



# HOP NEWS

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PrideWeek: June 20 – 28, 2009

## The Rally: Pride Starts Here!

**When:** 2:00PM – 6:00PM, Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
**Where:** Bryant Park, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 40<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

The Rally is the official kick-off New York City's 2009 Pride Week. Once again The Rally will be held in Bryant Park in the heart of Manhattan. It begins at 2:00 PM and concludes at 6:00 PM. As usual, the event features a combination of fabulous entertainers and thought-provoking speakers. This year the Rally is being held on Saturday instead of its usual Sunday start to Pride Week in NYC.

In 1969, only one month after the Stonewall Riots about 500 people gathered for a "Gay Power" demonstration. This event, **the first New York City Pride Rally**, took place in Washington Square Park and was followed by a candlelight vigil in Sheridan Square. In the four decades since, the Rally has known several different "homes," finally settling in Bryant Park in 1997.

Bryant Park, one of the city's most beautiful green spaces, deteriorated through the 1960's and '70's. It flourishes today, thanks to the work of the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation, hosting not only our fantastic Rally but also jazz festivals, evening movies and lunchtime concerts. Heritage of Pride is pleased to be one of many events taking place in the Park.

### 2009 Speakers and performers are:

*Marga Gomez and Michael Serrato, Emcee*

Telling on Trixie, House band

*Speakers:* Ken Wong, Dustin Lance Black, Cleve Jones, Catherine Marino Thomas, Imperial Court of New York, August Gold, Luis Garay.

*Performers:* Khalid Rivera, Rachael Sage, Josh Zuckerman, Sugarbeach, StacyAnn Chin, Jason & deMarco, Melange Lavonne, Gender Offenders, Broadway Quartet, Corey Andrew.

Heritage of Pride is the wholly volunteer-managed, non-partisan, tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation that organizes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Pride events in New York City to commemorate and celebrate the Stonewall Riots. These events are organized on behalf of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and groups, and all others who support the struggle for the liberation of these communities. In the Spirit of Stonewall, Heritage of Pride welcomes participation of all, regardless of age, creed, gender, gender identification, HIV status, national origin, physical or mental developmental ability, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Organizer & Producer of New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride  
March, Rally, Dances & PrideFest