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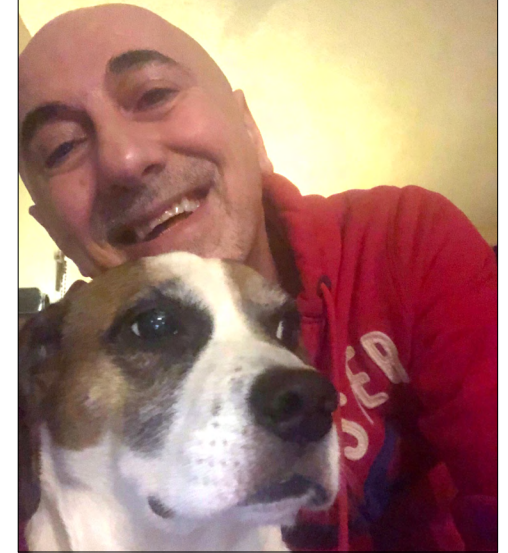
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From the **Publisher**



**HAPPY PRIDE**

I very much want to be all rosy  
and cheery, and to party it  
up for Pride, but I would be  
denying a reality that makes  
it feel like everything we're  
going to be doing this year will  
have a tone of activism. Our  
community, our trans family, our  
drag artists, and businesses who  
show queer support, are under  
attack.

Pride had its birth as a riot, we know that. Pride  
has always been about activism, but for a while  
it felt like we could relax a bit and just be proud  
and celebrate who we are with our community  
and friends. But this is a time we must continue  
to push back – we have to get up and get back  
out there.

**Queering Performing Arts** is our theme for  
this issue, the second part of our four part  
series in 2023 will feature a look at queer  
contributions in a number of arts-related fields.

Speaking of activism, queer art has always been  
a form of activism. A field we have been part

of for a long time, but long kept hidden in the  
shadows. We've been pushing for representation  
and inclusion, for decades.

Art, in all disciplines, is a voice. It scares the  
haters when we have a voice (like in books that  
tell our stories which have faced banishment,  
like being represented in superhero movies and  
the makers receiving backlash and online hate  
or pushing against Disney when a fictional  
character acts "too" queer).

Seeing ourselves, like with any other group  
in society who has fought to be represented  
authentically in movie and on television, gives  
us a feeling of validation. It gives us strength.

But our talents are vast, and our artists are out  
there creating, producing, and pushing. Our  
contributions to art, music, film, behind the  
scenes, pop culture, and more, are undeniable,  
but it is time we take some of the centre stages.  
To our artists we celebrate you and salute you in  
this issue.

This edition comes out as we head toward Pride  
Toronto weekend, but all over Ontario there  
are Pride celebrations happening throughout  
summer.

Let's get out there and show that we are proud  
of who we are. Be safe.

**Antoine Elhashem**  
**Publisher**  
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# summerplay!

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Queer, and Two-Spirit  
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## Pride Toronto Weekend Guide 2023

Head to the back of this issue to discover our comprehensive 15-page guide to everything PRIDE in Toronto this year!

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## From the Editor

Hello Friends!

It's Pride! Time to celebrate and be the queerest version of yourself possible – while we're at it, let's honour our queer performers in this Summerplay's **Queering Performing Arts**. They do more than entertain us, using their platforms and voices for equal opportunities, and safe spaces. After all, I'm pretty sure queers invented the arts, or in the least, took it over and gave it pizzazz. Through self-expression and self-empowered narratives, for years queer performing artists have told their stories and shared their varied talents to raise awareness, and to have their art serve as a catalyst for change and progress – which in this day and age is still very much needed.

You know 'em and you love 'em, or you're about to know 'em and love 'em, four Toronto-based performing artists, **Cole Alvis**, **Charmie**, **Ensh** and **Alexandher Brandy** give us a glimpse into their work and personal journeys in our first feature. Cole is a Two-Spirit theatre artist, actor and playwright, Haitian-born Charmie is a singer and songwriter, Ensh is an electro-indie musician from Belgrade, and Alexandher Brandy is a drag artist and producer. Out on stage, out and proud, they're challenging the norms around gender, identity and sexuality in the arts.

In our second feature, **Aaron Rothermund** takes us back in time to educate us on notable queers in dance and choreography such as **Maud Allan**, **Robert Joffrey**, **Jack Cole**, **Alvin Ailey** and **Keith Hennessy**, who've dedicated their lives to enhancing 2SLGBTQIA+ visibility through their art of intentional performative movements. They've developed and shaped dance as we know it from interpretive to ballet, contemporary to classical,



and urban folk to jazz. And PinkPlayMags remembers the iconic **Tina Turner**, in our third feature – she was simply the best.


It's officially summer, no need to head to the tropics when we've got hot weather right here in Ontario – check out our *Travel* section for the best in local outdoor adventures and activities. Catch track-dropping DJ **Jackie Spade** in our *Hot Artist* column by **Sean Ban Beaton**. Learn more about what the **Toronto PWA** does and offers to folks in *Community Cornerstone*. We've got your summer read to take with you to the park, beach or balcony with *To Refrain From Embracing* by **Jeffrey Luscombe** in *Fiction*.

What does this season hold in store for you? Stop guessing; we've got your *Summer Horoscopes* inside. Take a look at our *Summer in the City* event listings handpicked by our Events Editor, **Sherry Sylvain**. *From the Heart* by our Art Director, **Mychol Scully** will tickle your brain by telling you what's in his. Last but not least, our highly-anticipated **Pride Guide** awaits, our biggest and best yet – you won't find a guide like this anywhere else! Could you benefit from some tips and tricks on enjoying and surviving Pride? Well, you're in luck because **Bryen Dunn** has got you covered.

Happy Pride and happy reading!

**Mel MacMullin**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
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By Melissa MacMullin

Toronto is a city that prides itself on its performing arts scene, offering a wide range of diverse entertainment featuring compelling performers who put blood, sweat and tears into their creative outlet of choice – and our local 2SLGBTQIA+ community is at the helm of redefining artistic expression in the industry.

You might have heard of these four performing artists, but maybe you haven't – either way, let us introduce or re-introduce you to these individuals who through challenging stereotypes, breaking

barriers, and celebrating queer identity are making a name for themselves both on and off stage.

It's time to shine the spotlight so, without further ado, these Toronto-based individuals got up close and personal with PinkPlayMags having shared tidbits from their own personal journeys, their work, and the impact they've had and continue to have on the performing arts. **Cole Alvis**, **Charmie**, **Ensh**, and **Alexandher Brandy** are the current wavemakers in theatre, music, and drag performance in Toronto and beyond.

### Cole Alvis

**Cole Alvis** is a prominent 2-spirit Michif (Métis) theatre artist who hails from the Turtle Mountains, Treaty 7 territory in the small town of Duchess, Alberta, to be exact. "After switching high schools, my drama teacher recommended I apply for the acting program at Red Deer College as it was only two-years and then I was sure to know whether I wanted to make a career of this. Two years wasn't enough, so I transferred to York University's BFA acting program and have been working in theatre in Tkarón:to ever since," Alvis shared.



**lemonTree creations**, who Alvis is an Artistic Producer for, has co-produced two shows with Buddies In Bad Times Theatre: *Body Politic* by Nick Green and *Lilies* by Michel Marc Bouchard. "The latter featured a cast of Black and Indigenous artists to highlight the over-incarceration of these communities in so called Canada."

Shortlisted for the Governor General Award for Best New Play, *manidoons* collective's bug by Yolanda Bonnell, was directed by Alvis. "Our second production, *White Girls In Moccasins* by Yolanda Bonnell, codirected by myself and Samantha Brown, featured alternative approaches to making theatre with care being central to the process."

Alvis who ran the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance from 2013 - 2017 is also on the board of Indigenous dance company, **The Dancers of Damelahamid**. "[They] host the Coastal Dance Festival in Vancouver every spring and I recommend anyone who's able to get to Coast Salish territory that time of year take in the festival. The Indigenous language, song, and dance revitalization at their gathering is profound."

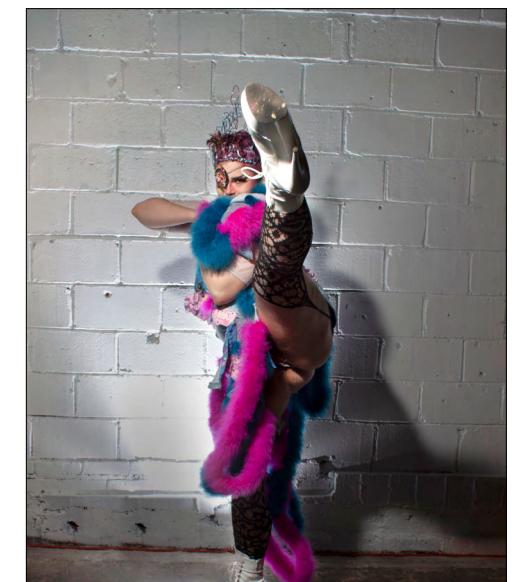
Alvis recently participated in **Banff Centre for the Arts' Playwrights Lab** this past April. "My play, *And Then They Came*, is inspired by the founding of the Métis nation and asserts the role women and Two-Spirit people played then, now, and into the future.

The Playwrights Lab at the Banff Centre for the Arts is a gift and after two weeks of dreaming and creating on the side of Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain I'm leaving those Rocky Mountains affirmed as a playwright."

And if that wasn't enough to keep her busy, Alvis is directing a new play in this year's **Toronto Fringe Festival**, Rose Goodwin's *Hermaphroditus* at Theatre Passe Muraille, July 5th - 16th. "A retelling of the Greek myth of the same name, *Hermaphroditus* walks the world as a trans woman. They choose to take their place with the Gods just as Olympus - the powers that be - are introducing anti-trans legislation to tighten their grip on the world."

### Alexandher Brandy

**Alexandher Brandy** is Producer of **The House Royale**, TMI+, **House of Kings**, father of Rebel Gen, and creator of spaces for drag kings and trans performing artists. Raised in Russia, Georgia, Finland, they spent their formative years in Ontario. *Welcome to Nightvale*, inspired them to want to explore the drag performance scene. "I would stay up super late at night dressing like Cecil Baldwin (the main character who had no discernible features and so, could look like anyone or anything)," Brandy expressed. "Now I like to follow the art of half human, how can I merge drag with images of angels/demons, or plants."



“I started doing drag with intention, when I was in university and learned about drag kings in my second-year lecture. My name (Alexandher Brandy) although I now know references a multitude of queer artists – Brandy Alexander the drag queen, a character in *Invisible Monsters*, a cocktail, a band, and a song. I honestly just chose it because I was drinking brandy in the studio one night after my professor had left and was searching baby names.”

Their first performance was at Seyonce and Little Maverick’s open stage *Drag Babies* at The Beaver on Queen West. “This is where I met Zackey Lime, with whom I produced *House of Kings*, and really pushed my passion for gender performance into a career. This really shoved me into the community aspect of the drag scene because of all the people I got to start performing with.”

*House of Kings* was the first show Brandy produced. “This eventually became the largest drag king show in Toronto, with two monthly showcases of talent. We did one monthly open stage, and one highlight show where we would hire local and international drag kings and gender performers.” Later (during the pandemic), *House Royale* was born, a drag competition turned virtual show with Zackey Lime and Manny Dingo.

“TMI+ was a show I produced by myself, highlighting all the trans-masculine and adjacent performers in this city. We didn’t have a place to meet even with *House of Kings* because the spaces were often filled with cis gay or lesbian people,” Brandy relayed. “I think drag is one of the most powerful tools I can use to re-shape not just other people’s perception of gender, but my own.” Mark your calendar – Alexander Brandy is set to perform at the Drag Ball, 6:50 pm, Saturday, June 24th at Dundas Square.

## Ensh

Queer pop act from Belgrade but currently Toronto-based, [Ensh](#), is taking the music world by a colourful genre-hopping storm. “Music has been a constant passion in my life since my teenage years, having been a part of various bands. As I entered my twenties, I was fueled by the desire to tour and perform. I became a pioneer in the field of laptop musicianship back in the early 2000s.” During their time gigging in



Southern Ontario, Ensh created an album of eclectic beats, heavily influenced by Björk.

Ensh formed a band with the intent of transforming their unconventional pop songs into full-fledged rock anthems. “The band enjoyed a considerable following, having sold 10,000 records independently and toured across the US and Canada. Eventually, we parted ways after our final show at Toronto’s Warped Tour in 2012, and I returned to Belgrade, Serbia, where I had spent part of my childhood.”

Living in Belgrade was a challenge for Ensh – between social conservatism and opposition to LGBTQ+ identities. “I have always felt like somewhat of an outsider, having grown up in a mixed culture with being the child of Serbian immigrants growing up in Canada. The tension between my two identities and the feeling of not fully belonging anywhere has been a defining characteristic of my life.” As a bisexual person, they also heavily felt this with their sexuality. “Despite this, I have found inspiration in the duality of my identity and have used it as a tool to shift my perspective and create meaningful work.”

Music has always been Ensh’s preferred medium for self-expression with their queer creativity taking the lead on shaping their artistic vision. “My music is always deeply personal, often referencing specific people, places, and things, but always with an aim

to convey a relatable mood or feeling. Ultimately, my goal is to deliver a relatable kernel of truth that resonates with listeners.” Ensh sees themselves as a modern-day folk musician, telling stories pulled from their experiences of happiness and joy as well as tragedy and sadness.

Ensh has played at Midem Festival in Cannes, France, the Electric Picnic Festival in Ireland, the Exit festival in Novi Sad, Serbia, the Belgrade Beer Fest, and most recently the Pique Festival in Ottawa. Ensh also just released a collaborative album with Toronto musician, Mother Of. “Together, we have created a concept album that takes the listener on a journey through a post-apocalyptic world in space, which we have entitled *Celestial Doom*.”

## Charmie

Toronto-based Haitian singer-songwriter [Charmie](#), with her big, beautiful smile and sunny personality, has led quite the life filled with hardships in her young 20-something years. At age 5, she fled to America from Haiti with her family and a bundle of false papers and passports with fake names in tow. At age 17 she left home as a result of her religious parents and their issue with her sexuality – but even through the ups and downs her passion for music and her drive to sing and perform remained, and in fact, grew stronger with each passing day. “I’ve been singing since I was 5 years old. The first stage I ever performed on was at a wedding in Haiti when I was 5. I don’t know if I had much of a gift then, but I did have a passion for music and loved being on stage.”

Her mom plays bass, piano, and drums and would make Charmie sit at the piano every day for two hours. “In my family music represents ‘a way out’ – we were illegal immigrants on the run, and we knew if we could make it into the music industry, status wouldn’t matter.” Charmie’s family did end up getting caught by the government and given 30 days to sell everything before facing deportation. “Having to deal with such a high level of stress at such a young age really forced me to grow up quicker. It gravely influenced my music-making as I experienced a lot of struggles at such a young age.”

Her father was a pastor, and he would preach to her daily. It was getting increasingly harder for Charmie to be true to herself and her sexuality. “I had to get out of that toxic house and focus on myself and what



I wanted my future to look like. Music helped me keep going. I moved to a shelter, started busking, saved up and got my own place, and kept grinding. I love performing and busking has really taught me how to connect with my audience whether they stay and listen or keep it moving. What I love most about it is how it can heal some people.”

Charmie is represented by [Straight Up Management](#) and writes music touching the genres of soul, pop, R&B and Hip Hop. “I write a lot about being true to yourself. Life inspires me to write. One of my favorite lines I’ve written is, ‘you can’t break what you can’t touch, you will burn yourself it’s meant to be’. More music is on the way. I’m blessed to be working with such talented people. We want it all so we’re going to take it PERIOD.”

Photos: Humberto Albornoz  
Artistic Director: Jacqui Koka

Melissa MacMullin is a freelance content writer and journalist for leading queer Canadian voice with pride and purpose. Author. Screenwriter. Performer. Part-time adventurer.





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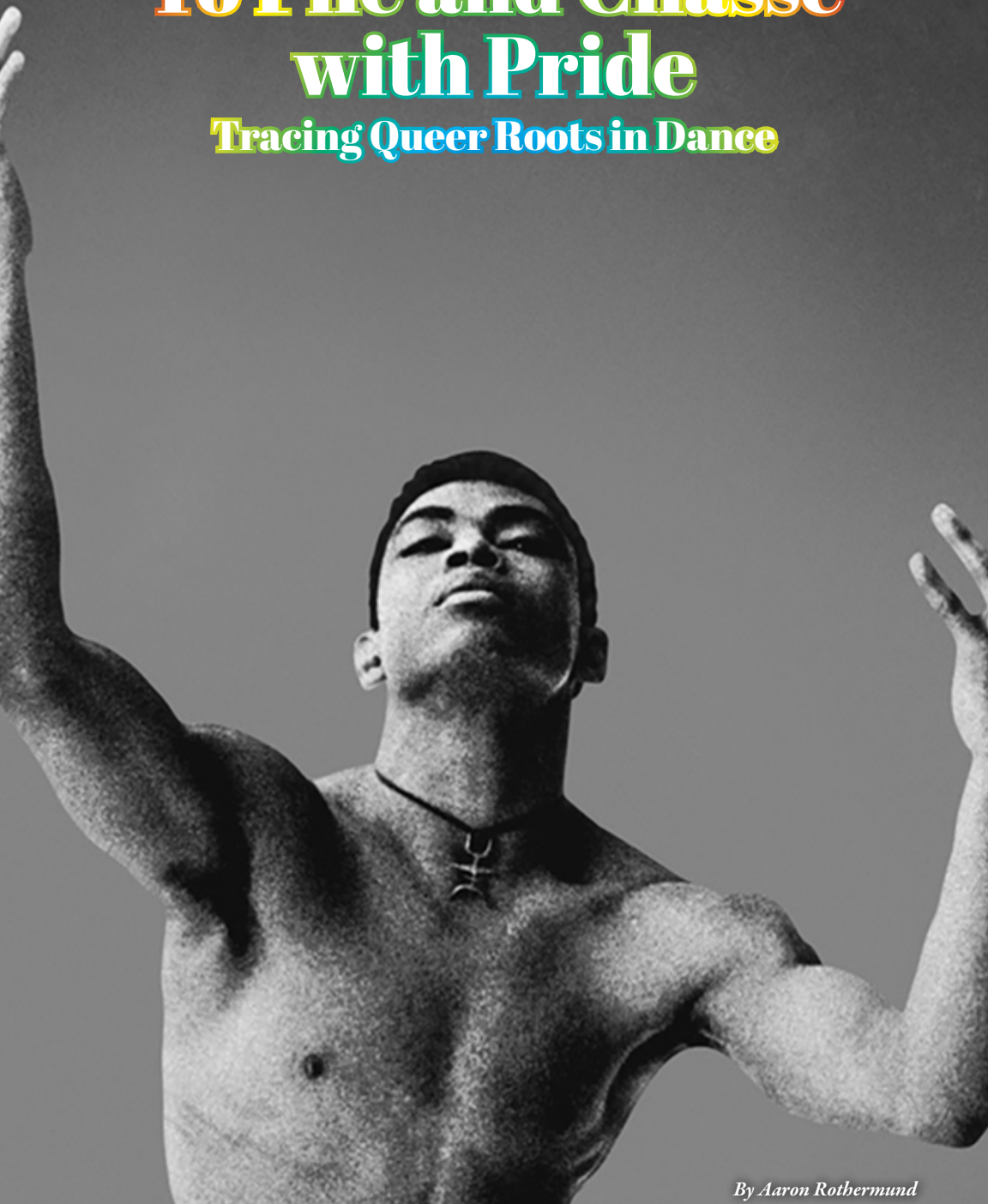
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**MONOGRAM**

# To Plié and Chassé with Pride

## Tracing Queer Roots in Dance



By Aaron Rothermund

LGBTQ2S+ people will often use getting dressed-up and going-out to find their true essence and redefine themselves on their own terms.

Amateur and professional dancers have connected to others by participating in structured dance classes, performing in stellar shows, and letting loose in night clubs. This permeated many areas of the entertainment industry and made vital contributions to the dance world including performing, directing, and teaching techniques to the next generation of artists.

One of the great pioneers of modern dance was Ulah Maud Allan Durrant or later known as **Maud Allan**. She was born in Toronto in 1873, but grew up in San Francisco, studied music in Berlin, and began her dance career in Vienna. Allan was well known for her impressionist style of production, which also included hand-stitched costumes and head pieces. Allan's most famous dance performance was *Vision of Salomé*, which saw her bare foot, in a translucent skirt, and decorated in beads. Her striking appearance and style of dancing scandalized many of the conservative patrons.

"She floats from one pose to the next, emphasizing the plastic transitions with waving arms and raised legs and sundry poses of the head," the New York Times reported, "She has a grace, a picturesque personal quality, which is all her own."

Later in life, Allan would be vilified by a British Member of Parliament for being a lesbian and falsely accused of being a spy. She filed an unsuccessful but very public defamation suit against him in kind. As a respected artist, Allan toured six continents, taught from 1928 to 1940, and wrote several articles and a book entitled *My Life and Dancing* published in 1908.

John Ewing Richter, later known as **Jack Cole**, was born in New Jersey in 1911. As a teenager Cole danced with the Denishawn School of Dancing and

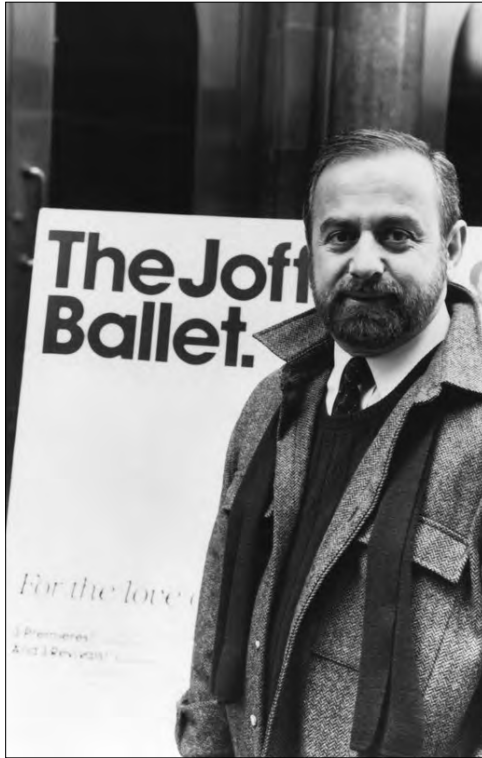


Related Arts where he studied ballet, modern and dancing by Indigenous peoples.

"Jack was extraordinary," Chita Rivera remarked. "The style he created was like nothing else you'd seen. He could be exciting... I'm delighted we got to dance together at the beginning of my career."

Cole began his artistic career as a popular modern dancer, but during the Depression he moved into commercial work and started performing at Manhattan's Embassy Club and the Rainbow Room. Cole choreographed Marilyn Monroe for the iconic number, *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend* from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, which was later reinterpreted by Madonna for her music video *Material Girl*.

Cole was well-known as "the Father of Theatrical Jazz dancing" and for his admiration of traditional eastern styles and integrating (or appropriating) their influence into his artistic work, which spanned three major successful avenues: commercial nightclubs, the Broadway stage, and in Hollywood films.



Another vital dance artist was Anver Bey Abdullah Jaffa Khan, or later known as **Robert Joffrey**. He was born in Seattle in 1930 and was reared by a Pashtun father (from Afghanistan) and a mother from Italy. He started to dance as a remedy for his asthma, and later studied ballet and modern dance professionally. Joffrey made his dancing debut with French choreographer Roland Petit and the Paris Opera Ballet.

From 1950 to 1955, Joffrey taught at the New York High School for the Performing Arts and founded the influential [Joffrey Ballet School](#) in 1953. The Robert Joffrey Ballet replaced the New York City Ballet at the New York City Center in 1966, and by then he had changed the name to City Center Joffrey Ballet. Joffrey moved the company to Los Angeles, and expanded to Chicago, before coming back to New York to continue monumental works by himself and long-time romantic partner and co-director, Gerald Arpino.

“He had a passion and a love for dance,” wrote Gary Chryst, a former member of the Joffrey company.

“He respected dancers so much. He loved to bring dance to parts of the world that had never seen it.”

Joffrey created dynamic energy in his work and sought out and hired diverse choreographers and dancers such as Twyla Tharp, August Bournonville, and Alvin Ailey. His choreography combined the grace and precision of ballet with the explosive emotion of modern dance and steered away from ranking systems to rely on the dancers as an ensemble.

**Alvin Ailey** was born in Texas in 1931. He grew up during the peak of the Depression and the steady uprising of violent racism in the southern United States. Ailey created the [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) and Alvin Ailey American Dance Center (renamed to The Ailey School) to nurture Black dance and theatre artists while infusing modern dance, ballet, jazz, with Indigenous forms of dance. Ailey’s dance masterpiece *Revelations* is one of the most highly regarded and performed ballets in the world. In addition to his work as a dancer, choreographer, and artistic director,

Ailey also directed ballets for other monumental companies such as the American Ballet Theatre, the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Danish Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet.

“Ailey fused modern dance idiom with lack vernacular and in doing so created a whole new genre,” writes Donna Perlmutter in the Los Angeles Times. “His dancers boasted an earthy vigor and stage sense that set them apart from others.”

Ailey’s artistic mission was to celebrate Black culture and to spread awareness of the joy and despair of being Black in America. Ailey was honored with numerous awards such as the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts in 1968, the Spingarn medal from the NAACP in 1977, the Kennedy Center Honors for extraordinary contribution to American culture in 1989, and after Ailey’s passing, he received the prestigious, Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014.

**Keith Hennessy** was born in Sudbury, Ontario in 1959, and is currently based in San Francisco. He’s known for award-winning theatrical experiences

that combine dance, singing, speaking, and improvisation. Hennessy helped forge the queer-expressionist art form and his work has been awarded the Guggenheim, Bessie, USA Fellowship, and multiple Isadora Duncan Dance Awards. He directs [Circo Zero](#) and was a founding member of Contraband with Sara Shelton Mann. In the Contraband created *Religare*, the company sets the scene in a vacant lot where an actual landlord arson resulted in several deaths of people sleeping in the derelict building.

“It was an exorcism and a funeral for the winos who died there, and a healing for the neighborhood, and is perhaps the single greatest dance experience I’ve ever had,” writes art critic, Paul Parish.

Hennessy’s acclaimed writings have been published world-wide, and he is the co-founder of [CounterPulse](#), a well-respected performance space in San Francisco. His work centers on hybrid forms of performance art, circus techniques, and musical endeavors to highlight social issues including sexual, gender, and racial (in)equality.

Although we have more LGBTQ2S+ artists to thank for the evolution of form and technique in dance, I’m only able to highlight a select few that paved the way for our freedom of artistic expression. By going out, after dark, to semi-hidden campy clubs we’re not only honouring our ancestors, but we’re also learning how to sweat out our pre-conceived ideas of public acknowledgement to strengthen personal empowerment.

Aaron Rothermund is a freelance writer, theatre creator, and filmmaker. Aaron has worked on articles for The Courier, Culture Days, theBUZZ, and PinkPlayMags.



## PinkPlayMags Remembers...

# Tina Turner

By Melissa MacMullin

She was the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll and fringe dresses, the *Private Dancer* of our hearts who went rolling, rolling, rolling on a river with the fastest legs in town and a set of powerful pipes to match – simply the best, yes, she was.

*We don't need another hero*, we already had one, and her name was Anna Mae Bullock, or better known to us as superstar, Tina Turner.

*What's love got to do with it?* The answer is: everything. We loved her and she loved us back. **Tina Turner**, the legendary singer and performer, survivor

and trailblazer, had been a long-time supporter, advocate and ally of the LGBTQ+ community who utilized her platform to advocate for human and equal rights. She was always in our corner – for decades she had our backs.

Her own personal story is one of overcoming adversity with sheer strength, pure grit and warrior-like resilience, which was something a lot of queers could relate to – she also inspired us to never give up, to be the *Proud Mary* we were destined to be, and to stand firm in who we were. She was unstoppable, and she encouraged us to be the same. “I didn't have anybody, really, no foundation in life, so I had to make my own way. Always, from the start. I had to go out in the world and become strong, to discover my mission in life.”

Did you know she performed at the opening ceremonies at the first-ever Gay Games in San Francisco in 1982? In 1997, she then returned to San Francisco to perform a medley of songs at the Macy's Passport fashion show in support of HIV/

AIDS education, research, services and programs. Years to follow, she would continue to hold her own fundraisers for HIV/AIDS charities and frequently so.

“Tina Turner was a truly iconic recording artist and was widely revered among the LGBTQ community,” expressed Kevin Robert Frost of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. “Her music and her extraordinary talent brought communities of people around the world together, and who couldn't admire her extraordinary passion, energy, and resilience? She will be greatly missed.”

In a 2000 interview with *The Advocate*, Tina Turner vocalized her support and respect for same-sex marriage. “I think that men marrying men, and women marrying women, is a wonderful thing. I think that it's God's blessings on them, that's what I think.” One of the first to speak in favour of gay marriage before it was popular to do so, she would urge others to join in the fight for marriage equality 13 years prior to being legal in the UK, and 15 years beforehand in the U.S.

Born 1939 in Brownsville, Tennessee as Anna Mae Bullock, she got her musical start by singing in a church choir, and she lived with her religious paternal grandparents as a child. Later in life, she met the abusive Ike Turner in 1957 with his band, Kings of Rhythm, at the Manhattan Club in East St. Louis. In 1961, they started touring as the Ike & Tina Turner Revue. Tina divorced Ike in March of 1978 to which she then embarked on her own solo performing career.

Back in 1967, Tina Turner became the first Black artist and the first female artist to appear on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. It was her 1984 album *Private Dancer* that garnered major success and global recognition, becoming a quintuple-platinum album in the U.S. selling over 10 million copies worldwide. In 2000, her “Twenty Four Seven” tour saw more than \$100 million in ticket sales. It was announced by Guinness World Records that she had sold more concert tickets than any other entertainer in history.

In 2013, she renounced her U.S. citizenship and became an official citizen of Switzerland where she lived happily and peacefully as a Buddhist with her husband, German actor and music producer, Erwin Bach, since 1994. Tina had practiced Soka Gakkai



Nichiren Buddhism since 1973. In fact, she credited her Buddhist faith for giving her the push she needed to leave her abusive relationship with Ike Turner once and for all.

In her lifetime of 83 years, the highly energetic and supremely talented, Tina Turner, scored many Billboard Top 40 hits over the span of four decades, and well-deservingly received twelve Grammy Awards, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, seven Billboard Awards, was given a spot on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, in 2005 she received the Kennedy Center Honor, and was inducted into the Roll and Roll Hall of Fame, twice.

The dynamic Tina Turner was known to collaborate with queer artists such as Elton John and David Bowie, to name a few. “We have lost one of the world's most exciting and electric performers. A total legend on record and on stage. She was untouchable. Condolences to Erwin and her family. The saddest news,” shared Elton John on his Instagram account shortly following the news of Tina's passing.

Upon being asked in an interview with *The Guardian* how she would want to be remembered, Tina said, “As the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll. As a woman who showed other women that it is ok to strive for success on their own terms.”

In her 2013 interview with Oprah Winfrey, Tina explained, “Even when it's time to go and leave to another planet, I'm excited about that, because I'm curious to know what it's about. Nobody can tell you because nobody has come back. I'm not excited



to die, but I won't regret it when it's time for me. I've done what I came here to do. Now is [time for] pleasure. I've got great friends. I have a great man in my life now. I have a great husband and I'm happy."

In recent years, Tina suffered an onslaught of illnesses of the life-threatening type; high blood pressure, intestinal cancer, total kidney failure, and a stroke. On May 24th, 2023, Tina Turner passed away peacefully in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich. Millions of fans mourned this big loss, and especially us queers.

Tina Turner may have taken her final bow on earth, but we know somewhere in the "great beyond" she's belting out *River Deep, Mountain High*. Rest in peace, rest in power, and go rest high on that mountain, Tina. We love you. We miss you. We will ensure your legacy will live on.

Thank you for everything – there will never be another you!

Melissa MacMullin is a freelance content writer and journalist for leading publications. A strong distinct queer Canadian voice with pride and purpose. Author. Screenwriter. Performer. Part-time adventurer.



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# Outdoor Adventures in Ontario

By Bryen Dunn

Summer is once again upon us, which means it's time for fun in the sun! For those who are seeking more than a lazy afternoon at the beach or cottage, there's plenty to be found in the great outdoors across Ontario.

Below are a few suggestions with many suitable for all-ages and experience levels, to others that are more for the extreme adventure seekers.

## Treetop Trekking and Trampolines

The [Treetop Trekking Group](#) has seven different park locations within Ontario. While each location is slightly different from the other, each adventure park offers an array of activities, from treetop trekking

and ziplining, to rock climbing, aerial games, tree walk villages, and even night trekking. New this year at the Stouffville location is North America's largest outdoor trampoline park. The [Uplā](#) is a universe of trampolines suspended high in the forest canopy that inspires guests to connect with nature and encourages play through exploration.

## White Water Rafting



[Owl Rafting](#) has been offering white water rafting adventures on the Ottawa River for over four decades, operating seven days a week from May to September. Based out of Foresters Falls, they offer a

variety of rafting experiences suitable for beginners or the more advanced paddlers. Either way guests get to experience the world-renowned Rocher Fendu rapids, before returning on a pontoon meal cruise. Overnight packages allow you to stay in your own tent or RV, or upgrade to a cabin, on-suite cabana, or a glamping tent complete with everything you need to make your stay comfortable.

The family-owned business also operates the nearby [Madawaska Kanu Centre](#), the world's first whitewater kayak and canoe school. [Rafting Momentum](#) is another company offering rafting excursions, along with a variety of combo packages with other local outdoor adventure operators. Based out of Bryson, Quebec, the company rafts two different routes along the Ottawa River, and their overnight packages can be combined with an aerial park excursion, go karting, parachuting, rock climbing, or a more relaxed winery tour.



## Tubing

If dodging whitewater waves is not your thing, perhaps the more relaxed day of tubing down the Grand River might be better suited. The [Elora Gorge](#) located just outside of Fergus has been a tubers paradise for many years, offering anyone the opportunity to explore this unique adventure, with everything you need available to rent onsite. For those wanting to extend their stay, the nearby [Grand River Conservation Areas](#) have over 2,000 camping sites available throughout the Grand River watershed, an area larger than Prince Edward Island. Other local outdoor activities include birding, boating, fishing, geocaching, hiking, and cycling.

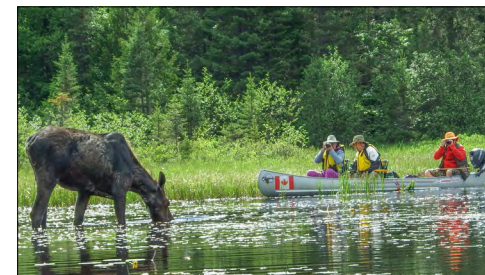
## Mountain Bike Trails

Mountain biking offers an exhilarating experience of trail riding over routes, rocks, and sometimes



ivers. [Three Towers Trail](#) near North Bay has five kilometres of single-track and a kid-friendly pump track.

[Wheelhouse](#) or [Cycle Works](#) are your go-to bike shops for tune-ups and local knowledge. Parry Sound marks the western terminus of the [Park to Park Trail](#), a multi-use corridor that stretches more than 200 km from [Killbear Provincial Park](#) to central Ontario's [Algonquin Provincial Park](#). Starting at Killbear, you can ride 15 kilometres of bush trails through Carling Township to the community of Nobel, or south of Parry Sound the Rose Point Trail spans [Oastler Lake Provincial Park](#) to the Georgian Bay Visitor Centre. [Parry Sound Bikes](#) offers tune-ups and rentals.



## Backroad Touring

For a more relaxed pace, check out some of these great backroad biking options, where you can leisurely ride and stop along the way to discover the local environs. Some top picks include the Apple Pie Trail along the south coast of Georgian Bay, or one of several fun wine trails. The Niagara Region has guided tours and rentals with [Niagara Wine Tours International](#), [County Bike Rentals](#) will guide

you along the vineyards of Prince Edward County, and the [WindsorEat's Wine Trail](#) lets you discover Canada's southernmost wine destination, Windsor Essex Pelee.



### Canoeing and Kayaking



Ontario has many provincial parks that are great spots for a variety of outdoor adventures, including canoeing and kayaking options suited for all levels of experience. Check out [Algonquin](#) where you can ease into things at aptly named Canoe Lake for a beginner-friendly canoe trip into the backcountry with easy well-marked portages to nearby lakes.

[Bon Echo](#) also has several smaller lakes that allows for easy overnight canoe trips for beginners with stays at one of their backcountry camp sites. Closer to Toronto, [The Massasauga](#) has a network of inland lakes and sheltered inlets on Georgian Bay, as does [Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands](#) near Haliburton. Finally, [Killarney](#) has several easy routes with one leaving right from the beach of the George Lake campground. Take the [Parkbus](#) from Toronto, rent canoe and gear from [Killarney Outfitters](#).



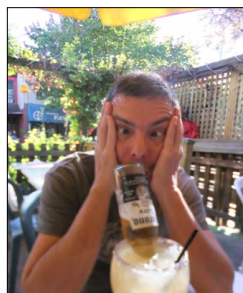
### Caves and Caverns

[Scenic Caves](#) is set within one of Canada's sixteen UNESCO biosphere reserves, and offers plenty of onsite adventures, from treetop treks and ziplines, to a 130m suspension bridge, and an expansive network of caves and crevices along the Niagara Escarpment. There's also 15 kms of hiking trails that meander through 370 unspoiled acres of natural beauty within a 200-year-old forest. Other onsite family activities include gemstone mining, mini golf, an adventure playground, and a miniature train system.

### Toronto Adventures

Paddling Toronto's calm and meandering Humber River is the perfect way to get outside and try something new right in the heart of the city. [Toronto Adventures](#) offers a variety of activities including kayak, canoe and stand-up paddleboard (SUP) [Lessons](#) and [Rentals](#), along with Voyageur Tours, Paddle in Comedy shows, Paddle in Music shows, Glow In The Dark Paddles, Full Moon Paddles, Paddling Day Trips, and more. These are all perfect for paddlers of all levels, and they are conveniently located right on the river and a short walk from Old Mill subway station.

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities.



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by Sean Ban Beaton

## Hot Artist

With Pride coming up, there's a good chance you'll soon be within earshot of some excellent DJs, luring your weekend - worn feet to their dance floors.



Photo by Joshua Best

As you stumble your way through the crowds, keep an ear out for techno DJ and community builder, [Jackie Spade](#).

Spade describes their sound as "heavy and dark, chunky, thick, minimal, and relentless." It can go from moody and hypnotic, to introspective and macabre. "I try to create an immersive environment," says Spade. "Beauty in darkness kind of thing."

Their residencies at Vertigo, Coda, and Comfort Zone, and frequent sets at Cherry Beach and Electric Island have kept them in Toronto's zeitgeist for nearly two decades, with a personal highlight of playing a closing set for Detroit legends, Carl Craig and DJ Bone.

Fellow DJs Kika, and Miss Kleio have recently joined forces with Spade to form the [Technoir Collective](#). Early in its development, the collective aspires to highlight dance music's Black/queer roots, centering the QTBIPOC community. Spade says, "It feels like this trio is exactly what I need at this point in my life and DJ career - they're like family to me."

Spade's longevity in Toronto's male-dominated DJ scene is impressive in itself but hasn't come without challenges. After 16 years of slogging through gatekeepers, toxic promoters, misgendering venue owners, and mansplaining sound guys, this veteran DJ has got plenty to say about Toronto's DJ scene and how it's evolved over the past couple decades.

"I am happy to hear different genres being played a bit more, and to see more parties/venues focusing on inclusiveness, harm reduction, safety, and accessibility, but we have a LONG way to go," Spade

explains. "I have very often been in rooms where maybe only one or two other people look like me, and it can be a really lonely feeling."

For that reason, Spade champions representation of the marginalized, and hopes that seeing a proud non-binary, 2-Spirit, pansexual, Afro-Indigenous and neurodivergent (ADHD) individual in the booth will inspire more diversity and acceptance.

"I want them to know someone is in their corner, because I didn't have many people like that to stick by at times. A lot of great allies in the scene have had my back in many ways since day one, but it's hard to let your creativity truly flow when you don't feel safe and represented."

Despite this, Spade concedes that there is a growing sense of allyship in Toronto's music scene. "I've made some great friends that feel like family. We all share a common goal in our scene, and they've been a pleasure to work with - bridging those gaps has been rewarding on both sides."

Catch Jackie Spade on the OLG Central Stage during Pride, Friday, June 23rd, 8:00pm-9:30pm.

Sean Ban Beaton is a music creator, performer, and sound editor in Toronto.





## Fiction

From the backdrop of a steel-working community in working-class Hamilton, Ontario, in the 1970s, *To Refrain From Embracing* is an immersive, naturalistic, and sometimes darkly comedic exploration of a family pushed up against personal and societal precepts of class, race, and sexuality.

### Excerpt:

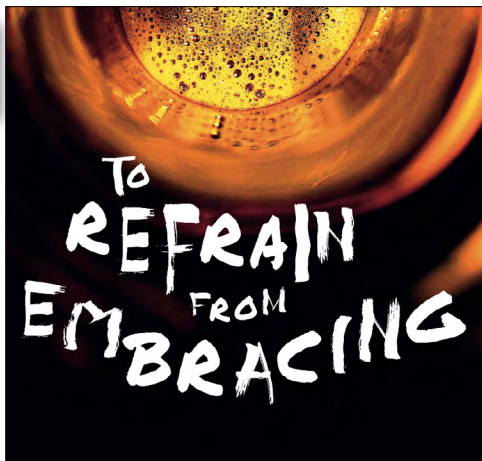
A large muscular man with a thick moustache, brown friendly eyes, and short dark brown hair carrying a pressboard clipboard, walked back and forth across the parking lot shaking hands with parents, flashing a big toothy smile, and directing the boys over to the brown weedy field. Josh's mother had given the man Josh's name in the parking lot when they arrived, and he had checked it off his list with a big black marker. He wore dark blue jeans, white tennis shoes, and a khaki-brown Scout leader shirt. The shirt was regulation Scouts of Canada with bright green and yellow shoulder loops over the epaulets, a purple and white Fleur-de-lis badge on the left side of his chest, and a small Canadian flag on the right side just above the pocket. The shirt and jeans looked like they had just been pressed and his tight jeans hugged his burly legs and rear end. Those jeans, Josh thought, were not regulation Scouts of Canada.

"That big guy must be the head honcho. You can tell by the way he walks. He's really good looking, don't you think?" Aunt Doris whispered to Josh's mother.

"Shhh," his mother said.

"I'm just saying—"

Josh studied the man. He looked a bit like Burt Reynolds in *Smokey and the Bandit*.



Now Josh tried to imagine how this Cub Scout leader in tennis shoes would look in a red shirt and cowboy hat. Then Josh tried to picture him driving a Trans Am. Josh liked this smiling head honcho in tennis shoes.

More and more boys joined them on the field, all dragging large duffel or old hockey bags stuffed with their camp clothes. Josh was the only one the field who brought a suitcase. Already he was feeling like the odd man out, nothing new there. And this wasn't just a regular suitcase, either; it was Josh's mother's train case with a round vanity mirror attached to the inside. That mirror was, Josh had always thought, the best part about the suitcase, but now, standing in that field with his mother and aunt on either side of him, Josh was embarrassed.

Jeffrey Luscombe holds a BA and MA in English from the University of Toronto and attended the renowned Humber College School for Writers where he was mentored by writers Nino Ricci and Lauren B. Davis. He currently lives in Toronto.



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## Community Cornerstone

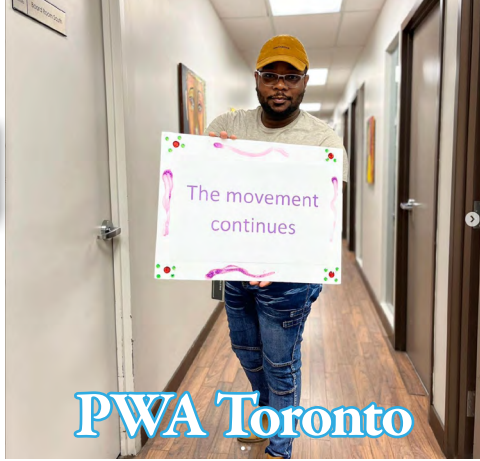
Since 1987, the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation has been helping men, women, trans men, trans women, and children live with HIV/AIDS.

They are a community-based non-profit registered charitable organization having been granted their Ontario Charitable Letters of Patent on May 11th, 1987.

After the discovery of the HIV virus in 1983, AIDS Service Organizations formed to address the major trends of the disease: to help prevent the spread of HIV and to care for those dying from AIDS-related illnesses. In 1986, frustrated by the public's focus on AIDS prevention and lack of services for people already infected, four gay men living with HIV/AIDS began meeting to discuss ways for people living with HIV to stay healthy and live with dignity. They formed a coalition with a mandate to provide practical, direct-support services to people living with HIV/AIDS using a peer-to-peer model.

PWA operates several support programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The Community Food For Life Program, in partnership with Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services, is a weekly frozen meal delivery program for people with HIV/AIDS returning home from the hospital, experiencing severe mobility, acute medical issues, or are receiving palliative care. Based on availability, vitamins are also provided.

Toronto PWA also provides Health and Therapeutic Care services, which supports the holistic health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS, offering free, on-site holistic health care to complement conventional medical care, including acupuncture, massage therapy, art therapy, and the Community Naturopathic Clinic.



Further, the staff and volunteers of the Toronto PWA Speakers Bureau work to correct the myths and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS. By sharing their experiences with the public, they challenge the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS by putting a human face on the disease. Through education, they hope to improve the acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS in society. They also promote a strategy of HIV prevention, to help reduce the transmission of the virus, utilizing staff and peer educators to provide peer consultations, service provider training, and social group discussions around sexual health and POZ prevention.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the discovery of HIV/AIDS. Together, we can help address the issues of treatment, care, support and education about this disease which has so greatly impacted our community over the last four decades, and to which we have lost so many of our friends, family, chosen family, and community members.

If you are interested in volunteering your time and energy or donating funds to help support the Toronto PWA, please contact them through their [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or by phone at (416) 506-1400.

200 Gerrard St. East, 2nd Fl., Toronto, Ontario.

Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to).



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## Would you like to support community charities?

### TICOT Charity Drag Bingo

July 9, August 13, September 10; 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Join The Imperial Court of Toronto for an afternoon of fun and friendship. Proceeds go to the Reign 36 Charities of Choice - Rainbow Railroad and The Toronto PWA Food Essentials Market.

Flash On Church, 463 Church St., Toronto  
[www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com](http://www.theimperialcourtoftoronto.com)

## What's happening in and around The Village?

### C.U. Next Tuesday - Open Stage

Tuesdays; from 9:00 p.m.  
Bring your sheet music or pick a song from their song books. Musical theatre & jazz standards encouraged; but you may sing what you like.

O'Grady's On Church, 518 Church St., Toronto  
<http://www.ogradyschurch.com>

### Hump Night Honeys

Wednesdays; from 10:00 p.m.  
Hosts Carlotta Carlisle and Katinka Kature welcome an array of special guest stars with DJ Chris Steinbach, and Toronto's sweetest staff.

Woody's, 467 Church St., Toronto  
<http://woodystoronto.com/>



### Jock Night Thursdays

Thursdays; from 10:00 p.m.

Join hostess Morgan James, everyone's second favourite drag queen, and the semi-clad (or less) men of Cock Bar for an evening of feisty fun and frivolity. Drink specials, prizes, and surprises. This is a "men only" space on the second floor, and not handicap accessible.

Cock Bar, 461 Church St., Second Floor, Toronto  
[www.flashonchurch.com/](http://www.flashonchurch.com/)

### Homo Night in Canada

June 23; 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by The B-Girlz, Homo Night in Canada has become the must-see event of Pride weekend in Toronto showcasing some of North America's best queer comics.

Buddies In Bad Times, 12 Alexander St., Toronto  
[buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com)



### Tallulah's Pride Party

June 23, 24, 25; 10:30 p.m.

The best party on the block takes over the whole building for Queer Pride. See Toronto's top drag and burlesque artists in a super-charged floor show and stay late with our resident DJs spinning your favourites.

Buddies In Bad Times, 12 Alexander St., Toronto  
[buddiesinbadtimes.com](http://buddiesinbadtimes.com)

### Hollywoody to Broadway Show

Sundays; from 6:00 p.m.

Hilarious host Georgie Girl welcomes a selection of guest performers every Sunday evening serving up your favourite hits of stage and screen, and more.

Woody's and Sailor, 467 Church St., Toronto  
[www.instagram.com/woodysonchurch/](http://www.instagram.com/woodysonchurch/)

## Looking for fun with the Queer-adjacent crowd?

### TD Toronto Jazz Fest

June 23 to July 2

10 days of FREE outdoor programming in the heart of Bloor-Yorkville! From The Village - located in the Village of Yorkville Park - to OLG Grove - in the Victoria College Quad - and, of course, to the complete street takeover at The Avenue (yes, they're closing down Queen's Park south of Bloor), they're bringing the neighbourhood to life with unforgettable programming.

Bloor-Yorkville, Victoria College, Avenue Rd. south of Bloor St.  
[torontojazz.com](http://torontojazz.com)



## ROM After Dark Pride

June 30; 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The exciting 19+ themed after-hours monthly event series that allows you to explore the museum in a whole new way. ROM After Dark channels an experiential energy, featuring curated music, visual arts, pop-up performances, and distinctive food and drink, designed for adults looking for a fun, art-driven night out.

Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto  
[www.rom.on.ca/en](http://www.rom.on.ca/en)



## How do you feel about hanging with the str8 peoples?

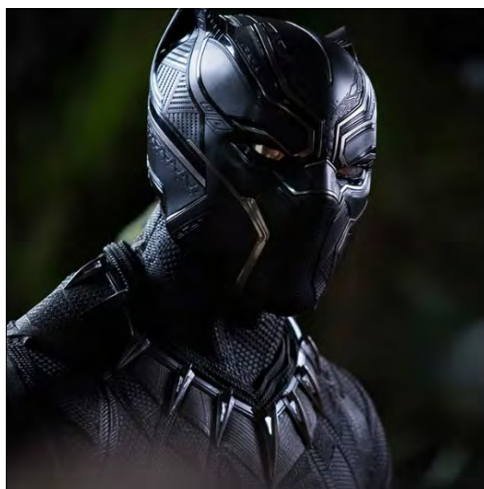
### Marvel Studios' Black Panther in Concert

June 29 and 30

Relive the excitement of T'Challa becoming king and battling Killmonger all while the Toronto Symphony Orchestra performs Ludwig Goransson's Oscar-winning score live to picture.

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto

[www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/marvel-studios-black-panther-in-concert](http://www.tso.ca/concerts-and-events/events/marvel-studios-black-panther-in-concert)



## Foreigner - The Historic Farewell Tour

July 25; 7:00 p.m.

From the release of their debut album in March 1977, Foreigner has been a musical force. Joined by superstar band, Loverboy, this show promises to be an event to be remembered.

Budweiser Stage, 909 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto

[www.ticketmaster.ca/foreigner-the-historic-farewell-tour-toronto-ontario-07-25-2023/event/10005D6BC8412F26](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/foreigner-the-historic-farewell-tour-toronto-ontario-07-25-2023/event/10005D6BC8412F26)

## Pentatonix

August 22; 8:00 p.m.

The World Tour is the ninth concert tour by American a cappella group Pentatonix to promote their greatest hits. Pentatonix is an American a cappella group consisting of vocalists Scott Hoying, Mitch Grassi, Kirstin Maldonado, Matt Sallee, and Kevin Olusola. This tour features guest supporting act, Lauren Alaina, an American singer and songwriter.

Budweiser Stage, 909 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto

[www.ticketmaster.ca/pentatonix-the-world-tour-with-special-toronto-ontario-08-22-2023/event/10005E51E7CC3477](http://www.ticketmaster.ca/pentatonix-the-world-tour-with-special-toronto-ontario-08-22-2023/event/10005E51E7CC3477)



Events Editor, Sherry Sylvain is a transgender woman who has been working in the LGBTQ community for too many years to count (or admit to).



by Mychol Scully

## From The Heart

## The most famous speech in *As You Like It* is the Seven Ages of Man, which begins 'All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players'

It seems a truism that queers are often drawn to the performing arts. Why might that be?

I would posit that as queers in a frequently antagonistic hetero-normative society, we learn early (and often) to "perform" for the world around us. The closet is a kind of theatrical "green room" where we prepare ourselves to step out on the stage of life and present ourselves to a potentially hostile audience.

Nor is this performance anxiety limited to the mainstream. We often find ourselves having to deal with a sometimes critical queer audience as we move through the world. It's a common refrain that we must deal with peer criticism of our appearance, our career choices, our style of dress, our physical fitness, and a myriad of other personal aspects when interacting with queer society.

It's no wonder, then, that we develop defensive coping mechanisms that include performing versions of ourselves to suit whichever audience we're engaging with in any given moment.

Eventually, for some, we arrive at a place in our lives where we "have no more f\*\*ks to give," at which point we can begin to discover and develop our authentic selves, without the costumes and masks we've been using defensively for so long. Unfortunately, for many, that time never truly comes and we find ourselves at the end of life asking ourselves, *what happened?*

On a positive note, the fragmentation of society into a multitude of different "tribes" means that, should we extend the effort, we can find our place in the world where our authenticity is recognized and embraced by others earlier in our lives.

CELEBRATE!

Mychol Scully is Senior Art Director for INspired Media publications PinkPlayMags, theBUZZ, The Local Biz Magazine, and The Pink Pages Directory. Mychol is available for thoughtful conversation or lascivious teasing any time at [mychol@mychol.com](mailto:mychol@mychol.com).



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editor@pinkplaymags.com

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**inquiries@inspiredcreative.ca**

# Summer Horoscopes

by Julie Antoinette

JUNE 2023 to AUGUST 2023

## Aries (March 21 – April 20)

You value efficiency and optimal results in your work and homelife decisions. Work smarter, not harder is your mantra as wasted energy and duplication of efforts drag you down. Tap into your creative genius and lateral thinking abilities to tackle some problems to smooth out a few of your daily operations.

## Taurus (April 21 – May 21)

A few chapters of your relationships, projects, work or environment wind to a natural close while others slowly bud new beginnings. Whatever the scenario, allow yourself the grace to let go of the passing elements with ease as you welcome the new with warmth. Remember, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." (Closing Time, Semisonic)

## Gemini (May 22 – June 21)

Nostalgia is present in your mind and heart while thinking of earlier times. The Greek word for "return" is *nostos*. The word *algos* means suffering. So nostalgia is suffering caused by an unappeased yearning to return; a type of "homesickness." What aspects of "home" have you abandoned? The old adage says, "Home is where the heart is." If you're homesick, follow your heart.

## Cancer (June 22 – July 22)

All at once it seems as though hidden truths after hidden truths are surfacing and rocking a few of your personal foundations. This causes much destabilization in your life, but not without necessity. What do they say about the truth? The truth hurts. But also, the truth will set you free. Perhaps the only hurt that truth brings is in the violent dismantling of the lie.

## Leo (July 23 – August 22)

Recently, you reacted in a way that you feel ashamed of. You could not deny that your reaction displayed a behavior that you used to judge in others. Decide to spend more time in the reckoning than in the shame. Despite the cringe you feel, you are now presented the gift of "knowing thyself" a little deeper. Congratulations on illuminating another fragment of your shadow. You'll shine brighter for it.

## Virgo (August 23 – September 23)

Never underestimate the value of humour to diffuse tense situations. It was once heard by a certain horoscope writer that humor is all about the element of surprise. What better tool to jolt someone out of one state and into another quickly, painlessly and not-mirthlessly. Everyone loves surprises.

## Libra (September 24 – October 23)

Peace and harmony at all costs is your battle cry, Libra. But the battles of pleasing everyone make you weary. Constant energy output does not equal peace. Your own borders are in need of your guarded protection and defense. Hone your sword and master the art of saying "No." Here are some examples to try: "No, thank you. Not for me, thanks! I think I'll pass. I may give it a miss. I am going to sit this one out. Sorry, but I can't." I'm sure you can think of many more. Try using different tones to intensify your training!

## Scorpio (October 24 – November 22)

You now are a firm believer in the old adage, "You get what you pay for." A recent deleterious exchange of goods or services left you regretful. Trying to save a few bucks and thereby securing that elusive feeling of savvy economic satisfaction was short lived. Don't "buy cheap and buy twice". Instead, "buy once and buy nice, whatever the price." You're worth it!

## Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

True to your sign, you are a global humanitarian to the core. At this point in your travels, a foreign culture fascinates you mainly due to a recent exposure of some sort. You notice little nuances that differ and are new and add such richness to your concept of humanity. You want to immerse yourself and embrace it all but how to do so in only one lifetime? Do you believe in reincarnation?

## Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

A stubborn blockage holding up progress in achieving a project has recently been removed. You marvel in hindsight at the timing of this clearing as you now see that having completed any sooner could have spelled disaster. If only foresight were your strong suit. In the meantime, thank Ganesha and your lucky stars for well-placed obstacles and timely removals of obstacles.

## Aquarius (January 20 – February 19)

A saving angel bringing auspicious energy has entered your life. Just the presence of this person causes everything to go right and leaves you feeling awe and wonder. This person has come to show you a higher way of being that you previously have not allowed yourself to dream of. All that is required is to observe and allow.

## Pisces (February 20 – March 20)

Procrastination originates from the Latin *pro* meaning toward and *crast* meaning tomorrow. But we all know tomorrow never comes. And if your dreams are tied up in procrastination, they may never come either. Trade your procrastination for a little Carpe Diem and get moving! After all, if everything is now and if now is all you ever have, then you have everything.

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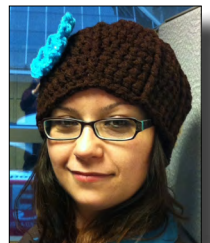


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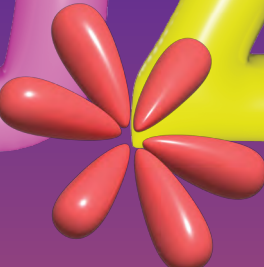
Julie is a Sociology and Psychology graduate, a Psychotherapy Intern and a lifelong student of the psyche. She seeks to relay intuitive messages of guidance from the collective astrological archetypes.



# PRIDE



# 2023



**Pride Toronto 2023**

**Festival Weekend  
June 23-25**

[pridetoronto.com](http://pridetoronto.com)



[www.pinkplaymags.com](http://www.pinkplaymags.com)

# PRIDE TORONTO WEEKEND GUIDE 2023

Compiled by Sherry Sylvain, Events Editor  
*includes your Tips & Tricks Survival Guide*

# Pride TORONTO

## 2023 FESTIVAL MAP

### Stages & DJ Areas

- Park Stage
- Activation Space
- Street Stage
- Ⓐ Accessible Space
- Ⓜ Merck Block Party
- Ⓝ North DJ Riser

### Festival Areas

- Street Fair
- Food Zone
- Wellness Zone
- Art Crawl

### Stages

- ① SENSORY SPACE JAMES CANNING PARK
- ② SOBER OASIS
- ③ BUD LIGHT WELLESLEY STAGE
- ④ FAMILY PRIDE
- ⑤ OLD CENTRAL STAGE
- ⑥ ROGERS SOUTH STAGE
- ⑦ GARDEN STAGE
- ⑧ YONGE DUNDAS SQUARE
- ⑨ TD MAIN STAGE

### Parade Routes

- Trans March  
Friday, June 23, 8pm
- Dyke March  
Saturday, June 24, 2pm
- Pride Parade  
Sunday, June 25, 2pm
- Marchers Route

### Accessibility

- Ⓜ Wheel Transit Pick-Up
- Ⓜ Accessibility Hub  
Friday 4pm-10pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10am-11pm
- X Accessibility Risers  
Friday-Sunday
- X Accessibility Risers  
Sunday Only
- Accessible Alternate Route
- Partially Accessible Route

- ✱ Welcome & Donation Centre
- T TTC Subways
- + Harm Reduction Tent  
Supplies
- + Harm Reduction Tent  
Counseling
- ★ Restroom (5 Locations)
- 💧 Water Station



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**Hey, Hey ... It's Time to Be Gay!**  
**Tips and Tricks for Surviving and Enjoying Pride**

*By Bryen Dum*



**RAW whole food ingredients:**  
**fruits, veggies, seeds, nuts & cold-pressed juices**  
**NO added sugar NO concentrates NO pasteurized purees NO chalky supplements**

Happy Pride everyone, or should I say Merry Gay Christmas! It's that time of year where queers and allies get to celebrate being fabulous, and also, to retaliate against those opposed to equality for all.

**Hydrate and Rejuvenate**

With summer temps rising, it becomes a necessity to stay hydrated. Water should be your BFF throughout your adventures, and if you want to up the ante, toss in a few electrolytes to the mix. Kombucha is also a great reset after a night of one-too-many. Also, keep your body energized by eating regularly. Fruits, nuts, and vegetables make great healthy snacks, and can easily be packed into a backpack for eating on the go, and a good nutritious meal is the fuel you need to keep going.

**Plan Ahead and Take Breaks**

Pride began as a protest, and that will remain at the root of its existence. However, there's always reason to party as well, and with so much happening this month it's going to take some stringent planning to take in as much as possible. We're here for you to offer a few tips and tricks that will help in navigating your way through this rainbow filled playground, while maintaining your composure, and dignity!

The city is abuzz with so much going on, and it's literally impossible to take in everything. Start by making a list of what you want to experience, whether that be taking in something every day, or cramming it all into Pride weekend. Try not to pack too much in, so you can allow for the unexpected surprises along the way. Also, take time away from the festivities. A few minutes sitting down in a shade covered green space, or grabbing a cool drink in an

**nutesnutrition.com**  
**nutrients for real!**





### Party and Play Safely

Yes, Pride is a party, and we all want to have fun, but be sure to take care of yourself and others. Sometimes it's hard not to get wrapped up in the moment and let your inhibitions down, so being prepared and aware of your surroundings are important. If you're venturing out solo, be sure to let someone know where you'll be, and check in occasionally. Drink and party responsibly, smartly and in moderation. If you're looking to get laid over Pride, and who isn't, be sure to use protection.



### Dress to Impress

One of the most difficult decisions to make is what to wear. It's our time to shine and stand out, so go big in every way, and that means wigs! However, it's best to be practical as well. Loose fitting clothes work wonders in the heat, and comfortable footing will give you more endurance to go the distance. Glam it up with accessories, from bracelets and necklaces, to shades, hats, and makeup. Stand up and stand out!

### Explore Beyond The Village

While most of the action takes place in the Church-Wellesley Village, there's so much more happening throughout the city. From Parkdale and the Junction, to Leslieville and the Danforth, the rainbow welcome mat awaits. Also, if you're in need of an escape from the city streets, hop on a ferry and head on over to Hanlan's Point on Toronto Island for a day of beaching. Bathing attire is entirely optional.

### Support Local Businesses

There are so many queer owned businesses in the city, and many more that are open and welcoming. The amount of rainbow colours that appear during Pride Month is wonderful. It's an opportunity for you to stop by and support these shops, and perhaps discover places you might not have gone to otherwise. Remember, your pink dollars speak loud and proud.

### Expect the Unexpected

As mentioned above, make a list of what you'd like to take in, but leave room for the unexpected. More often than not, an unplanned adventure ends up



air-conditioned venue will help reset your body for the next adventure ahead. Do it all, but don't overdo it.

### The Essentials

Before leaving home, make sure you're equipped with some much-needed necessities.

Here are a few items to consider before making your way out the door:

1. Small backpack works best (for carrying most of everything you'll need)
2. Refillable water bottle
3. Snacks
4. Sunscreen
5. Earplugs
6. Phone charger
7. Sunglasses

Don't forget a hat of some sort for protection from the UV

being one of the best. Your new best friend who you just met might invite you to something you weren't aware of, or something surprising might take place while you're on your way to somewhere else. An open mind and open schedule are a great winning combination.

### Happy Pride - Keep Smilin' and Stylin'!

Bryen Dunn is a freelance journalist based in Toronto with a focus on tourism, lifestyle, entertainment and community issues. He has written several travel articles and has an extensive portfolio of celebrity interviews with musicians, actors and other public personalities.



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## Pride Toronto 2023 Pride Festival Weekend Schedule

### Pride in Nature

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Free Event/All Ages

#### Through June

A series of family-friendly, nature-based events celebrating the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Halton and the surrounding areas. All are welcome, including members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, friends, families and allies.

Various venues

### Nina Levitt | Conspiracy of Silence, 1987

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Free Event/All Ages

#### Through June 30

Tuesday to Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Conspiracy of Silence, 1987, was commissioned for the group exhibition Sight Specific: Lesbians and Representation at A Space Gallery in 1987.

Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1356 Dundas St. W., Toronto

### Uptown Pride Art Exhibition

Affiliate Event/Free Event/All Ages

#### June 21 – June 27

This exhibit showcases diverse artists from the 2SLGBTQI+ community and features different approaches to contemporary art.

23 Prince Arthur Ave, Toronto

### Peter Burega – Southern Crossing (Solo Exhibition of Abstract Landscapes)

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Free Event/All Ages

#### Through July 8

Tuesday to Friday – 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm; Saturday – 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday & Sunday – Closed

Gay artist Peter Burega features his subtle abstracted landscapes. Working from photo reference, Burega employs gestural mark making to blend documentation of the real world with his own physically exercised psychology.

Abbozzo Gallery, 401 Richmond St. W., Toronto

### Access Me

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Paid Event/Suggested To Be 16+

#### Through June 24

A queer disability sex-positive performance. A fun, sexy, and all-access exploration of the lived experience of three queer disabled men featuring creators and performers Andrew Gurza, Frank Hull, and Ken Harrower. Tickets from \$5-\$35

Aki Studio, 585 Dundas St. E., Toronto

### Youphoria: A Pride Showcase

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Free Event/All Ages

#### June 21 – July 9

Wednesday – Sunday, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

An exhibition for those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ artists to have a space to showcase artwork about finding joy while living on the margins of society.

Propeller Art Gallery, 30 Abell St., Toronto

<https://propellerartgallery.com/>

### Tkaronto Music Festival 2023

Major Cultural Event/Free Event/Wheelchair Accessible

#### June 21 – June 24

Tkaronto Music Festival is Canada's premiere Indigenous Music Festival, founded with one goal: putting Indigenous Music on the main stage. Join during the day for Indigenous Culture workshops, including kid-friendly programming.

All events are free of charge.

Stackt Marketplace, 28 Bathurst St., Toronto

<https://tkmf.ca/>

### Green Space Festival

Major Cultural Event/Free Event/Wheelchair Accessible

#### June 21 – June 25

June 21 – 23; 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

June 24, 25; 1:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

The best alfresco parties with an exceptional lineup of world-class DJs, drag queen royalty and more! Party for a cause at Green Space Festival; all funds supporting The 519.

Barbara Hall Park, 519 Church St., Toronto



## Century

Affiliate Event/Paid Event/Must Be 19+

June 22 – June 26

Big room, big sound, state-of-the-art visuals. DJs, bangers and room to dance.

Century, 580 King St. W., Toronto

## TD Toronto Jazz Fest

Major Cultural Event/ Free Event/Ticketed Concerts

June 23 – July 2

This festival is proud to present 2SLGBTQ+ artists on stage – this year Begonia headlines the TD Main Stage in the OLG Grove on July 1, while other 2SLGBTQ+ artists and allies include Haviah Mighty, Ashanti, Gavin Hope, July Black, Maya Killtron and Phoenix Pagliacci – all free on the outdoor stages.

OLG Grove, Victoria College Quad, 73 Queens Park Cres., Toronto

<https://torontojazz.com/>

Ticketed concerts: <https://torontojazz.com/ticketed-performances/>

## Movie Night with Amazon

Signature Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Free Event/All Ages

June 23; 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of free movies with the Downtown Yonge Community. Everyone is invited to an evening of fun with a pre-show musical performance and entertainment for the entire family. Grab a snack from the onsite farmer's market and find your perfect spot in the seating area.

College Park, 444 Yonge St., Toronto

## Sober Oasis

June 23 – June 25

The Pride Sober Oasis is a safe space for the sober community to celebrate Pride, and an opportunity for others to learn more about who they are and what they do. Different Sobriety Modalities will host meetings. In the evenings, enjoy loud and proud sober fun. Check out drag performances and dance the night away.

Paul Kane House Parkette, 58 Wellesley St. E., Toronto



## Wood Street Block Party

June 23 – June 25

Experience the electrifying energy of the legendary block party at Wood St. and Church St. in the heart of Toronto's Village during Pride Weekend. The block party is the perfect place to embrace the spirit of Pride and celebrate with friends and community.

South DJ Riser, Church St. and Wood St., Toronto

North DJ Riser

June 23 – June 25

Controllers, turntables, mics and DJs – oh my! Only the best DJs get to play this Riser, pumping up the crowds as they walk the Street Fair. Celebrate Pride by dancing, making friends, and listening to some of the best beats out there.

North DJ Riser, Church St. and Isabella St., Toronto

## Fetish Pride

Affiliate Event / Wheelchair Accessible/Paid Event/Must Be 19+

June 23 – June 24

Whatever your fetish, grab your gear and come get your kink on at Pitbull – Fetish Pride as they celebrate everything kinky with DJ TDon. All fetishes welcome, full coat check available.

The Opera House, 735 Queen St. E., Toronto

<https://www.pitbullevents.com/products/pitbull-pride-fetish-life>



## Tashan – Pride Thumka

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Paid Event/Must Be 19+

June 23 – June 24

Pride Thumka is an inclusive Queer Desi Bollywood Dance Pride Party celebrating South Asian pride through music, arts and culture. The event includes an international DJ spinning foot-tapping mixes with a dazzling drag performance in a queer-owned iconic location in Toronto.

The Rivoli, 334 Queen St. W., Toronto

## The Garrison

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Paid Event/Must Be 19+

June 23 – June 26

Dance Party Extravaganza

The Garrison, 1197 Dundas St. W., Toronto

## Family Pride

June 24 – June 25

Celebrate the strength and uniqueness of 2SLGBTQ+ families and children at Family Pride. Now in its 24th year, Family Pride is a fun-filled oasis on the grounds of Church Street School; filled with face painting, a magic show, storytelling, and so much more!

Please note that adults are only allowed in this space if accompanying a child.

Church Street Public School, 83 Alexander St., Toronto

## Opening Night: Wake 'Em Up

June 23; 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

A night of high-energy dance performances featuring some of the best 2SLGBTQ+ performers. Featuring pop sensation Rêve, and rapper and hitmaker Saucy Santana.

TD Main Stage, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto

## Big Love

June 23; 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Good energy, hard thumping music that will keep you dancing until late into the night. Plus, bringing love from Australia, the global drag superstar DJ Kitty Glitter will be headlining the evening.

OLG Central Stage, 512 Church St., Toronto

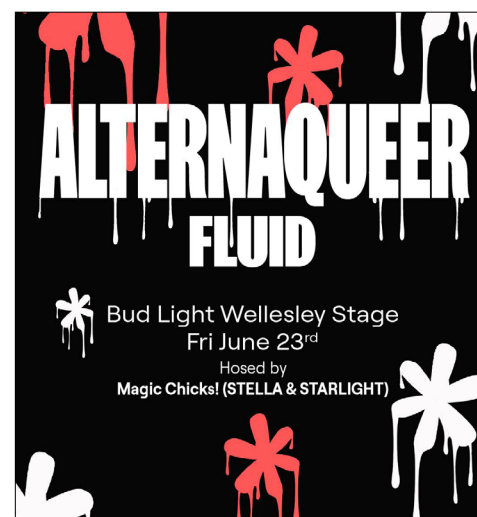
## Alternaqueer: FLUID

June 23; 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Toronto

Drip. Drip. Drip. Don't slip 'cause the Alternaqueer stage is getting soaked.

Squish, squeeze and shapeshift down to see what this gloriously grotesque gaggle of ghouls has in store for you. This year's theme is fluid, so no solid matter allowed.

Bud Light Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto



## Trans Pride Rally, March, After Party

June 23; 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Join in celebrating the resilience, strength, and beauty of the Trans community. This event is a powerful and important space for Trans individuals to gather and celebrate their identities while also raising awareness and fighting for Trans human rights. The rally, featuring powerful speakers and performers, is a space for folks to gather and prepare for the march with sign-making and community-building activities. The rally starts at the intersection of Church St. and Hayden St. After the march, continue the celebration at the Trans Pride Afterparty at the Garden Stage.

Church St. and Hayden St., to Garden Stage, 241 Church St., Toronto



## Yalla Barra

June 23; 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Back for its 7th year, featuring Middle Eastern artists with various talents. Yalla Barra, Arabic for "come out/get out," can be taken to have many different meanings. This year it means out of the closet and unchained from the boundaries and constraints that tried to define us. Poetry reading, DJs, belly dancing, performances, burlesque - in Middle Eastern style!

South Stage, 322 Church St., Toronto

## Gender Euphoria

Affiliate Event/Paid Event/Must Be 19+

June 23; 9:00 p.m.

Queer Collective presents Gender Euphoria, an event that will heal your inner child and open your heart to expressions of love and connection. Expect an immersive art experience ft. live music, drag, freestyle dance, interactive painting, photo ops, and best-dressed prizes.

Coin 8, 927 Dupont St., Toronto

## Pup Your Pride

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Free Event/All Ages

June 24; from noon

Meet-up: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Parade: 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate Pride with Dogfather & Co and Miss Pickles the Pug. Browse their tables of Pride swag and enjoy doggy ice cream from Barker & Snouts. Enter the giveaways to win prizes for your pup. Meet and greet with the animal chiropractor, David Feldman. Then join in a parade down to the festivities at Church.

Ramsden Park Dog Park, Yonge St. and Ramsden Park Rd., Toronto

<https://dogfatherandco.com/>

## Trans Formations Summit on Trans Spiritualities

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Paid Event/All Ages

June 24; noon to 5:30 p.m.

Join for an afternoon summit created by/for 2S, Trans and Gender Expansive folks to explore the intersections of gender and spirituality. Open to people of any and all spiritual paths. The event will conclude with an open-air concert at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/transformations-a-summit-on-trans-spiritualities-tickets-601815766157>

## Speed Networking Event

Signature Event

June 24; 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Free to attend, all entrepreneurs and small business operators are welcome, must register via OGLCC and submit required info (no entry without prior registration).

Fasken, 333 Bay St., Toronto

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/pride-toronto-speed-networking-tickets-647133151677>

## Dyke Pride Rally, March, After Party

June 24; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Pride Toronto's annual Dyke March. From 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the intersection of Hayden St. and Church St., enjoy speakers, performances and sign-making. At 2:00 p.m., march through the streets of Toronto. Allies, please leave space for folks who identify as Dyke or Lesbian to celebrate at the front. At the end of the march, continue celebrating with the After party and Community Fair at the Garden Stage.

Hayden St. and Church St. to Garden Stage, 241 Church St., Toronto

## The Beat Goes On

June 24; 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Don't let the fun end when the parade does. Join at Nathan Phillips Square, where you can dance the afternoon away to the hottest house grooves, disco tracks, and Pride bangers. This is the perfect way to keep the party going.

OLG Central Stage, Church St. and Alexander St., Toronto

## brOWN//out

June 24; 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The "South Asian" community stage at Pride Toronto. A space for "South Asian" queer and trans artists: singers, poets, dancers, drag and burlesque artists, musicians and more. Influenced and supported by a multitude of artists, organizers, agitators, dreamers and doers.

Bud Light Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto

## Pride Live

June 24; 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Featuring live instruments and live singers with a focus on rock, country, jazz, and blues. You'll be blown away by the incredible talents on display from this diverse lineup of bands. Don't miss out on the chance to experience something a little different and revel in the sounds of live music.

South Stage, 322 Church St., Toronto



## Kiss My Lips

June 24; 2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

The absolute best in women-identified programming intended for all genders. This event includes DJs, dancers, and performers all day and night. Save a kiss and see you there!

OLG Central Stage, 512 Church St., Toronto

## Mucho Mucho Amor

June 24; 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Get ready for the hottest LatinX experience at Pride Toronto. Featuring renowned DJs spinning a wide range of Latin musical styles in Spanish and Portuguese. Plus, an exciting array of drag and burlesque performances. Be prepared to dance 'til you drop!

Bud Light Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto

## NEXT

June 24; 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Sherbourne Health's Supporting Our Youth (SOY) Youth Advisory Committee brings the NEXT generation of youth excellence to Pride. Get ready for jaw-dropping performances, special guests, high-stakes drama and prizes. They're more than the rainbow, they're new legends, they're what comes NEXT!

Church Street Junior Public School, 83 Alexander St., Toronto

## Drag Ball

June 24; 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Featuring an incredible lineup of Toronto drag icons and special guests such as Sasha Colby, Jimbo, Icesis Couture, Jada Shada Hudson, Miss Fiercalicious, Scarlett Bobo, and more. In the face of worldwide drag bans, anti-drag protests, and anti-trans laws, it is more important than ever to take a stand for our communities. Gather in front of Toronto City Hall and make your voice heard to celebrate diversity, and demand visibility for our community.

TD Main Stage, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto

## BIPHORIA

June 24; 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

A four-hour event in celebration of the diverse Bi+ community. An eclectic mix of performances, including vocalists, spoken word, drag, and burlesque. Bi+ encompasses all non-monosexual identities, including bisexual, biromantic, pansexual, panromantic, omnisexual, polysexual, fluid and queer.

Garden Stage, 241 Church St., Toronto

## Catalyst

June 24; 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Catalyst celebrates Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer artists with performances from drag and burlesque artists, as well as performances from musicians, including Quannah Style, The Johnnys, and more!

Curated by 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nation

South Stage, 322 Church St., Toronto

## BQC Presents: We Ah Run Di Grung

June 24; 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Join for another exhilarating stage as BQC Presents: We Ah Run Di Grung, celebrating black queer and trans youth performers within the community. This stage will have DJ sets, rappers, vocalists and more. Toronto's only stage for black queer and trans youth performers.

Bud Light Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto

## CHERRY BOMB: QUEER PRIDE!

Affiliate Event/Wheelchair Accessible/Paid Event/Must Be 19+

June 24; 9:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

An inclusive party for queer women, trans and non-binary people, friends and allies. Cherry Bomb Resident DJs, Cozmic Cat, and Denise Benson, and the debut of special guests DJ Sam, DJ Shera, innovative performances by burlesque artists Kimora Koi, and Rubie Magnitude, and dancers, Chantelle Mostacho, Tyler Quan, and more.

Axis Club, 722 College St., Toronto

<https://cherrybombto.com/>

## Mega Pride

Affiliate Event/Paid Event/Must Be 19+

June 24; 10:00 p.m.

Celebrate everything pride with amazing DJs and Queens! Party late into the night with a 4:00 a.m. last call.

The Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne St., Toronto

<https://www.pitbullevents.com/>

## Blocko After Dark

June 24; 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Blackness Yes! presents Blocko After Dark, your chance to experience more Blockorama. Enjoy a second night of Blocko Pride and celebrate late into the night with Toronto's best Black 2SLGBTQI+ DJs, drag artists and performers.

Bud Light Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto

## Church on Church at Church Pride Celebration Service

June 25; 10:30 a.m.

A non-denominational faith service for the 2SLGBTQ+ community, family, friends, and allies.

They will host a special Pride Celebration Reception in the McCain Family Social Hall following the Service. Their music director, has lined up amazing musical guests, including The Choir of MCC Toronto, Alana Bridgewater, Gavin Hope, Shannon McCracken, Genevieve Trudel, and drag queen Messy Margaret.

M.C.C., 115 Simpson Ave., Toronto



## Pride Parade

June 25; 2:00 pm

With 100+ groups marching this year it's wonderful to see how much support our community has gained. From glittery costumes and drag queens, to dynamic performances and good music to get you dancing, this is sure to make your 2023 Pride experience both exciting and memorable.

There are 6 accessible risers/viewing stations alongside the Parade route:

St. Mary's St. & Yonge St. — accessible riser

Isabella St. & Yonge St. — accessible riser

Breadalbane St. & Yonge St. — accessible riser

Wood St. & Yonge St. — accessible riser

Elm St. & Yonge St. — accessible riser

Edward St. & Yonge St. — viewing station (ground level)

They will also have free water being offered at the above-mentioned intersections alongside Carlton St. & Yonge St.

Please bring water, sunscreen and food to get you through the day as you experience one of the biggest North American Pride Parades.

Join at the corner of Church St. N and Bloor St. E at 2:00 p.m. to kick off Canada's largest Pride Parade. Follow southbound along Yonge St, turning right on Dundas St. W. Folks can make their way straight to Nathan Philip Square off of Bay St., where the festivities continue for the remainder of the night. This is a new ending point, at Nathan Phillips Square, where the new Main Stage and Beer Garden will be.



## Blockorama 25: Legacies

June 25; 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Blockorama is Pride Toronto's longest-running stage, with a jubilant history that spotlights Toronto's 2SLGBTQI+ African, Black and Caribbean community through performers, DJs, artists, drag, ballroom, health workers and activists. Blockorama is the must-attend event of Pride, filled with music, community, dancing, and endless amounts of Black love.

Bud Light Wellesley Stage, 15 Wellesley St. E., Toronto

## Bright Lights

June 25; 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Close your Festival Weekend out with a bang as electropop icon Lights plays her first ever Pride. Supported by an all-female, all-live closing extravaganza, Bright Lights also features breakout sensation Devon Cole and the highly talented memyself&vi, and Favvkes.

TD Main Stage, 100 Queen St. W., Toronto

## Dirty Disco

June 25; 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

A stacked lineup of local DJ legends like JELO, Jerome Robins, Robb G, Ticky Ty, Jules Worth, and Chiclet. Plus, breakout UK hitmaker Essel will be joining for an unforgettable set!

Finish your Pride Weekend off with a bang and come dance your heart out at Dirty Disco.

OLG Central Stage, 512 Church St., Toronto

## Jashn

June 25; 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Jashn means "to celebrate" in Hindi. Featuring Bollywood dance performances from Taaj Entertainment and some South Asian flavour from DJ Amita, and DJ Kow, which will get you up and dancing. Plus, DJ Sikh Knowledge presents "For the Love of Panjab" Block Party. All this and more hosted by Mallika Gujral, who will also be performing.

Rogers South Stage, Church St. and Gould St., Toronto

## Two-Spirit + Indigenous Pride

June 25; 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Two-Spirit Fair: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Two-Spirit and Indigenous Performances: 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Join Two-Spirited People of the 1st Nations after the Parade for a Two-Spirit and Indigenous community gathering. They're featuring activities such as a beading circle, a sacred fire for community members, a Two-Spirit artists market, and performances throughout the late afternoon into the evening.

Garden Stage, 241 Church St., Toronto

## Scène Francophone

June 25; 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Viens danser et célébrer la Saint Jean-Baptiste avec les performances d'artistes francophones 2SLGBTQI+ sur la Scène sud du festival!

Come dance and celebrate Saint Jean-Baptiste with performances by French-speaking 2SLGBTQI+ artists on the South Stage of the festival!

South Stage, 322 Church St., Toronto

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