



# NYC PRIDE RALLY PRESS KIT 2013

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New York City  
 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Rally  
 Event Information Summary  
 When: 7–10PM – Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

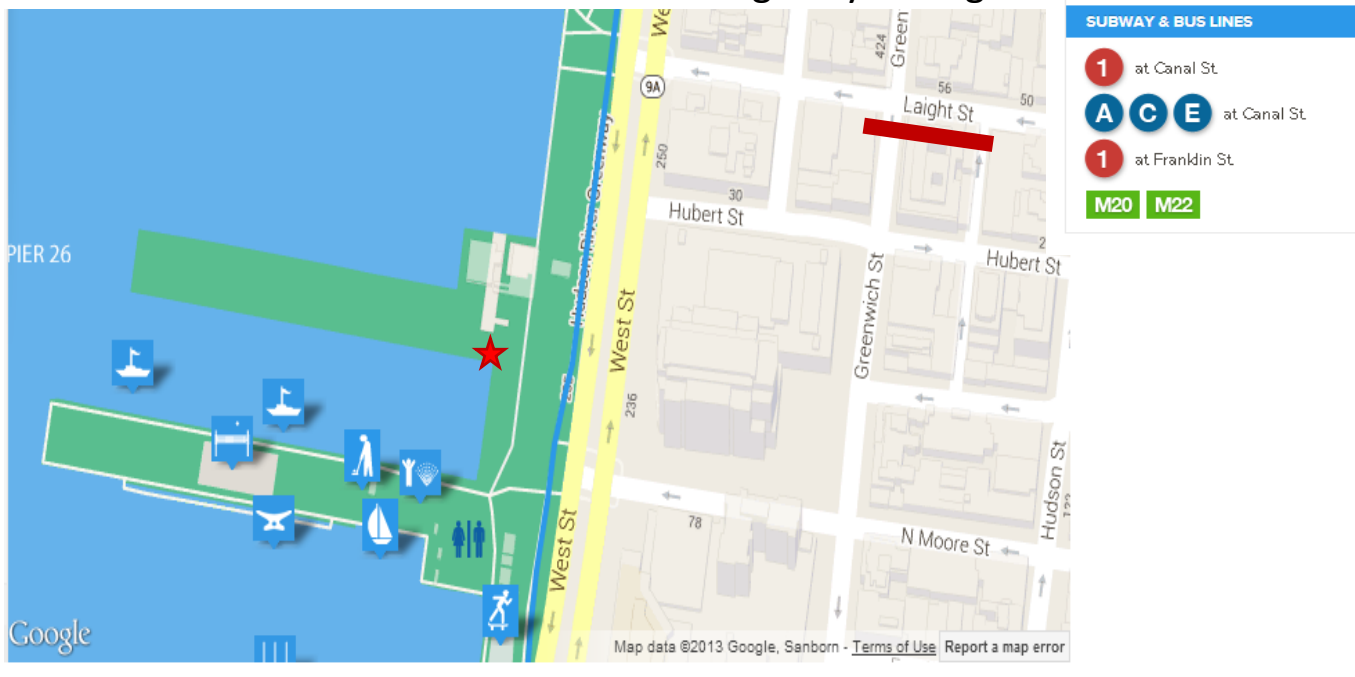
Media Check-In:

WHEN: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

WHERE: Entrance of Pier 26 (map below)

★: Media Check – In

\* All attendees must cross the highway at Laight Street





## NYC PRIDE 2013: THE RALLY

### Talent Information



(Host)

Best known as a former contestant on the second season of *Drag Race*, Boxx's humorous and campy style, she was seen by many in the media who were monitoring the show's progress as a strong candidate to win the title of "*America's Next Drag Superstar*". Highlights of his performance on *Drag Race* include an impersonation of Carol Channing on Snatch Game (a *Match Game* parody challenge). Performing well in the show's challenges, his failure to win one resulted in RuPaul calling him "the Susan Lucci of this competition." She was eliminated in the eighth episode, "Golden Gals," which aired on March 29, 2010. After his elimination, *Entertainment Weekly* called her their pick for "*America's Next Drag Superstar*".

After her elimination, Boxx appeared on the three seasons of *Drag Race* spin-off series *RuPaul's Drag U*. She also appeared in a television commercial for Absolut Vodka that aired during the third season of *Drag Race* dressed as a Bloody Mary. He also hosted and performed in the *One Night Stand Up Dragtastic NYC* special that aired on Logo in January 2011. Boxx was the runner-up in online voting results in which the public selected one queen that would appear in the cast of *RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race*. Despite being the front runner when it came to the vote for the majority of the time that the public could vote, Boxx was eventually beaten by Season 4 winner, Sharon Needles.



## (Host)

Keith Price is a dynamic and diverse comic force who brings every aspect of himself to the stage for the purpose of laughter. Being the first generation American son of Honduran immigrants, growing up gay in Texas, and seeking comedic glory in NYC is enough for any sitcom. Add his experiences of working in a strip club with years of working in hospitals and comedy clubs, while being single and living in terror in the city, and you have some of the subjects to which he brings his unique perspective. As a comedian who moves well and carries a tune, Keith has performed at colleges and universities, Pride events, local NYC clubs including Stand Up NY, Gotham Comedy Club and Caroline's, spreading his message of "comedic love and fabulosity". As producer/host/booker of many shows, Keith uses his love of laughter to combine nationally recognized comedians, as well as, talented fresh new faces in comedy. The mix is both professional and fun for performers as well as the audience. Comics that have done Keith's shows have been featured on NBC's Last Comic Standing, Comedy Central's Premium Blend, David Letterman, Conan O'Brian, major films and television, as well major comedy clubs and comedy festivals around the country. Keith also believes that sharing laughter is the easiest thing to do that can help people. He lends his talents to many causes and encourages his fellow comedians to do the same. Keith is a comedian who also happens to be gay. Although he loves and celebrates being gay, he also recognizes that sexual orientation is only one facet of who he is. Like all of us, there are so many parts to our personality that makes us who we are. To focus on anyone of them solely, cheats everyone from the rest of you. So Keep Laughing and Stay Fabulous!!!!





**Earl Fowlkes**  
**(NYC Pride 2013 Grand Marshal, Activist)**

Earl Fowlkes serves as the President/CEO of the Center For Black Equity, Inc. (formerly the International Federation of Black Pride or IFBP). There are over forty plus Black Pride events with over 450,000 attendees each year. In July, 2012, the IFBP Board of Directors voted to change the name of the organization to the **Center For Black Equity (CBE)** with an expanded mission to focus on health equity, social equity and economic equity in the Black LGBT communities. Earl resides in Washington, DC however remains a devoted to his hometown Philadelphia Phillies, Eagles and Flyers.

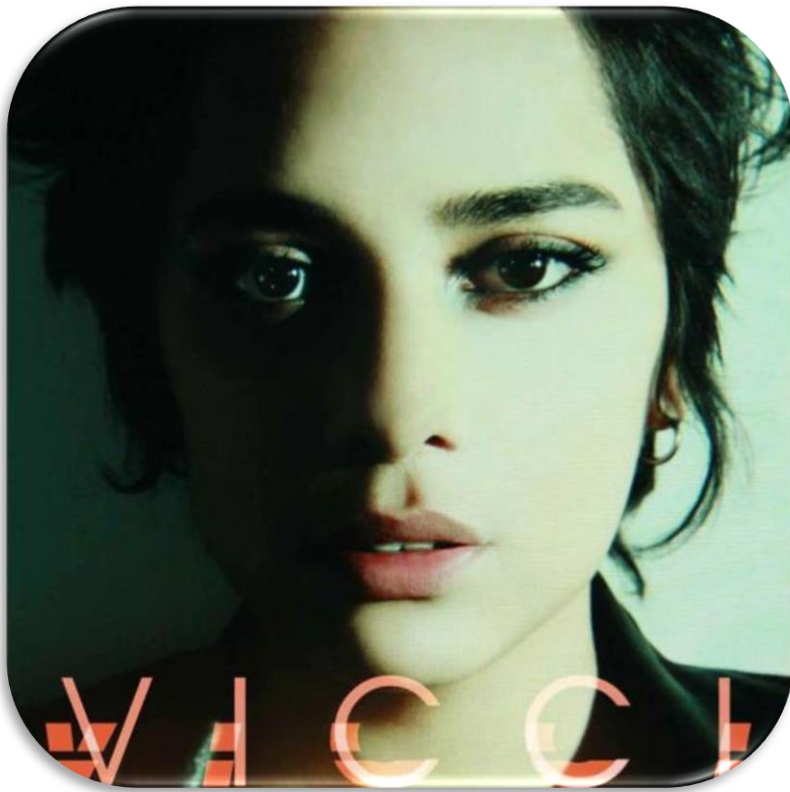


## Pam Ann (Comedian)

Glamorous, hilarious and outrageous Pucci-clad Melbourne born Pam Ann is the alter-ego of Australian comedienne, creator, writer and producer Caroline Reid whose portrayal of the gutsy curvaceous air-hostess is unique in the world of comedy.

She takes passengers on a raucous journey from check-in to security to boarding to, hopefully, landing. Along the way, she pokes fun at air travel, the quirks of some of the biggest international airlines and some of the stereotypes commonly held about flight attendants everywhere. Her genius is in mixing camp, culture, humor, fabulousness and a bit of slapstick into an outrageous in-flight cocktail that the likes of Elton John has hired for his own private jet (but Pam won't tell us if he was a good passenger or not!). She's also has toured with Cher on her Arena tour of the UK including sell out crowds at London's Wembley Stadium. She's developed a cult-like international following and counts Elton John, Cher and Madonna (who describes Pam Ann as "cruelly funny") as fans.

When she's not jet-setting with the stars or flying the world sourcing material for her next performance, she can be found selling-out every stage she hits – from New York's Hammerstein Ballroom to San Francisco's Castro Theatre, Sydney's iconic State Theatre to Melbourne's Athenaeum. She's headlined at the legendary Caroline's on Broadway in New York and in 2010 performed at the prestigious London Palladium, The Royal Albert Hall and sold out 3 shows at the 3600 seat Hammersmith Apollo – her largest solo audience to date. True to her status as emerging international comedy icon, she's toured Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, France and Canada. Her upcoming world tour 'Around The World' took off in the UK in April 2011 and will continue throughout North America, Australia, Europe and will see her touch down in Poland, Italy, Portugal and Spain for the first time.



## Vicci Martinez (Performer)

In 2011, Martinez competed on U.S. talent show *The Voice*.

*Billboard* magazine praised her diverse performance abilities saying "she gives every song a mature delivery and she appears comfortable in whatever skin she has chosen to adopt on a given night. With a drum corps alongside her and a backstory about her late father to warm the heart, she tore through Florence and the Machine's "Dog Days Are Over" with alacrity; the closing performance Tuesday was also the night's best performance." Martinez came in first place on judge Cee Lo Green's team and represented him in the final round. She finished third overall.

In 2011 after her appearance on *The Voice*, Martinez signed a record deal according to her "Voice" coach Cee Lo Green. Her EP "Come Along" was released on May 1, followed by her Universal Republic album debut "Vicci" on June 19.

Her current chart hit, "Come Along," features Cee Lo Green and is a cover of a 2001 single from Swedish recording act Titiyo. The song was a top 20 hit throughout Central Europe but was not released in the U.S. or U.K.

<http://www.viccimartinez.com/#!All>





## Rev. Mark Erson (Speaker)

The Rev. Mark E. Erson is the 9th pastor to serve St. John's since its founding in 1855. He is both a cradle Lutheran and native New Yorker, having been born on Staten Island while his father was serving as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church.

His road to ordination has been long and filled with a variety of experiences. After graduation from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN, he worked as Director of National Teams for Lutheran Youth Encounter (now known as Encounter). Next stop was serving as Assistant to the Pastor at St. Luke, Devon PA. While there he earned a Masters of Art in Theatre at Villanova, University and combined his interest in theology and theatre and began writing and producing plays and musicals with the willing and supportive members of St. Luke. After a three year stint of working in the New York theatre scene as an actor, he moved to Los Angeles and began teaching theatre arts at Van Nuys High School for the Performing Arts. From there he moved to The Brentwood School before returning home to New York City.

The wrestling with the Spirit around his call to ordained ministry flared up in new ways until he finally said YES and entered The General Theological Seminary (NYC) in 2005. He did additional studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Upon graduation in 2008, he began serving Redeemer Lutheran Church, Queens Village, New York as a resident intern. He was ordained on April 24, 2009 and served as pastor until July 31, 2011. He immediately began serving St. John's on August 1, 2011.

He is married to his high school sweetheart Scott Jordan.



**Shawnee She King**  
(Performer)

[www.shekingmusic.com](http://www.shekingmusic.com)

The performing veteran, through success, dedication, drive and awarded talent for her voice and performance, She King continues to prove that no matter what your age, gender or musical interest She King has a way of reeling you in and captivating your attention only to leave you with the need for more of the sensation. She King is known for leading her performance with dedicated high energy, captivating attention with power, passion and heart throb vocals. You can always expect to be inspired while enjoying the energy, lyrics music and vibe. Shawnee She King has been recognized and awarded and has appeared on hit shows such as Canadian Idol, CP24 and more. As much as Shawnee She King shares her music she is very involved with her continuing efforts and support for empowering youth and aboriginal community as well as women's organizations and foundations. Shawnee She King not only has the incredible vocal chops but has also been recognized for her talent as a singer/songwriter and has teamed up with some of Pop's most well known musical writers and icon's including Justin Forsely, Michael Hanson, Suzie McNeil, Alan Frew and more. She King is making her mark in the music industry and quickly gaining attention and supporters. Exclaim Magazine says "Shawnee She King has a female empowered charm all the while there is a undeniable star quality. Success is chasing her". After being discovered She King was invited to tour with Glass Tiger/Roxette singing as a special guest-supporting singer. Canada has named She King (The one to watch for 2013) and recently She King recorded a song for a Disney reality tv show airing 2013. She King is taking over with her single Mirror Me now top 40 aboriginal countdown and her music is being recognized worldwide.



## Alexis Houston (Performer)

Alexis Houston (born 1984) is a Bahamian–American, pop and R&B singer, songwriter and record producer. Early life edit: Alexis Houston is a half sister of singer Whitney Houston, and grew up singing at 'New Hope Baptist Church' in Newark, New Jersey. Houston spent most of her early years traveling back and forth between the United States, the United Kingdom and the Bahamas. While studying medicine in the United Kingdom and the Caribbean, Houston continued to pursue a career in music by singing and eventually composing. Music career edit: Getting her start as a songwriter and producer, Houston was convinced to take the foreground by prominent friends. Paul Russell of Sony/ATV Music Publishing was one such champion. Between that, her four and a half vocal octave range and a voice that she attributes to her musical influences Aretha Franklin, Sarah Vaughan and Chaka Khan. After being managed by Wade Perry and Kim Leon of 'Nippy Inc.' the entertainment company of Whitney Houston for a few years, before she formed her own music publishing and management firm, 'All's Well Music, Inc.' and eventually partnered with EMI Label Services to release music on her own label. On September 6, 2011, Houston was the guest performer for The Prince's Trust Gala Dinner event at Langar Hall in Nottingham, England. During this tour Houston was also the special guest of the 2008 The X Factor (UK) winner Alexandra Burke at a co-headlining show at the Nightingale Club in Birmingham in August 2011. In September 2010, Houston appeared on UK morning TV show, This Morning and performed the song, "Actions".



## Carl Siciliano (Speaker)

Carl Siciliano is a nationally recognized advocate and provider for homeless LGBT youth who has been dedicated to this population since 1994. His programs have been widely recognized for their quality and innovation.

From 1994 to 2001, Siciliano worked as the Director of Homeless Youth Services for Safe Space NYC Inc. During that time, he created an innovative continuum of services for homeless teens, including a 24-hour drop-in center, a citywide street outreach program, a scattered site emergency housing program, and a residential program for HIV-positive teens. The federal government officially designated Siciliano's program a "Special Project of National Significance."

In 2002, Siciliano founded the Ali Forney Center (AFC), which has grown to become the nation's largest and most comprehensive housing program for homeless LGBT youth. The Ali Forney Center offers emergency housing, transitional housing, a drop-in center, a vocational/educational center and a mix of supportive services that help LGBT youth become successful, independent adults. AFC has been recognized for its exceptional work by various organizations including Gay Men's Health Crisis (Humanitarian Award, 2004), the Anti Violence Project (Courage Award, 2006), the Empire State Pride Agenda (Community Service Award, 2006) and the Brooklyn Lambda Independent Democrats (LID Award, 2007).

Siciliano's work has also received extensive coverage in local and national print and broadcast media. In 2002, he was named by *OUT Magazine* as one of the 100 Outstanding Gay Achievers. His work has also been recognized by the Stonewall Democrats of NYC in 2006, and in 2007 he was awarded the Brooke Astor Service Award, which is given to someone who is relentless in his or her dedication to the city of New York and who has contributed substantially to its enrichment.

Today Siciliano continues to fight for the rights and empowerment of homeless LGBT youth through the growth and outreach of the Ali Forney Center.



## JLine (Performer)

Pop/r&b/dance recording artist JLINE combines each of these elements to create a unique sound and stage persona that has taken him all over the country in venues that reach music lovers of all ages.

From Miami to Colorado, JLINE and his team of backup dancers have been touring the US in venues ranging from colleges to dance clubs and middle schools to festivals. JLINE's music is also on heavy rotation in MTV's programming, while his tv appearances include interviews/performances on Cw11 news, Good Day NY, CT Fox 61 and Time Warner Cable. Also an accomplished choreographer, JLINE's hip hop/jazz funk choreography is showcased during each live show and highlights his talents as not only a singer and dancer, but an all around entertainer.

JLINE's music combines dance/hip hop beats and pop melodies with his personal, self-written lyrics. From club ready dance tracks to heartfelt ballads, JLINE is able to explore all aspects of his musical personality and forge a new path set before him by artists like Neyo, Justin and, of course, Michael Jackson.

JLINE takes his music and message a step further when he performs at middle and high schools all over the country. After giving the audience a full on pop concert that includes dancing, singing and JLINE's high energy performance style, he speaks to the kids one on one about his experience in school. Being he target of bullying himself, JLINE discusses how he made it through, triumphed and used those dark experiences to influence the type of artist and person he would become.

JLINE (recording artist) has performed all over the country in various venues from Grammercy Theatre, Santos Party House, Tammany Hall, Club Twist (PA), Club Machine (boston), Club XS(PA), Crash Mansion, Columbia U, Cornell U, Baruch College, BGSU (OHIO)–His focus is on venues that target lovers of pop music ages 13–30

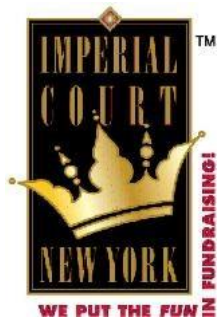
[www.jlinemusic.com](http://www.jlinemusic.com)





## Nhojj (Performer)

Nhojj's most notable accomplishments are that he has been the "first" in several respects. He was the first gay Indie artist to reach #1 on the MTV Music chart with his same gender loving video, Love. In late 2009, Nhojj opened doors when he became the 1st Black male to win an OUTMusic Award, the Alliance of LGBT Recording Artists & Performers voted "Love" OUTStanding R&B/Soul Song of the Year. In spite of the perceived and actual homophobia in communities of African and Caribbean descent, Nhojj has been uncompromising in his message, leading to high praise by black media groups like BET's Centric Soul Sessions who congratulated him, "...for delivering high quality Jazzy-Soul for nearly a decade... for being a Black history and a gay history first!" With new projects, such as the forthcoming video for his empowering single Adam & Steve (a song which marries spirituality and sexuality), the desire to "make the world better one song at a time" is evidenced by an unfailing optimism that is as contagious as his melodic falsetto runs. Says Nhojj, "There is a deep spirituality that flows through my work. I like to think that it creates a sanctuary for my listeners." This sanctuary is here for people from all walks of life to share in the beauty that is a courageous love. Open your heart and you'll find its drumbeat in his songs.



## The Imperial Court of New York (Performers)

[www.icny.org](http://www.icny.org)

Since its inception in 1986, The Court has donated over a million dollars on the tri-state region to the LGBT community. This year marks the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Night of a Thousand Gowns, one of the Courts most anticipated fundraising events.



## Jacob Rudolph (Speaker)

A Parsippany, NJ High School senior, Jacob came out to his entire graduating class during an award ceremony early this year.

"Sure, I've been in a few plays and musicals, but more importantly, I've been acting every single day of my life," Rudolph tells the crowd. "You see, I've been acting as someone I'm not...you see me acting the part of straight Jacob, when I am in fact LGBT."

His bravery is awe inspiring and heart warming & greeted by cheers from his fellow students & friends.

Video that went viral here: [http://youtu.be/-c4\\_anB-Vvk](http://youtu.be/-c4_anB-Vvk)



## Kit Yan (Spoken Word)

Featured in the HBO Documentary *Asians Aloud*, Kit Yan tell stories through slam poetry from the lens of a transgender Asian American from Hawaii now lost in the big city of New York. Through touching love poems, dirty sex accounts, and comedic tales of his childhood –Kit takes you on a journey that is raw, real, heart-wrenching, and unforgettable.

Kit Yan's spoken word tackles race and gender with candor, eloquence, and humor. Hailed by the press as "a slam force to be reckoned with", Yan's resolute delivery packs a mighty punch, leaving his audience completely transfixed. Wittily crafted and genuinely passionate, his pieces are rare treasures amongst a new generation of slam poets.



## Jessica Halem (Comic)

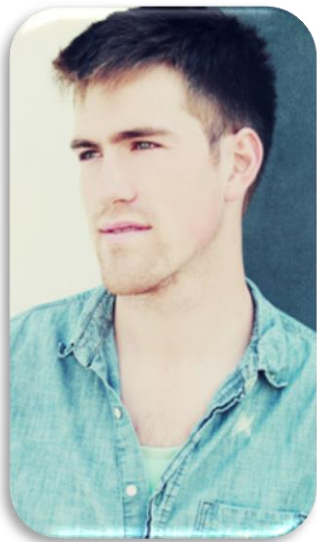
Sun in Gemini. Moon in Sagittarius. Mind in gutter. Jessica Halem is what happens when you mix a hippie Midwest upbringing with a Sarah Lawrence education. The nationally touring comic brings brains and bawdiness to her racy, politically charged stage act and the result is little like a horny Gloria Steinem on nitrous oxide.

“Humor is a powerful weapon for social justice,” says the former globetrotting executive assistant to feminist icon Bella Abzug and former Executive Director of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project. “No one knows what to expect from me,” she adds. “People hear lesbian feminist and are surprised when I start talking about glory holes. But that’s why I’m here, to complicate the way queer people are seen and how they see themselves.



## Sassafras Lowrey (Spoken Word)

Sassafras Lowrey is an international award winning author, artist and educator who got her start writing as a punk zinester in Portland, Oregon. Sassafras is the editor of the two time American Library Association honored & Lambda Literary Finalist Kicked Out anthology, and Leather Ever After. Hir debut novel Roving Pack ([www.RovingPack.com](http://www.RovingPack.com)) was honored by the American Library Association and chronicles the underground lives of gender-radical queer youth searching for identity, community, and belonging. Sassafras has contributed to numerous anthologies and publications, and ze believes storytelling is essential in the creation of social change. Ze is the 2013 winner of the Lambda Literary Berzon Emerging Writer Award. Sassafras lives and writes in Brooklyn with hir partner, two dogs of dramatically different sizes, and two bossy cats. [www.SassafrasLowrey.com](http://www.SassafrasLowrey.com)



## Ryan Amador (Performer)

Ryan started life in a suburb of Los Angeles called "Palos Verdes," writing original songs on the piano at only 9 years old. In 2011, after 12 years of songwriting, he collaborated with music producer Justin Goldner and singer/songwriter Shaina Taub to release his first EP, "Symptoms of a Wide Eyed Being." The album was re-released in 2012 alongside a short collection of older songs, "Palos Verdes: A Teenage Retrospective," produced by David Baloché.

His interest in human rights led to the release of his most recent single, "Define Me," a duet with accomplished singer Jo Lampert of AVAN LAVA. The song is an LGBT anthem proposing a removal of labels that divide us. Jo and Ryan have performed the song at the True Colors LGBT Youth Conference on March 22 & St. John The Divine for the first ever Spirit of Pride: Queer First curated by The Trevor Project. The video for the song was exclusively released on TheBacklot.com on April 17, 2013, then featured in the Huffington Post which can be viewed [at this link](#).

On June 28th, 2013, Ryan will release his first full length album, "Ryan Amador". The album features eleven new songs, including "Define Me" and live hits, "Instead" & "Skylark". Ryan's music is a blend of catchy pop/R&B with a raw, emotional sensibility similar to folk. Ryan was recently featured in the ASCAP EXPO's Singer/Songwriter Showcase on April 19th.



**Danny Garvin**  
**(Speaker)**

In June of 1969, police raided the popular Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City. Such raids were not uncommon at the time, but patrons of the establishment expressed outrage over the practice. The heavy rioting and protests that followed would later become known as The Stonewall Rebellion, which is credited with birthing the modern gay rights movement. Danny Garvin and Martin Boyce witnessed the riots and offer thoughts on how the movement has evolved 40 years later.



**Janice Thom**  
**(Speaker)**

Janice Thom joined the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force as director of donor relations in May 2004.

Janice was the Director of Special Events at the Task Force until May of 2009.

Previous to her time at the Task Force, she was the manager of Prospect Research for American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR). Prior to working at amfAR, she was with FIND/SVP as a senior consultant in the Basic Industries area. She retains a bizarre and slightly outdated body of knowledge about mini-mills, housing starts and the mining industry.

Thom has been involved in organizing LGBT Pride events in New York for more than 20 years. She was a member of Heritage of Pride, organizers of New York City's LGBT Pride events, for 20 years and, from time to time, is proud to assist this all-volunteer managed organization. She is also the former president of Interpride, the international association of pride organizations.





## NYC Gay Men's Chorus (Performers)

New York City Gay Men's Chorus is a musical organization that sings fabulously and celebrates the joy and power of music. It provides a safe and inclusive space where singers can grow through performance and social interaction, and it campaigns unceasingly for equality and justice for the LGBTQ community, forging alliances to make our voices heard.



## Terese Genecco & Her Little Big Band (Performers)

Terese Genecco & her 8-piece "little big band" is currently the "longest-running nightclub act on Broadway," appearing as a headliner at The Iridium jazz club on the last Tuesday of every month. March 26, 2013 marks their 4th anniversary there with more than 90 performances. Ms. Genecco is a graduate of Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (BFA in Music Theater) and has appeared in various stage productions, concerts, and solo shows. In addition to her studies at the Syracuse University Drama Department, she has studied voice, piano, percussion, guitar, dance, composition, arrangement, choreography, and acting at the Hochstein School of Music (an Eastman affiliate,) The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, Carnegie-Mellon and Penn State University summer conservatory programs, and with Daniel Marek of the New York Metropolitan Opera. Genecco was lead singer and guitarist in the all-girl rock band, TREMR.