

# SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE®

SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER  
PRIDE PARADE AND CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, INC.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE ANNOUNCES CELEBRITY GRAND MARSHALS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

*Trans Entertainer Our Lady J, House of Xtravaganza Vogue Legends Jose Gutierrez & Luis Camacho, Activist Gavin Grimm to be Highlighted at 48<sup>th</sup> Annual SF Pride Festivities*

San Francisco, CA – San Francisco Pride will welcome Our Lady J and Jose & Luis as Celebrity Grand Marshals for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual LGBT Pride Parade and March. In addition, inspiring activist Gavin Grimm will be a Special Guest in the Parade, as well as one of the speakers on the Main Stage of the Celebration and Rally in Civic Center Plaza.

**Our Lady J** is a writer and producer on Ryan Murphy's dance-musical TV series *POSE*, which will premiere next month on FX. After a career of making music in both the pop and classical worlds (Sia, American Ballet Theatre, Mark Morris Dance Group), Our Lady J transitioned to writing and producing on the Golden Globe®- and Emmy®-winning series *Transparent*. Our Lady J holds the honor of being the first out trans woman to perform at Carnegie Hall, as well as the first out trans writer to be nominated for a Writers Guild Award. She has been featured on Out Magazine's "Out 100," and the Huffington Post's list of "transgender icons." After her appearance in the Parade and March, Our Lady J will perform a selection of songs on the Main Stage, at the steps of majestic City Hall.

**Members of the legendary House of Xtravaganza, Jose Gutierrez and Luis Camacho, will also be featured as Celebrity Grand Marshals.** Together, Gutierrez and Camacho choreographed the video for worldwide number one hit "Vogue," which earned them a nomination for Best Choreography in a Video at the 1990 MTV Video Music Awards. They were both dancers in Madonna's Blonde Ambition World Tour. Shortly after their appearances in the film *Madonna: Truth or Dare*, the duo was signed to a record deal as "Jose & Luis." Their single "Queen's English" was widely known on dance floors and on the Billboard dance charts. Gutierrez and Camacho were featured in the 2016 film *Strike A Pose*, which followed up on the dancers of *Truth or Dare*. The critically-acclaimed documentary is a dramatic tale about overcoming shame and finding the courage to be who you are.

**Jose Xtravaganza**, the artistic name of Jose Gutierrez, began his dance career at New York's famed La Guardia High School of Music and Arts. As a performer, Jose Xtravaganza began perfecting the craft of vogue as a member of The Legendary House of Xtravaganza, where he elevated this once underground and obscure dance to new heights, making it an art form. In 1990, after auditioning along with 7,000 other dancers, Gutierrez was chosen to be a member of Madonna's Blonde Ambition World Tour. As a choreographer, Jose has worked with such artists as Tony Bennet, Aretha Franklin, Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam, and the Rolling Stones. In addition to *Madonna: Truth or Dare*, Jose is featured in the documentary *Paris Is Burning* by Jenny Livingston. Jose Xtravaganza is the current Father of the House of Xtravaganza, based in New York City, which he rules with an iron fist under a soft glove.

**Luis Camacho** made a name for himself in the New York City ballroom scene, where he won several trophies at vogue balls in the 1980s. As a member of the legendary House of Xtravaganza, he was in the pulse of dance, music, visual arts, nightlife, fashion, and community activism way before he caught the eye of superstar Madonna. His talent landed him a lead dancing position in the Blond Ambition World Tour. He played a part in MTV Video Music Awards history when he choreographed and danced in Madonna's now-infamous Marie Antoinette *Vogue* number. Camacho's main passion continues to be dance, and he uses his talents to give back to the community. He has either produced, choreographed or performed in a long list of charity events, and he contributes top-notch entertainment for several fundraising shows. Luis Camacho is also the recipient of the 2017 Entertainment AIDS Alliance Vanguard Award.

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**Gavin Grimm** is an 18-year-old recent high school graduate from Gloucester, Virginia. He is transgender. Gavin and his mother notified administrators of his male gender identity at the beginning of his sophomore year so that he could socially transition in all aspects of his life. With permission from school administrators, Gavin used the boys' restroom for almost two months without any incident. But after receiving complaints from some parents and residents of Gloucester County, the school board adopted a new policy banning Gavin from using the boys' restrooms on December 9, 2014, by a vote of 6-1, despite warnings from the ACLU. The ACLU filed a federal lawsuit on Gavin's behalf. The lawsuit argues the bathroom policy is unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment and violates Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972, a federal law prohibiting sex discrimination by schools. After a progressive series of court appearances, Gavin's case was set to be heard by the Supreme Court. But the Supreme Court announced that it is sending Gavin's case back to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to be reconsidered. Gavin graduated high school in June 2017—still unable to use the same restroom as other boys.

"We are thrilled to welcome these talented and inspiring individuals into our extended Pride family," said George F. Ridgely, Jr., San Francisco Pride Executive Director. "Our theme this year, Generations of Strength, encourages us to celebrate not only the decades of art and activism that have led up to present day, but to showcase the brave work of today and tomorrow. Jose & Luis provided a breakthrough window into the world of ballroom culture. Their work resonated with many LGBTQ people, of all ages, and remains a cultural touchstone. Our Lady J's artistic contributions in music and television have touched the hearts of audiences around the world, and her work continues to increase the visibility of those who tend to go underacknowledged. Of course, when we speak of the future, Gavin Grimm is an inspiring young activist. Gavin was thrust into the national spotlight and valiantly brought attention to what we know are inalienable human rights that cross the boundaries of sexual identity, race, gender, class, and sexual orientation."

Our Lady J, Jose & Luis, and Gavin Grimm are the first special guests to join six Community Grand Marshals and eight Honorees, announced by San Francisco Pride last month. The estimable contributions of these individuals and organizations have bettered the LGBTQ community and movement. More Special Guests and Celebrities will be announced as the event approaches. The full list of Community Grand Marshals and Honorees, with bios, can be found at [www.sfpide.org/grand-marshals](http://www.sfpide.org/grand-marshals).

The 48th Annual San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration and Parade will be held on June 23 and 24, 2018. The Parade/March is Sunday, June 24th in the heart of downtown San Francisco beginning at 10:30 AM. A two-day Celebration and Rally is scheduled from Noon to 6:00PM on Saturday, June 23rd, and from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 24th at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza and surrounding neighborhood.

## CALENDAR INFORMATION

### Celebration and Rally

Civic Center Plaza Park

Saturday, June 23 | Noon to 6:00 PM

Sunday, June 24 | 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

### 48th Annual SF Pride Parade and March

Sunday, June 24 | Starting at 10:30 AM

Along Market Street, from Beale to 8th Street

Information regarding registration, event tickets; sponsor, exhibitor, advertising, membership and donor opportunities may be found at [www.sfpide.org](http://www.sfpide.org) or by calling (415) 864-0831.

## ABOUT SF PRIDE

The San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded to produce the SF Pride Celebration and Parade. The mission of the organization is to educate the world on LGBTQ issues, as well as commemorate the heritage, celebrate the culture, and liberate the people of all LGBTQ communities. A world leader in the Pride movement, SF Pride is also a grant-giving organization through its Community Partners Program. Since 1997, SF Pride has granted nearly \$3 million dollars in proceeds to local nonprofit LGBTQIA organizations and organizations working on issues related to HIV/AIDS, cancer, homelessness, housing rights, and animal welfare.

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