

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



# Pride Release Press

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Gay Pride Festival, Parade, Block Party This Weekend

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Gay Pride Festival will take place this Saturday and Sunday in Minneapolis' Loring Park, drawing an expected 300,000 people. The Pride Festival is free of charge and will be open on Saturday, June 25 from 10am to 10pm and on Sunday, June 26 from noon to 8pm. The fireworks display will take place in Loring Park at approximately 10pm on Saturday evening.

The festival sports three stages of all-live entertainment, a Children's & Family Area, a GLBT History Pavilion, three food courts, over 400 vendors, a beer garden and a Mass Commitment Ceremony. The Mass Commitment Ceremony will take place on the Festival's Loring Stage at 2:30pm on Sunday, June 26.

The 2005 Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade will march proudly down Hennepin Avenue at 11am on Sunday, June 26. The parade is one of the largest in the region, drawing an estimated 100,000 spectators in 2004, and including nearly 300 marching contingents. The Parade will be announced from the grandstand at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin Avenue by celebrity emcees M.A. Rosko from FOX-9 and Wendy Wilde from Air America Minnesota Radio.

Pride events this weekend will wrap-up with the Official Pride Block Party on Sunday evening at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin in downtown Minneapolis. The event, hosted by The Saloon, will feature divas Amber, Kim English and Thelma Houston. The Block Party will be open to 18 and up with a \$10 admission fee.

This weekend's Pride events are expected to draw attendance on par, or slightly above 2004 levels which saw a combined attendance of 397,000 people attending Pride events.

Members of the press interested in covering this weekend's events are asked to be credentialed by Pride. At the Festival, please visit the Operations Center in Loring Park. The Operations Center will be located in the small park building in the center of the park, behind the Loring Stage and adjacent to the circular Formal Gardens. Press may also be credentialed at the Parade by visiting the grandstand at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin Avenue or by asking any volunteer with a radio to contact Public Relations Director Bill Nienaber. Press passes will grant access to the Block Party, however credentialing will not occur there; please visit the Festival site before 8pm on Sunday, June 26 to be credentialed.

Public Relations Director Bill Nienaber will be available to the press all weekend long by either visiting the Festival's Operations Center or by phoning his cell phone at 612-220-5435.

Celebrating its 33<sup>rd</sup> year in 2005, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance of nearly 400,000 people at six 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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