODAY...**
**HERE TOMORROW!**

**STANDARD IN NIGHTLIFE FOR 22 YEARS**

Gotham Citi Cafe
Always 18+

Repeatedly named "Best Gay Bar" by readers

GOTHAM CITI... SETTING THE STANDARD IN GAY CT NIGHTLIFE FOR 22 YEARS... HERE YESTERDAY, HERE TODAY, HERE TOMORROW...

A gay club in CT recognized twice in Out Magazine...

Owner Robb Bart honored with a Dorothy Award

GOTHAM SATURDAYS
IT’S LEGENDARY DANCE PARTY
Always 18+