

# NYC PRIDE June 14-24 2018

## **NYC LGBTQ Pride March announces 2018 Grand Marshals & March Route Change** *Billie Jean King, Lambda Legal, Tyler Ford, and Kenita Placide to spearhead June 24<sup>th</sup> March*

New York, NY (March 7, 2018) – NYC Pride announces its four Grand Marshals slated to lead the 49<sup>th</sup> NYC Pride March on Sunday, June 24, 2018. **Billie Jean King, Lambda Legal, Tyler Ford, and Kenita Placide** will helm this year’s “defiantly different” demonstration of LGBTQ+ members of the community. This year’s NYC Pride March also undergoes a change to its iconic route along 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The new route refocuses the birthplace of the LGBTQ+ movement to a place of prominence at the beginning of the March.

- **Billie Jean King** is a sports icon and a champion for social change and equality. Named one of the ‘100 Most Important Americans of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century’ by *Life* magazine, King was recognized for her work in the social justice arena. President Obama awarded King the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. In 2017, Fox Searchlight released the critically acclaimed film, *Battle of the Sexes*, starring Academy Award® winner Emma Stone as King.
- **Lambda Legal** is the oldest and largest national legal organization whose mission is to achieve the full recognition of the civil rights of the LGBTQ community and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education, and public policy work. In the past year alone, Lambda Legal has sued to stop the transgender military ban, defended marriage equality nationally, fought federal, state and local-level discrimination, and continued to advocate for the most vulnerable members of our community – including youth, seniors, the trans community, and communities of color.
- **Tyler Ford** is an award-winning agender advocate, writer, and speaker, whose creative and critical writing on queer and trans identity inspires, comforts, and challenges a diverse spectrum of audiences. Ford is also the Editor at Condé Nast’s *them*, a next-generation LGBTQ community platform.
- **Kenita Placide** is OutRight Action International’s Caribbean-based Advisor and the Executive Director of the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE). She has been an advocate for HIV and human rights, youth and LGBTI issues, for over 12 years. Instrumental in organizing the first OECS regional security and human rights training for LGBT and sexual rights defenders in 2011, she made history co-coordinating the Caribbean’s first International Dialogue on Human Rights in 2012.

“This year’s selection of Grand Marshals, bring forth the very essence of what it means to be “Defiantly Different” in social and political unrest,” **Julian Sanjivan**, NYC Pride March Director. “King, Lambda

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Heritage of Pride, Inc. is the volunteer-directed organization behind the official NYC Pride roster of events. The 2018 roster will include more than 15 different Pride events for LGBT and allied people of all ages, taking place during the last two weeks of June. Heritage of Pride’s mission is to work toward a future without discrimination where all people have equal rights under the law. We do this by producing LGBT Pride events that inspire, educate, commemorate and celebrate our diverse community.

For more information about Heritage of Pride and NYC Pride, including opportunities to volunteer, sponsor, or purchase tickets, visit <http://www.nycpride.org/>.

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Legal, Ford, and Placide are defiantly brave, defiantly unique, and defiantly a share of our wondrous LGBTQ+ community.”

This year’s theme, ‘Defiantly Different,’ speaks to the breadth of the LGBTQ+ community as a unified people and our tenacious individuality.

The 49<sup>th</sup> NYC Pride March will commence at noon on June 24, at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Manhattan. The route proceeds through the West Village and Midtown, passing by the historic Stonewall Inn, and ends on 29<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The new route is in anticipation of the record number of attendees scheduled for Stonewall 50 / WorldPride 2019. This route also aims to reduce the overall time of the March procession, and reduce wait times for the more than 350 marching groups prepared to step off.

Registration for the 2018 NYC Pride March is open until May 1, 2018 at [www.nycpride.org](http://www.nycpride.org).

For complete biographies and photos of this year’s Grand Marshals, visit: <http://bit.ly/2I7hQML>

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