

ISSUE 36
VOLUME 49
FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 3, 2021



SGN

CELEBRATING
47 YEARS
IN
PRINT

SEATTLE'S LGBTQIA+ NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY SINCE 1974

P R I D E F E S T

Gaysha Starr

Anita Spritzer

La Gorda

Hailey Tayalhy

BeautyBoiz

Aleksa Manila

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SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2021

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MAIN STAGE

HARRISON/BROADWAY

- 11** **ERIC BLU PRESENTS...**
FEATURING EMERALD CITY TENORS, TREVOR SPRING, MICHAEL CAGLE, AND DAVID ARCHER
- 12** **LATINx SHOWCASE**
FEATURING CARLARANS, LONDYN BRADSHAW, SHUG, SHADÉ DEVEREAUX-ST. LAURENT, AND A TRIBUTE TO SELENA FEATURING KLAUDYA MARKOS
- 1** **Pride ASIA SHOWCASE**
FEATURING CABARET SENSATION ARNALDO! DRAG CHANTEUSE, SINGER-SONGWRITER MUSICIAN-DANCER KINCE DE VERA AND ACCLAIMED VISUAL DJ LGSP
- 2** **BeautyBoiz**
FEATURING DJ MELANINJA AND PERFORMANCES BY IRENE DUBOIS, ANDREW SCOTT, HOT PINK SHADE, AND FLAWLESS SHADE
- 3** **#BLACKHOTSUNDAY**
ADRA BOO PRESENTS "BLACK, BODIED & BEEN ABOUT IT" SHOWCASE FEATURING NOX FALLS, D. DYNASTY, TAQUETTS, SEDUCTIVE TEASE, AND BRITT BRUTALITY
- 4** **DRAG QUEEN SHOWCASE**
HOSTED BY GAYSHA STARR AND FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY AMORA DIOR BLACK, ONE, AND MISS TEXAS 1988
- 5** **BUBBLING WITH PRIDE**
THE BIG BOLD BELTING BITCH OF THE PNW, ANITA SPRITZER (KDJE) HOSTS A DRAG EXTRAVAGANZA WITH DJ COOKIE COUTURE AND OTHER LOCAL DRAG STARS!
- 6** **DYKE MARCH SHOWCASE**
CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF AMPLYING THE INCREDIBLE TALENT WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, FEATURING DELPHINE ELLIOTT, NAOMI ISHISAKA, HALEY GRAVES, JAYDEN AUBRYN, AND GRAE VIOLETT.

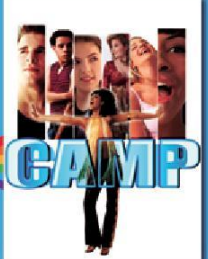
DANCE STAGE

REPUBLICAN/BROADWAY

- 11 TO 1** **ART OF HOT, CARISSA ILLY (FLIGHT CREW)**
KDJE, PORTLAND
- 1 TO 3** **DJ DEREK PAVONE**
EAGLE, STEAMWORKS, BOTTOM FORTY, FLAMMABLE
- 3** **CRESCENT LOUNGE**
WITH LIVE SINGERS AND A DJ
- 4** **DJ RIZ**
KEXP, RE-BAR
- 5 TO 7** **UNITING SOULS MUSIC**
RAMIRO & LGSP
FEATURING DANCE PERFORMANCES BY LILJ AND XENAGOGUE

FEATURED EVENT

FREE SAT 9.4 8PM



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MAIN STAGE

HARRISON/BROADWAY

- 11** **FAMILY PRIDE**
DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME WITH ALEKSA MANILA
DOGGY DRAG CONTEST WITH ALEKSA AND DONNATELLA HOWE
- 12** **#BLACKHOTSUNDAY**
ADRA BOO PRESENTS "YOUNG, GIFTED & BLACK MUSIC" FEATURING GRAE VIOLETT, HALEY GRAVES, FRANCESCA, AND BLISS
- 1** **BeautyBoiz**
FEATURING DJ MELANINJA, FLAWLESS SHADE, ROULETTE DELGATO, HOT PINK SHADE, AND BRUNO BAEWATCH
- 2** **INDIGIQUEER**
INDIGENOUS DRAG QUEEN HAILEY TAYATHY (QUILEUTE) AND FRIENDS INCLUDING ROLDY (CHAMORRO) AND KOKO SWALLOW (YAKAMA)
- 3** **BUBBLING WITH PRIDE**
THE BIG BOLD BELTING BITCH OF THE PNW, ANITA SPRITZER (KDJE) HOSTS A DRAG EXTRAVAGANZA WITH DJ COOKIE COUTURE AND OTHER LOCAL DRAG STARS!
- 4** **LATINx SHOWCASE**
FEATURING JACK MOZIE, CESAR HART, LATINROSE, TAMIKA OLSTEN, AND A TRIBUTE TO CELIA CRUZ FEATURING LA GORDA.
- 5** **ERIC BLU PRESENTS...**
FEATURING TOMI KAISER, DAVID MARSHALL, AND JON NOBLE.
- 6** **TRANS POWER HOUR**
HOUSE OF MONET TAKEOVER FEATURING MOTHER TINASHEA MONET AS THE HOSTESS AND MC, PHAT BRAT MUMU, DIAMOND LIL, ROSE MONET, AND KYLIE MOONCAKES.

DANCE STAGE

REPUBLICAN/BROADWAY

- 11 TO 1** **ART OF HOT, CARISSA ILLY (FLIGHT CREW)**
KDJE, PORTLAND
- 1 TO 3** **KREMWERK TAKEOVER**
GAG REFLEX & TOYA B
- 3** **COLBY B**
SEATTLE, NYC
- 4 TO 5:30** **DJ DANA DUB**
THE EAGLE, TIMBERLINE
- 5:30 TO 7** **DJ TOMMY K**
THE CUFF, DILF, THE ODYSSEY

FEATURED EVENT

DOGGY DRAG CONTEST

REGISTER 10:30A-11A
(SERVING MARIJUANA AT HARRISON/BROADWAY)

SHOW 11:30A-NOON
ON THE MAIN STAGE



PRIDE FEST

Capitol Hill

SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2021



-  **MAIN STAGE**
BROADWAY & HARRISON
 -  **DANCE/DJ STAGE**
BROADWAY & REPUBLICAN
 -  **PRIDE OUTDOOR MOVIE**
8PM ON SATURDAY 9/4
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PRIDE FEST

Capitol Hill

SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2021

BROADWAY

11AM-7PM

Free For All



Close out the summer right with PrideFest on Broadway

by Josephine Baird
SGN Contributing Writer

With summer coming to a close, it might seem like all the fun is following suit. But on Capitol Hill this year, summer is going out with a bang: the two-day PrideFest.

The event will be held on September 4 and 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Broadway. It is free and open to the public.

While PrideFest is usually held in June, this year it was moved to Labor Day Weekend due to record-breaking heat and COVID restrictions. As of now, it is set to return to regular June spot next year.

PrideFest will include many shows on multiple stages along five blocks of Broadway, changing almost every hour (see the schedule for a list).

Because of the strain that the pandemic has put on the area's LGBTQIA+ artists, PrideFest will showcase 100% local talent, such as Adra Boo, DJ Riz, BeautyBoiz, DJ Dana Dub, and Anita Spritzer. There will also be a Lantinx showcase as well as a Trans Power Hour featuring local trans and nonbinary speakers and artists. The organizers behind the Dyke March and Pride Asia will also be producing shows.

Planners have also highlighted some artists by making them co-directors, in order to create a more "distributed and diverse group" deciding on talent and speakers for this highly anticipated festival.

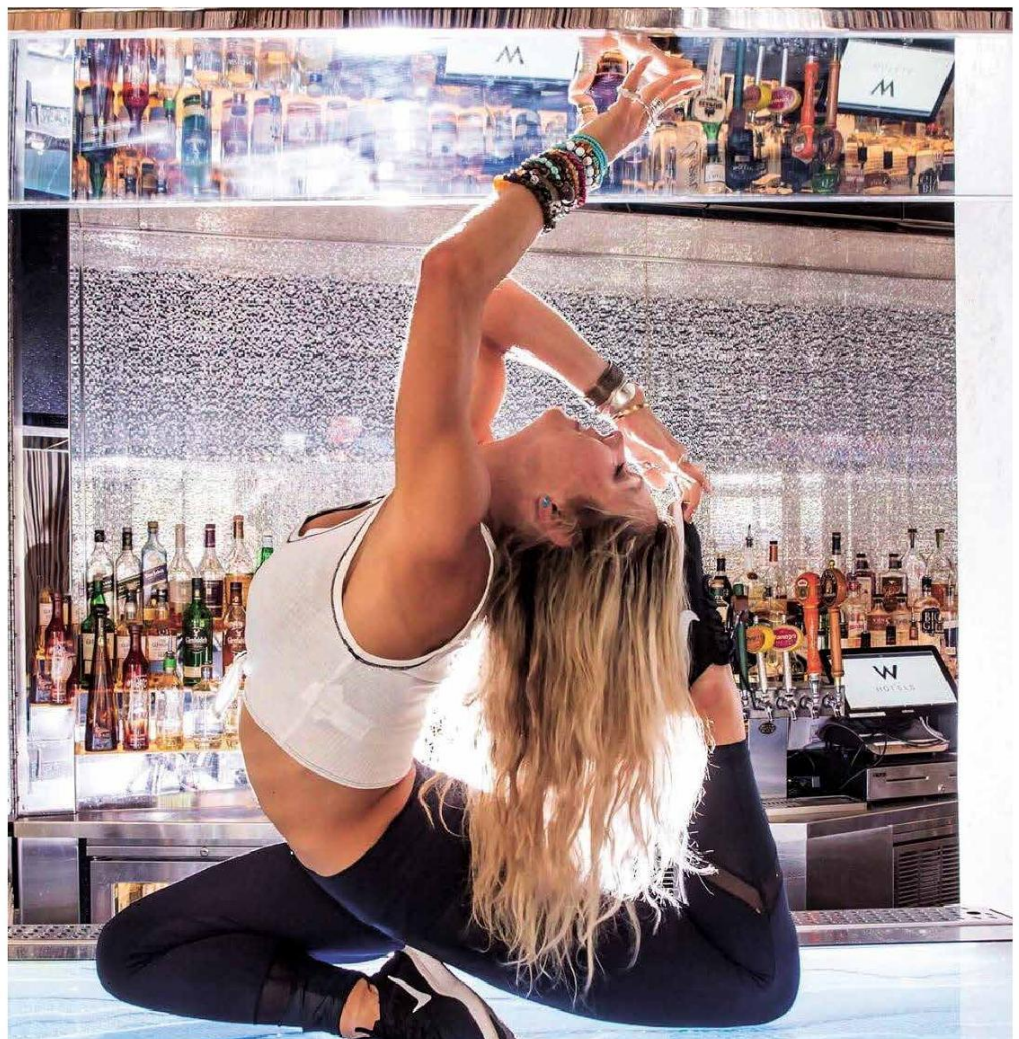
Activities

In addition to live music and shows, there will also be a number of activities to participate in:

September 4:

Fierce and Feisty Yoga

To start the weekend off right, resident yoga instructor Morgan Zion will host a Fierce and Feisty Yoga session at the W Seattle on September 4 at 11:00 a.m. This will be a chance to detox, return to center, and get in the right mood for the rest of Pride. The cost is \$25 per person, including a complimentary mimosa and all taxes and fees.



Morgan Zion's Fierce and Feisty Yoga – Photo courtesy of W Seattle



Camp – Photo courtesy of IFC Films

September 4:

Free Outdoor Movie

PrideFest and Three Dollar Bill Cinema will present a free outdoor movie, *Camp*, at the Capitol Hill Station Apartments Plaza at Denny and Broadway. *Camp* is a 2003 musical dramedy about a performing arts summer camp in upstate New York, featuring all the fun of teenage drama—and showtunes! The viewing will start at 8:00 p.m., but people are invited to grab a seat starting at 7:00 p.m. While there is some seating available, prepare to sit on the plaza pavers. For comfort, bring low-backed concert chairs, pillows, and/or blankets. For dinner, there will be lots of delicious options from PrideFest vendors or nearby Broadway restaurants.

September 4:

“Silent Concert Saturday”

On Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at E. Mercer and Broadway, there will be a silent disco presented by The DJ Sessions. This all-day event is a live, outdoor celebration in which participants share their love for electronic/hip-hop music in a community setting. Because it will be held at such an open location, dancing is encouraged.

Anita's Brunch Bonanza W Seattle

September 5
10:30am | \$75

Soak up your Hill hangover with the best brunch bonanza in town before hitting up the festival.

September 5:

Anita's Brunch Bonanza

A great option for in-between the Saturday and Sunday programming of PrideFest is Anita's Brunch Bonanza, at the W Seattle, starring Anita Spritzer, the Big Belting B!tch. According to seattlepridefest.org, this will be a great opportunity to “soak up your Hill hangover with the best brunch bonanza in town before hitting up the festival.” The event will be hosted by W Seattle's Living Room Bar. Seating starts at 10:30 a.m.; the show will start at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$75, including access to the brunch buffet, one mimosa, admission to the show, and all taxes, fees, and a gratuity. A cash bar will also be available throughout the party. Tickets to the bonanza can be bought at www.eventbrite.com/e/anitas-brunch-bonanza-tickets-167690281145.

Of note

As with any celebration, it is not complete without the proper food and libations. There will be lots of options to keep one's energy up, including food trucks, local restaurants, and beer gardens.

In order to keep the Seattle community safe, PrideFest is requiring unvaccinated guests to wear masks and is strongly encouraging vaccinated guests to mask up. Proof of vaccination will be required in order to enjoy the beer gardens.

While PrideFest entry is free, this is a great opportunity to help out local nonprofits, arts and craft vendors, local stores, restaurants, bars, etc. Local small businesses are hoping for a much-needed boost after a difficult and slow year and a half.

Bring your mask, some cash, and a great attitude to this exciting event! After such a challenging season, this is a chance to celebrate life, love, and the ability to come together.

For more information and updates on this year's PrideFest, go to <https://fb.me/e/2pGnqfBB>.



Anita Spritzer – Photo by Dylan Austin



Re-elect Teresa Mosqueda to Seattle City Council Position 8



**TERESA
MOSQUEDA**
for Seattle City Council Pos. 8

HAPPY PRIDE, SEATTLE! This month we honor the political struggle for ongoing visibility, protection, and celebration of our LGBTQ+ friends, family, neighbors, and community members.

As a progressive labor democrat, organizing has been a throughline in my career. For almost a decade, at the Washington State Labor Council, I fought for political inclusion and leadership of LGBTQ individuals. On Seattle City Council, I continue to stand in solidarity with LGBTQ community members and workers in the fight for housing, dignified workplaces, economic stability, and culturally competent health care for all! Then I ran for Seattle City Council to bring these values to legislation in Seattle's City Hall.

Together, on the City Council, we've built diverse coalitions to pass progressive and impactful policy change. This is what creates healthy, thriving communities—and it is what drives me to run again. With your support, we can bring these policies to City Hall once again to build a stronger, more inclusive Seattle.

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of a conversation
-a shared discovery-
-unlearning/relearning-
all the ways we can be together"*

***Alyza DelPan-Monley and Leah Crosby
Seattle, WA***

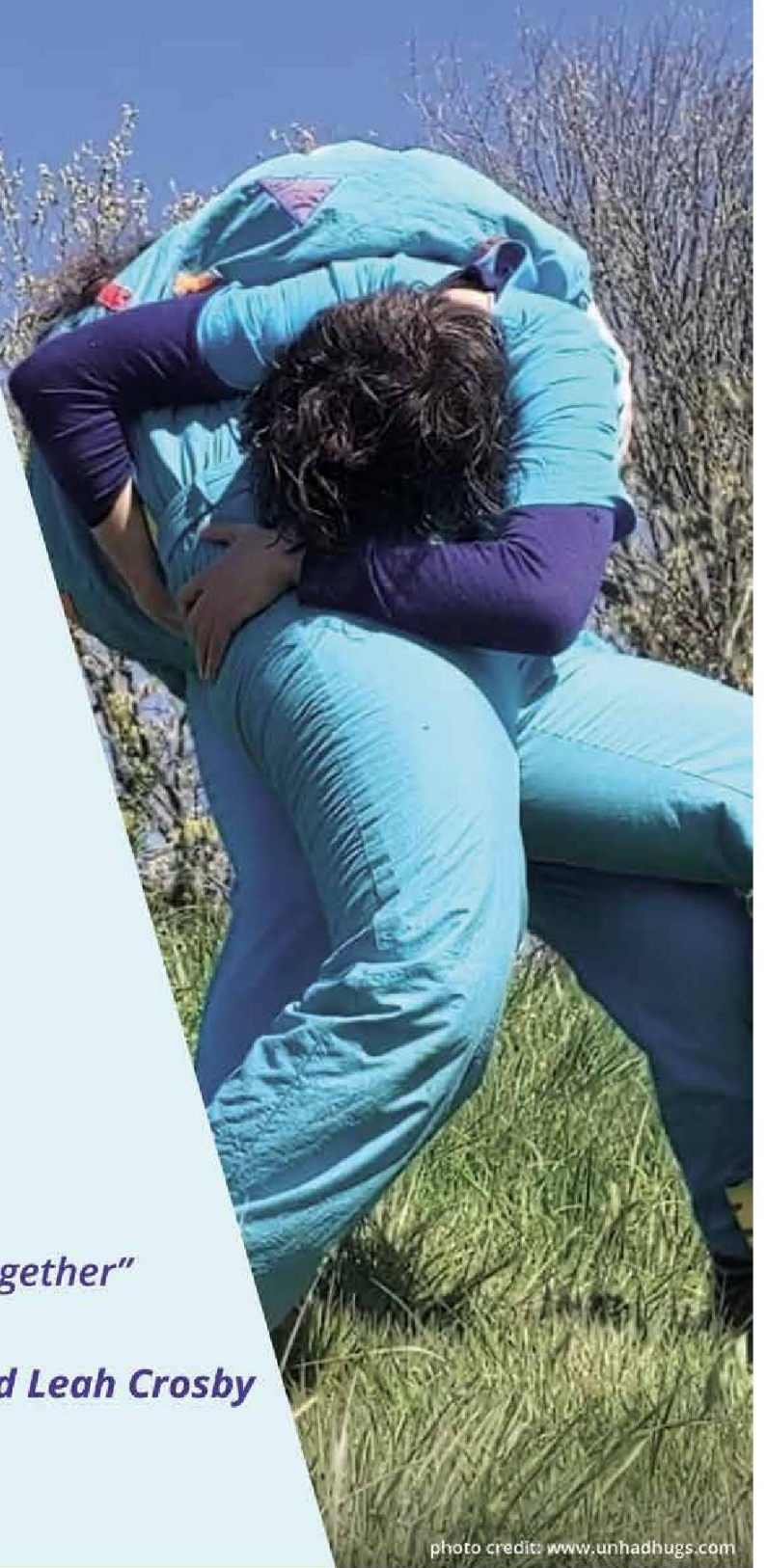


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GAYSHA STARR

Her pioneering drag legacy and tireless activism

Gaysha Starr – Photo courtesy of the artist

by Carter Hemion
SGN Contributing Writer

Gaysha Starr, also known as GS Matencio, has been performing and breaking down walls in Seattle as a drag queen since 1993. Today, she continues to perform, as well as still advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights and making changes to the face of corporate work.

I had the chance to talk with Starr about her experiences as a drag queen, and she shared her story, some career highlights, and what she is doing today in the community.

Background

Starr's parents emigrated from Manila, in the Philippines, but she grew up in Columbia City and Beacon Hill. She went to Seattle public schools, graduating from Ingraham High School in 1990. From there, she fell into retail, working at Nordstrom, "really learning the ins and outs" — which would later on prepare her for a retail career as a store director.

At 21 years old, Starr first entered the

Gaysha Starr has been performing and breaking down walls in Seattle as a drag queen since 1993. Today, she continues to perform, as well as still advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights and making changes to the face of corporate work.

Seattle drag scene. "I went to my very first show at the Brass Connection," she said, "and the first [queen] I ever saw was Crystal Lane." Lane, the 19th Empress of Seattle, hosted Tuesday night lip-syncs years before Starr would become the 29th Empress of Seattle and the youngest and first Asian-Pacific Islander winner.

Said Starr, "I remember the commanding presence of '90s and late '80s drag queens. I remember the music and how they told the story and really, I think, that inner shell of me before I realized my later-on gender identity. It was a way to express art, music, emotion storytelling, fashion, beauty."

In April 1993, Starr began performing. She did lip-syncs at the Brass Connection and Neighbours, and at the time, she said, she "couldn't win a single lip-sync to save my life. I think I won one."

In 1994, she ran in La Femme Mag-nifique International Pageant and became Seattle's first winner. She described herself as an underdog drag queen, saying, "It took a lot of people to put me together: I had always had to borrow people's clothes, always had to have someone paint my face, always had to have someone do my hair. But then you would put me on stage, and I could take care of the rest."

Drag career

Over the decades, Starr has watched drag evolve from a hobby to something performers could make careers out of. "[In] my generation and era, we drag queens never made money off of it," she said. "We did it because we loved it. We did it because we were good at it. It was a nice hobby. And we did it to be accepted. And we did it for fun."

On what drew her to drag in the first place, Starr said, "Before I came to terms with my gender identity, it was a way to express my femininity and, you know, I was always one of the girls with all the boys." She said she also enjoyed the challenge of pageants.

Her involvement in drag has also been a way to travel and break down barriers. "When I was competing," she said, "I was one of the only Asian drag queens for a very long time. There was a ten-year span that I was predominantly the only Asian queen in Seattle, maybe Portland, and for sure in Idaho, so I got the chance to also travel and find ways to express and represent the API community."

see **GAYSHA STARR** page 10



Gaysha Starr (center) marches for marriage equality in 2012 – Photo by Nate Gowdty

GAYSHA STARR

continued from page 9

"I am lucky that I still get invited to the party, and I still get asked to do things," she added. "I think it's pretty great that I have the longevity to find different ways to still be involved, and I'm very thankful for that."

Career highlights

In her decades of experience, Starr has achieved a number of accomplishments. She brought home numerous drag awards, including Miss Gay Washington and Miss Gay Filipino. She was the first Miss Neighbours and the first Queen of the Seattle Queen Crawl, among others.

More recently, Starr fondly recalled her role at the 2019 Pride parade at Westlake Center. At the 45th and 50th Stonewall anniversaries, she co-hosted the main stage.

Current work

Starr learned from queens of the 1980s and 1990s and picked up skills like "how to MC and how to read a room and when to crack a joke and timing." She uses those abilities today in fundraising, writing, hosting events, public speaking, and working virtually.

She has raised money for causes like HIV/AIDS, gender equality, marriage equality, and more, saying, "I don't think a lot of people realize the power of a drag queen." She also does other fundraisers, corporate events, and more. "I really like to challenge myself to go to places where you wouldn't expect, you know, a drag queen, show girl, a transgender activist to go," she said.

Starr also serves as the dean of the College of Former Emperors and Empresses, a community ambassador for Pride Asia Seattle, a member of the board of directors for the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle, and a Washington Drag Ambassador for Drag Out the Vote (to encourage voter registration).

Meanwhile, Starr manages a Bellevue luxury retail store. She is celebrating ten years there and is also the company's first openly Transgender employee.

About working with a majority of millennials as a Transgender woman, she said, "We did in the '90s and 2000s is what the generations after us hopefully will benefit from, and I can't wait to see what they do."

Starr also works with GLSEN, an organization that supports LGBTQIA+ students. She was introduced to GLSEN by George

Bakan, the late *SGN* publisher. She said, "[George] came to me over 10 years ago and said, 'This organization needs help, and I think you would be a great fit for them.' So off and on, I've been doing fundraisers for them."

She has also been a part of statewide student conferences with GLSEN. This led her to muse on the topic: "To be able to see

kids and students, but most importantly their family and their educators, support them... I mean, I just wonder what my life would have been like had I come out first in my gay years, and now transgender, how different and rich my life would have been had I been afforded these opportunities and this acceptance."

"I don't think a lot of people realize the power of a drag queen. I really like to challenge myself to go to places where you wouldn't expect a drag queen, show girl, a transgender activist to go."

On the weekend of September 4-5, Gaysha Starr will be a host at Capitol Hill PrideFest. On September 10, she will speak on a PrideFest panel with Aleksa Manila and Big Freedia about Transgender and POC activism. Connect with Gaysha Starr on Facebook or Instagram to keep up with her work.



Gaysha Starr – Photo by Brian Buck



GS Matencio – Photo courtesy of the artist



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BEAUTYBOIZ

perform at PrideFest and Supernova

BeautyBoiz – Photo by Joe Moore



BeautyBoiz at Supernova – Photo by Joe Moore

by Daniel Lindsley
SGN Contributing Writer

This weekend, as part of Pridefest, audiences at the Center Theater will experience local performance group BeautyBoiz' latest lineup of LGBTQ and QTPOC performers. The seven include a DJ, drag queens, and dancers, among others, with a different mix of local and Portland artists performing each day.

The show on Saturday, September 4 at 2 p.m. will feature Irene Duboi, Andrew Scott, and Kimberly Michelle Westwood. On Sunday, September 5 at 1 p.m., Flawless Shade and Roulette Delgato will take the stage. DJ Melaninja and Hot Pink Shade will perform on both days.

BeautyBoiz will put on another show at the Supernova nightclub on Sunday evening, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Titled *Revival*, it will feature many of the same performers as will be at PrideFest, with the notable addition of Jazzul Escada from the HBO ballroom show *Legendary*. BeautyBoiz creative director Kaleb Dameron described stepping into the venue as "being transported to another world." Tickets cost \$15 online, or \$20 at the door.

While Dameron wanted to maintain an element of mystery for the upcoming shows, and thus avoided specifics, it is known that Roulette Delgato's act at PrideFest will involve hip-hop and dancers. Dameron also described Flawless from the Portland-based House of Shade as a "glamazon" and an "absolute joy." All of them are "regulars" to the group.

Dameron describes the BeautyBoiz as a

"Our audience is our extended family. We all rise together."

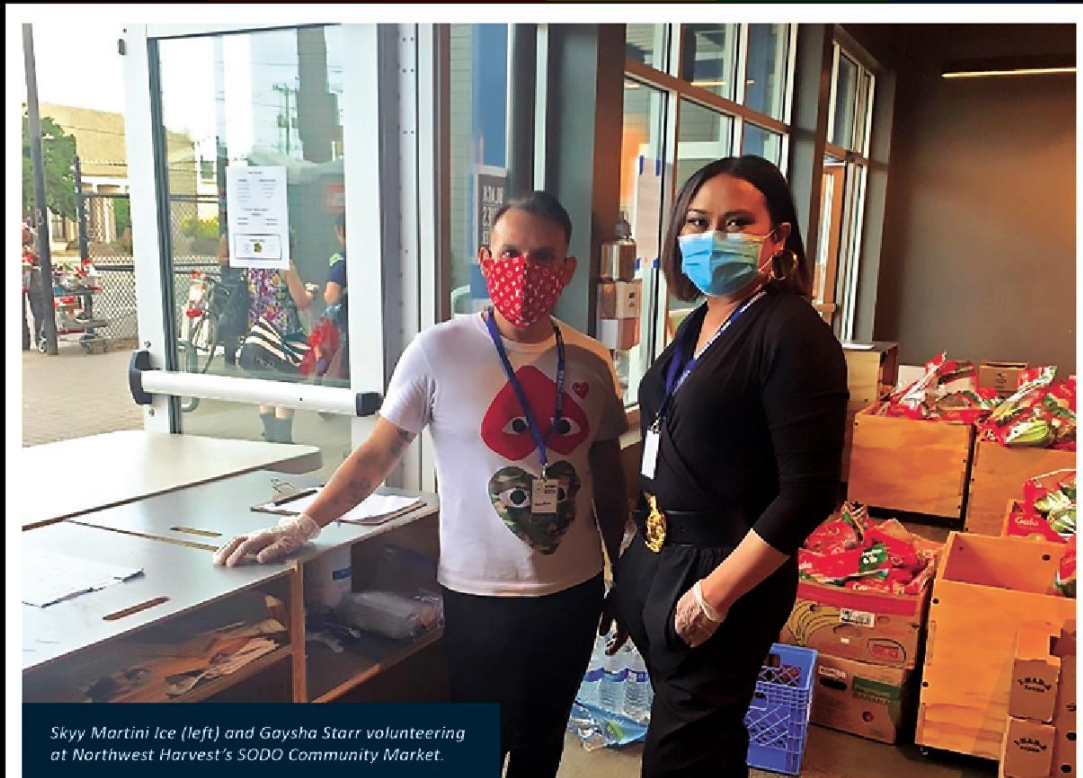
Queer collective, similar to a drag house in many ways, but not limited to drag performances or traditional "sit-and-watch" formats. The group aims for a more immersive experience, intermingling performers with the audience, and often forgoing a host or announcer in favor of flashing LED strips or other signals for more organic transitions between acts.

BeautyBoiz formed from a series of house parties in a tight-knit apartment complex. By 2016 the parties had outgrown the venue, but Dameron says the real turning point for him founding the group was Trump's election that year. The events that followed — the Pulse nightclub shooting, and what he saw as a gradual loss of Queer spaces overall — only motivated him further. At the time, he was lucky enough to be living in the same building as Wesley Krugé, who was already building the "non-profit live arts production company" called Forward Flux.

Dameron said his greatest challenge and his greatest triumph, as creative director, has been making BeautyBoiz about more than "throwing parties," and showing a real engagement with the community, while pushing against an ideology of competition.

"Our audience is our extended family," Dameron told us. "We all rise together."

Thank You!



Skyy Martini Ice (left) and Gaysha Starr volunteering at Northwest Harvest's SODO Community Market.

Organized by Skyy Martini Ice, reigning Miss Gay Seattle LVI, the Imperial Court of Seattle has been volunteering at Northwest Harvest's SODO Community Market every month since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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ANITA SPRITZER

is bubbling with Pride

Anita Spritzer – Photo by Dylan Austin

by Lindsey Anderson
SGN Contributing Writer

If you follow Seattle's incredible drag scene, you no doubt have heard of Anita Spritzer. Having performed in venues throughout Seattle and Tacoma over the last five years, she has risen to the top and is now adding PrideFest event curator to her long list of accomplishments, having organized "Bubbling with Pride" for the special weekend-long festival.

Spritzer is full of energy, and this is reflected in their stage persona. "I chose my stage name kind of on the fly. I wanted something punny and bubbly and fun. I just wanted something that would show my personality. I love a spritzer, and that's delicious on a hot summer day, and so am I. So there you go."

When performing, their biggest inspirations are drawn from their community. "I kind of lead everything I do with a sense of bringing people together and spreading joy and happiness and laughter. I think right now especially is a time when we need all those things," they said. "My inspiration comes from everyone around me, my fellow drag performers around the world, especially those on the Seattle scene. They inspire me, and that pushes me to be better."

With a love for their community, Spritzer has come up with a unique performance that is sure to bring some of the warmth they feel from their fans and fellow performers back to the streets of Seattle. "So, our vision was creating a show that was just celebratory of all things that Pride

means, whether that be self-expression, diversity, love, happiness, laughter, smiles, all of those things. Community, I think, is a big one as well.

"And I think that's exactly what we did. We have a great lineup, and I'm so excited. The title says it all. We are Bubbling with Pride and we can't hold it in."

Spritzer has been working on the coordination of the upcoming show for the last several months. While organizing their first big live event since COVID hit has been difficult at times, what wasn't was finding performers who were interested in joining in on the celebration. "The good thing about the time that we're in right now is that everyone is so eager to perform... Casting the show was lickety-split. It really didn't take too long."

Bubbling With Pride will have two shows, one on Saturday evening and one on Sunday afternoon (Sept. 4 and 5). Both will be full of fashion, joy, and lots of drag. "I think drag helps empower the LGBTQIA+ community in ways of just sheer expression," Spritzer said, explaining how, even in a community that celebrates diversity and self-expression, finding ways to feel comfortable in one's outward expression of gender and sexuality can sometimes still be a challenge.

Their hope is that drag performances can help people learn to "walk through life and express yourself however you want to express yourself, and people will love you for that." They also believe that drag is an important aspect of the community, because it helps to bring people together. "That's

If you've felt cooped up in the house, a little isolated, and in need of reconnection to Seattle's amazing LGBTQ community look no further than Anita Spritzer's Bubbling with Pride event.

definitely harder to do in a global pandemic, but even though we haven't been able to be together physically, I think drag has still brought so many people together, whether it be virtually or even just comments on social media. That aspect of coming together is what makes drag so powerful."

Spritzer credits the Seattle drag community for helping them to feel welcome and a part of something, even during the last difficult year. They hope that "Bubbling with Pride" can be seen as their love note to the community that has helped them to feel comfortable about their own self-expression.

"The Seattle drag community [has] some of the most loving, diverse human beings I have ever met. I am just so grateful to be a part of the scene. It is never not exciting. It is always exciting wherever you go, whether it be Kremwerk or Queer Bar or Skylark, or any of those places. It is always so, so exciting. And the scene supports each other, and I think that's really important too."

PrideFest will be a reflection of the incredible community Spritzer loves so much, an exciting weekend where people can come out and celebrate the energy and individuality that makes the LGBTQ com-

munity so unique. It is certain to be as surprising and unique as the community itself.

But for first-timers, Spritzer has some advice. "[People] can expect to see some big hair, they can expect to see some bright colors, and they can just expect to see exactly what the title says, us just bubbling with pride, being able to do what we do. There's going to be some amazing performances from some of my all-time favorite drag performers in the area. They can expect to see the amazing Cookie Couture, who is going to be DJing for us, and I am so excited... It's just gonna be a big ole' love fest, a big ole' Pride love fest."

So, if you've felt cooped up in the house, a little isolated, and in need of reconnection to Seattle's amazing LGBTQ community, look no further than Anita Spritzer's "Bubbling with Pride" event. It is sure to put a smile on your face and quench your need for connection. Come on down and celebrate the amazing drag performances inspired by Seattle's own vibrant LGBTQ community.

For PrideFest details, go to www.seattlepridefest.org.

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Jack Mozie, Latin Rose, and La Gorda – Photos courtesy of the artists

by Lindsey Anderson
SGN Contributing Writer

If you're looking for a celebration rich in culture at this weekend's PrideFest, look no further than Latinx Pride. Organized by Latin Rose and Jack Mozie, the event will feature many of Seattle's best Latinx LGBTQ+ performers and allies, bringing together community, family, and of course fabulousness.

Rose and Mozie have been working for months to put together the event, which is now considered a staple of the yearly PrideFest. "It definitely took more than a couple of hours," Rose remarked. "How many hours do you think we've been working on this, Jack?" "I've lost count. Definitely we are in double digits for sure," Mozie joked.

The two have been working on this over the past year, but their history at PrideFest goes way beyond Latinx Pride. In 2014 Mozie was asked to judge the Pride Idol competition. As he prepared for his role, a talented singer caught his eye. "[saw] Ruth singing karaoke, and I thought in my head, 'Why am I judging this? She should be judging this.' And I just went up to her and I said, 'You have to do this!' We need a woman to win, and we need a Latinx woman to win this year, and if anybody can do it, it's her." Rose showed up to the competition, and the rest was history.

"He was a great support system throughout the whole process, and it was a pivotal moment in my life, because I got to meet somebody that is now a really good friend of mine, and we're getting to do this exciting event together and probably more events in the future," said Rose.

The friendship the two share has helped them in the process of bringing together such an important event. "Our complementary skills have worked really well this year. We have done a really good job at aligning and making sure everything gets done," Mozie added.

"You know, it's been quite a great experience, especially getting to work with Ruth this year. Some of the people we are work-

ing with are incredibly talented. We have had a lot of rehearsals, and we've come up with some really interesting things, especially with some of the tributes we've had. We have a tribute to Selena on Saturday and Celia Cruz on Sunday, and our dancers have been working so hard on coming up with the choreography and putting it all together. It's gonna be fun."

The performers

The event, which will run for an hour on Saturday and an hour on Sunday, will feature all kinds of Latinx performers, from drag to singers and dancers. There will be something for everyone to enjoy.

The show will also feature special guests and some surprises. "I think we can mention, at least for the Sunday tribute, that we have a very special guest joining us," said Mozie. "She is mostly retired, as far as drag performances go, but just because she loves Ruth so much, she is going to join us on Sunday."

"Her name is La Gorda; she used to host all the Latin nights at Neighbours for many years, which is one of the reasons Ruth and I are so prevalent in this community as performers, because she gave us a space to work at our craft and build an audience, and now she is joining us. She really brings Celia [Cruz] to the stage."

The excitement doesn't stop with the special appearance of La Gorda. "You can expect a lot of dancing for sure! As a matter of fact, right around, I believe, 4:10, we have another little surprise. I won't spoil it all the way, but about ten minutes into the show, you'll see a little surprise."

What else can guests expect to find at Latinx Pride? "Definitely a lot of rhythm," Mozie said. "Yes! It is going to be so colorful," Rose added. "[There will be] a lot of free goodies that we are going to be giving out and throwing from the stage, and a lot of candy!"

The merch will definitely be flowing at Latinx Pride as well, with many special prizes rumored to be thrown to lucky audience members from the stage.

Latinx Pride will provide a space for Latinx Queer people to celebrate their intersectional identities and share parts of their lives with close families and friends.

Attendees will have a lot to take away from Latinx Pride. "Number one, they're going to be taking away a lot of merchandise from me, lots of candy," said Rose. "And they're going to leave with positive vibes and positive energy. We're out there happy-go-lucky, we'll jump into the crowd, we want to make sure everybody leaves happy with what they just heard. We're out there with the vocals, with the dance moves, we're really going to dance for you."

Pride and the Latinx community

Aside from the exciting performances, the amazing and colorful energy, and the promise of many goodies to be had, Latinx Pride holds a special place for many members of Seattle's LGBTQ+ community. The event provides a space for Latinx Queer people to celebrate their intersectional identities and share parts of their lives with close families and friends.

"We have such a huge Latinx community, and within the community such a big LGBTQ+ Latinx community, and we don't serve that. At least we haven't before," said Mozie, speaking to the ways in which large Pride events have historically excluded people of color.

"We have had our own Latin events for Pride produced by different people, but at Pride proper, we hadn't really had a focus moment that was just about that particular intersection, and I think having that now it has made such a big difference. At least for me, as a creator and even as an audience member, when I'm not on stage to go, 'Hey, we are actually a part of this...'"

"It gives us our own space and also lets us

celebrate our culture, Rose added. "Every culture is a little bit different, and seeing somebody and going, 'Oh, that's a reflection of myself up there,' that's a special thing."

"I think another thing too, especially for the Latinx community: a lot of us are very family based. A lot of us are immigrants," added Mozie. "Being able to have that moment of pride, it means I get to share that moment with my mother, with my aunt, and my cousin. People who normally would go to Neighbours or other Pride events will go to this with me, and 'Hey, we're gonna dance to some salsa today.'"

"That means something to them and it allows us to get connected with people on a different level, so having that opportunity at Pride, that's something that means a lot."

Latinx Pride also gives Latinx LGBTQ+ people the ability to share parts of their world with friends and family who might not understand them, bridging gaps between two vibrant communities.

The event is sure to be a hit, and Mozie and Rose want to make sure that everyone gets the chance to come celebrate Latinx Pride.

"I think just, if anything, if you're reading this article and you're Latinx, come celebrate being you. I know a lot of times we live in a community that is very white-centric, and we don't get much representation, but for this hour, we get to just be celebrated. So come be as Gay as you want to be, as proud as you want to be, and just have fun."

The Latinx Pride showcases will take place Saturday, Sept. 4 at noon and Sunday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. at Harrison and Broadway on Capitol Hill.



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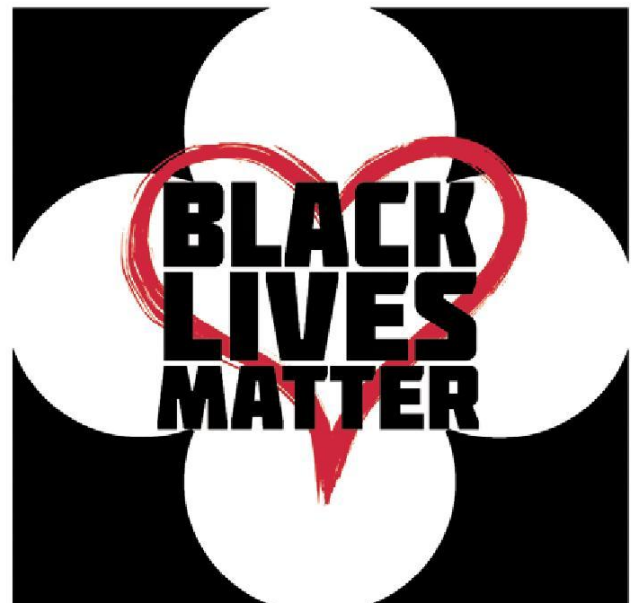


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For more information about St. Patrick's LGBTQ Circle of Parishioners contact John Dunn - dunn570@aol.com



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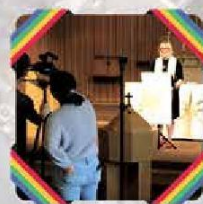
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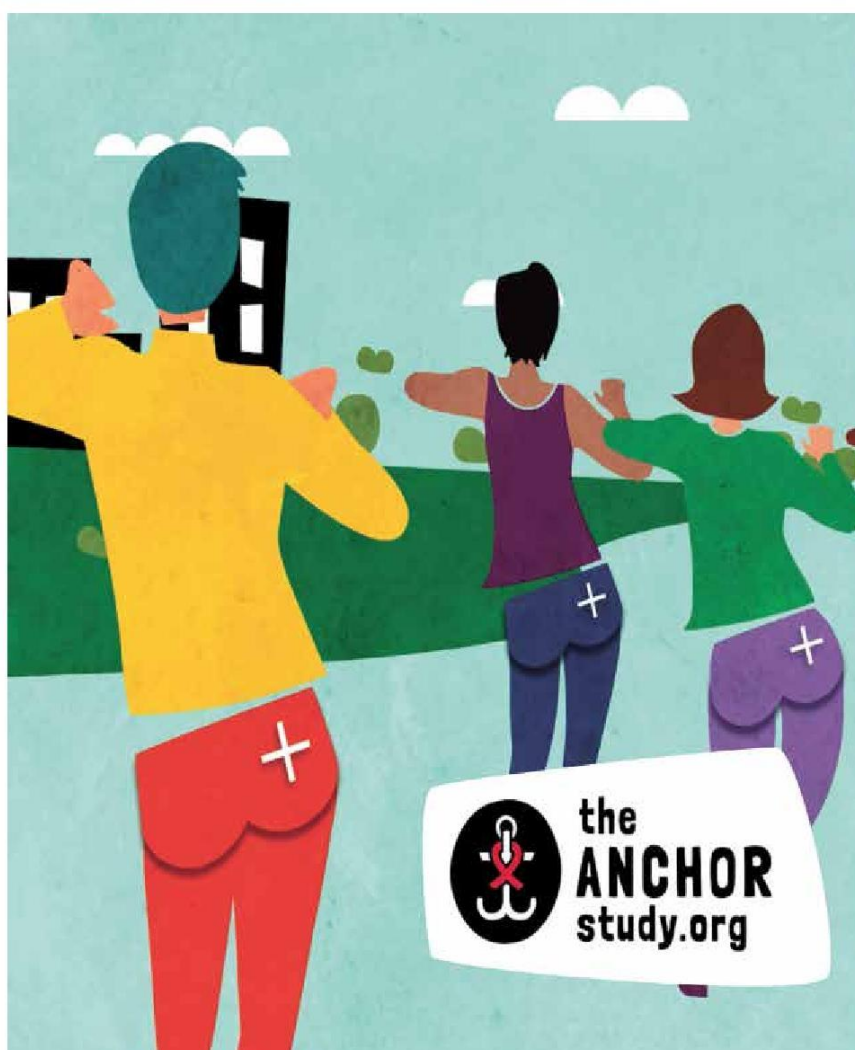
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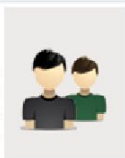
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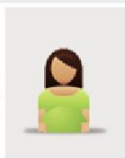
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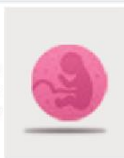
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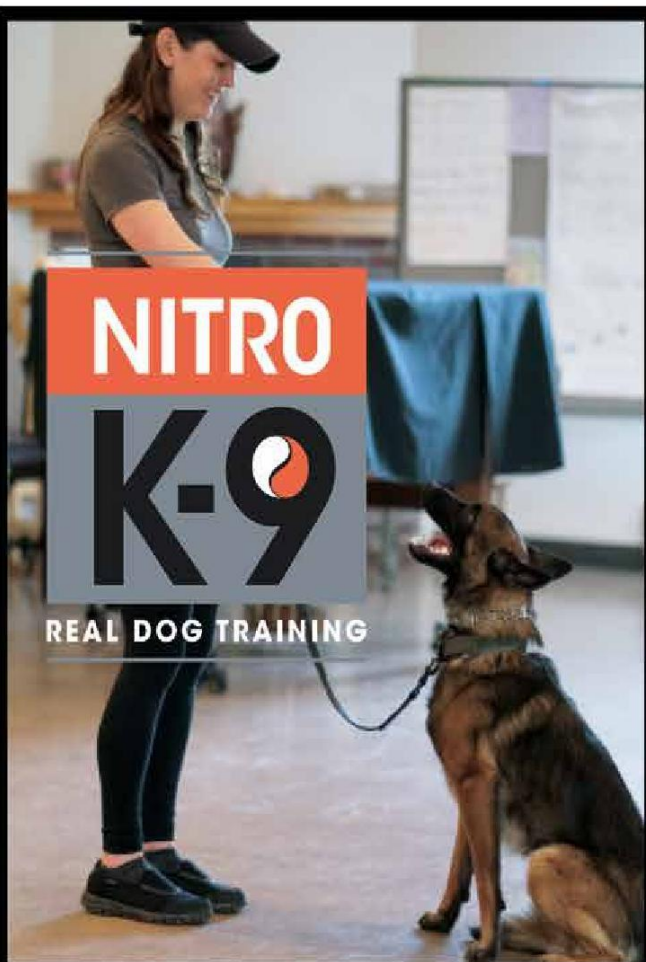
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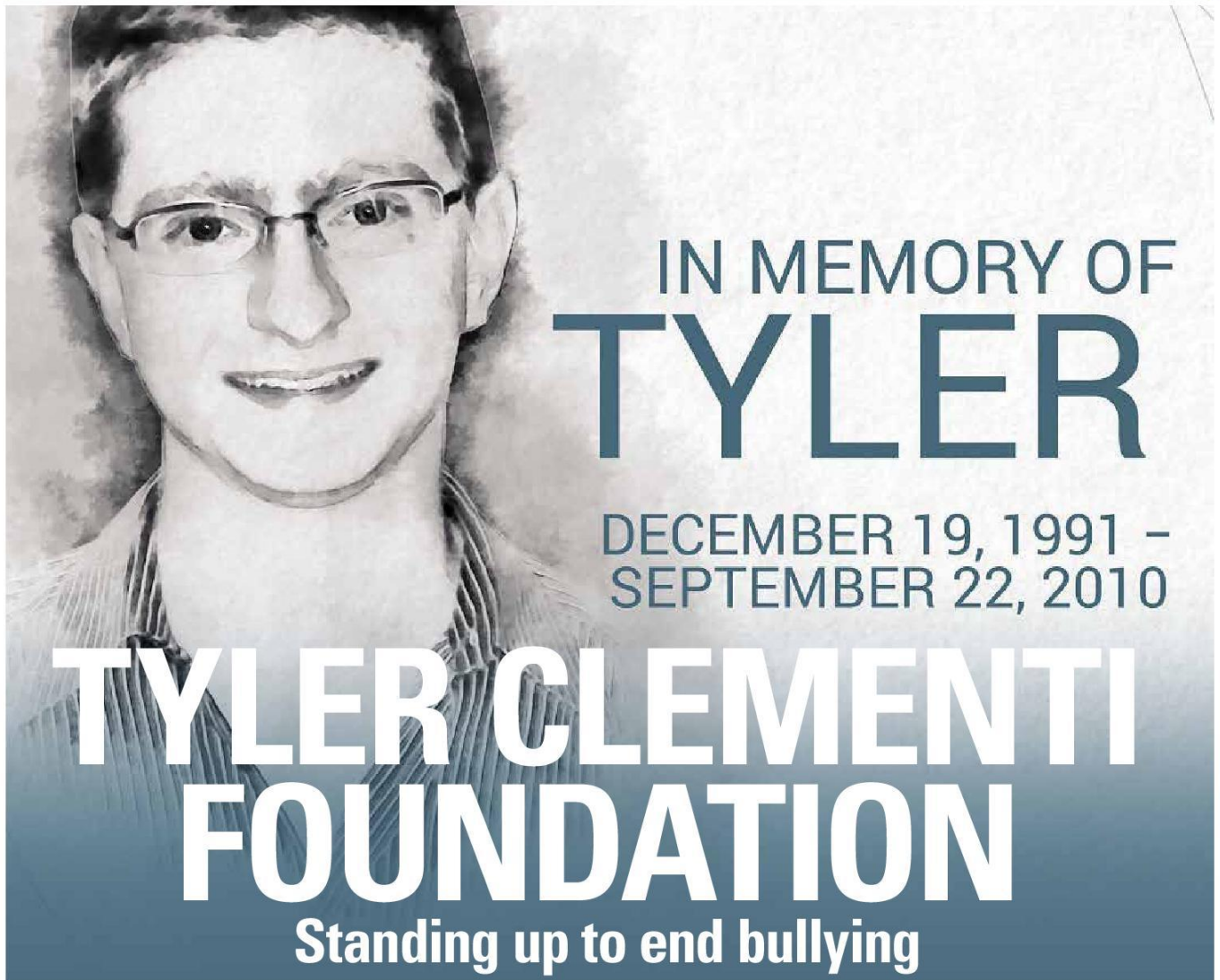
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by John Dunn
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Special to the SGN

Before leaving for Rutgers University in the fall of 2010, Tyler Clementi had come out to both his parents. His father Joseph was supportive, but his mom Jane had to process the information, partly because of her evangelical background.

At college, Tyler's roommate found some of Tyler's communications on some Gay websites. The roommate set up his webcam to record what was going on in their dorm room when Tyler had asked for some privacy. The roommate and a friend observed Tyler and his male friend kissing.

The roommate proceeded to post comments about Tyler on Twitter, telling people where they could go to view his video stream of Tyler and his friend's interactions recorded on two different occasions. Responding to the roommate's invitation, other students were able to view the recordings.

Tyler found out about what had happened and complained to dorm and university officials. But not long after all of this took place, he jumped from the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River. His body was found a week later.

In 2011, Tyler's parents established the Tyler Clementi Foundation, which promotes acceptance of LGBTQ teens and others marginalized by society. The foundation is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to end online and offline bullying in schools, workplaces, and faith communities. It promotes research, development, and education initiatives to determine causes and prevention of teen suicide.



KEEP IT COOL! PREVENT BULLYING BEFORE IT BEGINS. 

Images courtesy of the Tyler Clementi Foundation

One of the foundation's activities is called becoming an "upstander." In bullying scenarios, there are three roles: the victim, the bully, and the bystanders. Typically the bystander tacitly condones the harassment by observing but not speaking up. The

foundation believes that bystanders have a responsibility to get involved and stand up for their peers — becoming "upstanders" instead of bystanders.

The foundation also offers resources to organizations, such as businesses, schools,

In 2011, Tyler's parents established the Tyler Clementi Foundation, which promotes acceptance of LGBTQ teens and others marginalized by society.

and churches, that want to actively participate in ending bullying. Materials for the foundation's #Day1 program, which provides educational tools on how to stand up against bullying, can be downloaded on its website.

Also on the website, there are ten projects listed, all of which are aimed at getting the message out to different audiences. One of those is a letter from 14 Catholic bishops supporting the work of the foundation in standing up for at-risk LGBTQ youth and saving their lives. Many Catholic parishes, religious orders, organizations, and schools have signed on in support of this letter, including five in the Seattle area: St. James Cathedral, St. Joseph and St. Patrick Churches on Capitol Hill, Our Lady of Guadalupe in West Seattle, and St. Leo of Tacoma.

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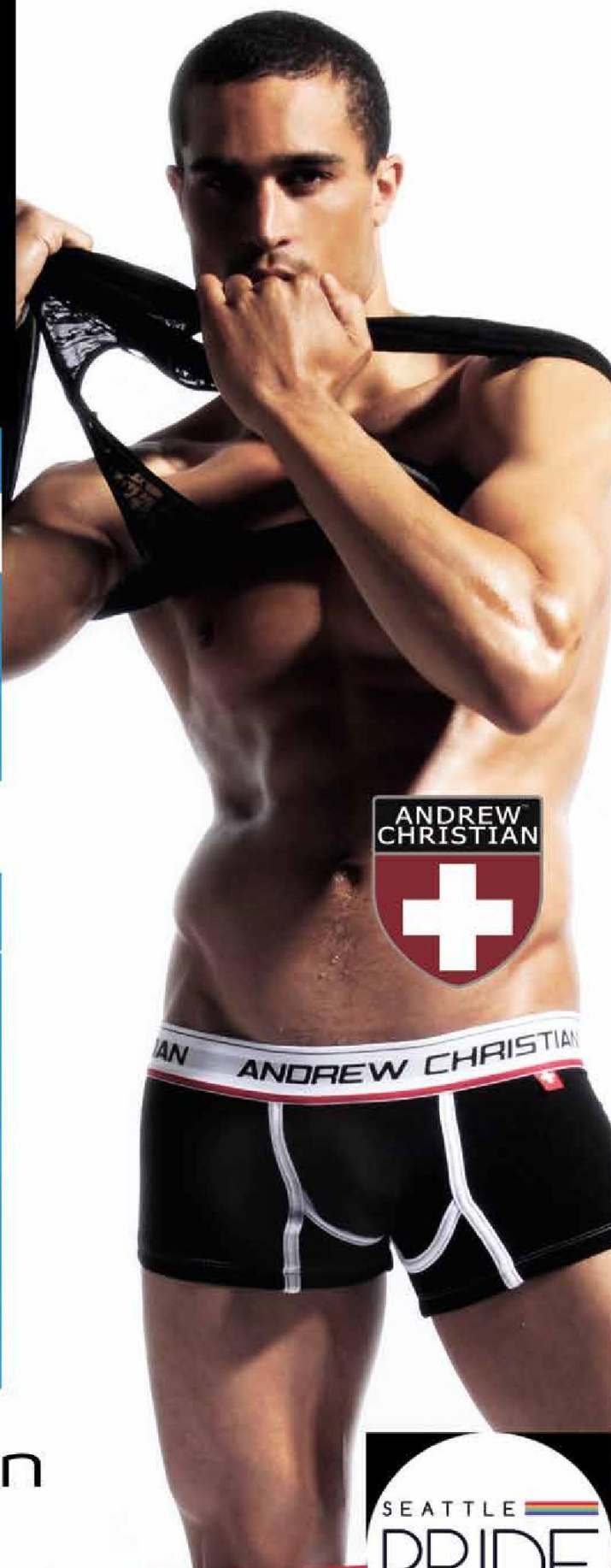
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