

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



Pride Release Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2004 Pride Celebration to Include Boat Cruise, Art Show, Picnic, Block Party, Festival and Parade

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - The 2004 Gay Pride Celebration will take place next month and will feature six primary events. In addition, Pride has partnered with other organizations to include an additional seven events including a Pride Hockey Game, Pride Dance, Minnesota Lynx Pride Game, the North Star Gay Rodeo, a Pride Pajama Party, Film Screening and a 5K Run.

The Pride Boat Cruise and Pageant will be returning for its third year on Wednesday, June 16. Tickets are \$30 and are available through various retail outlets and online at ticketweb.com. The cruise will include two boats tethered together to provide much more space than in the past. One of the boats will feature the final round of the Pride Pageant, while the other will provide space for a disco. Boarding will begin at 7:30pm, with a departure time of 8pm from Saint Paul's Harriet Island Docks.

The Pride Art Show will run from June 18 through July 16, with the opening reception on Friday, June 18 at 6:30pm. The show will be located at the Calhoun Square Gallery at Lake Street and Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. This event will be free, with a \$5 suggested donation.

On Sunday, June 20, the Pride Picnic @ Como Zoo will take place from 10am to 2pm. This free event will be moving slightly to the east this year and will be located at the East Picnic Pavilions in Saint Paul's Como Park. Free food, old-fashioned games and other attractions are planned for this family-friendly event.

The Psychedelic Furs and Sandra Bernhard will headline the 2004 Pride Block Party on Friday, June 25 at 4th Street and Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis. The gate will open at 5pm, and ticket prices are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate and \$60 for preferred seating. Tickets are available at retail locations and online at ticketweb.com. A variety of food and drinks, including cocktails, will be available all evening. This event is open to everyone 18 and older.

The 32nd Pride Festival will take place in Minneapolis Loring Park on Saturday and Sunday, June 26 and 27. In addition to the hundreds of vendors, three stages, fireworks, history pavilion, and more, this year will feature two beer gardens and a Mass Commitment Ceremony on Sunday, June 27 at 2:30 pm. Participation in the mass

commitment ceremony is free of charge, and no pre-registration will be required. In addition, a space will be available all weekend long for couples wishing to participate in a private commitment ceremony. There is no charge, however couples are encouraged to pre-register to reserve their slot by phoning 952.852.6152. The festival entertainment will be headlined by Paul Lekakis, who will perform on Saturday evening immediately preceding the largest fireworks display in Pride's history.

The Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade will kick off at 11am on Sunday, June 27 and will follow its traditional route down Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. FOX-9's M.A. Rosko and Monica West will emcee this year's event from the grandstand near 9th and Hennepin Avenue. Seating in the grandstand bleacher seats will be available to members of the Friends of Pride program. Membership in the Friends of Pride is available for as little as \$25 and will grant guests access to this exclusive seating area with a great view of the parade.

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities would also like to remind our guests that Metro Transit will be celebrating the grand opening of the new Hiawatha Light Rail line during Pride Weekend on June 26 and 27. As a result, all trains and buses will be free of charge all weekend long. We would like to encourage our guests to take advantage of this great opportunity to help reduce traffic congestion around Loring Park. With the difficult parking in the area, this is a wonderful chance for Pride-goers to attend Pride without the headache of finding a place to park.

Complete information about all these events, including our affiliated events, is available on Pride's website at tcpride.org and in the Official Pride Guide™, which will become available on June 1st at newsstands across the region.

Celebrating its 32nd year in 2004, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis' Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 3rd largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance in excess of 400,000 people at seven events. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

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