

# SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE®

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## SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE ANNOUNCES FIRST WAVE OF ENTERTAINERS FOR OFFICIAL PRIDE 50 ONLINE CELEBRATION

**JUNE 27–28, 2020**

Online programming for the nation's largest gathering of the LGBTQ+ community and allies to feature Saturday headliner Big Freedia

Additional entertainment to be provided by Betty Who, David Hernandez, Dorian Electra, Kidd Kenn, and Urias, with hosts Honey Mahogany, Per Sia, Sister Roma, and Yves Saint Croissant

Further programming to be announced at a later date

SAN FRANCISCO (June 12, 2020) — Today, the Board of Directors of **San Francisco Pride** announced the first wave of entertainers participating in the official **Pride 50** online celebration. The weekend-long tribute to LGBTQ+ luminaries and queer solidarity will be hosted by some of San Francisco's most iconic drag queens and activists, including **Honey Mahogany**, **Per Sia**, **Sister Roma**, and **Yves Saint Croissant** on **Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, 2020**. Headlining Saturday's celebration is New Orleans-born Queen of Bounce, **Big Freedia**, with additional entertainment provided throughout the weekend by Australian singer-songwriter **Betty Who**, singer and *American Idol* finalist **David Hernandez**, rising pop star **Dorian Electra**, teenage hip-hop sensation **Kidd Kenn**, and Uberlândia-born Brazilian transgender artist **Urias**.

More than 13 hours of programming will be streamed through [SFPride.org](https://sfpride.org) as the nation's largest gathering of the LGBTQ+ community and allies goes online for the first time. Further

programming details will be announced at a later date and will include speeches from LGBTQ+ elected officials and thought leaders, highlights of the accomplishments of Pride's 2020 Community Grand Marshals and Honorees, conversations, reflections on 50 years of the Pride movement, and more.

"In the wake of the murders of Tony McDade, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, many people asked if Pride would be postponed to honor the movement around the world against police brutality. My response is always the same: Stonewall was started by a Black trans woman. Stonewall was a defense of Black bodies," said San Francisco Pride Board President **Carolyn Wysinger**. "In honor of this, San Francisco Pride will use this moment to lift up and center our Black LGBTQ+ community members. They are my siblings. Remember, when you solve it for Black people, you solve it for everybody. And you don't have to pivot to center Black people and Black voices if you are already centering and seeing them."

"As we celebrate San Francisco Pride's 50-year milestone, we recognize how much work we have to do in the name of equality and inclusion," adds San Francisco Pride Executive Director **Fred Lopez**. "While the LGBTQ+ community reflects on what has been accomplished in the last 50 years, we are focused on producing Pride 50 programming that provides inspiration and hope for the future."

For decades, San Francisco Pride's Parade and two-day Celebration have brought hundreds of thousands of LGBTQ+ revelers and allies to Downtown San Francisco. As 2020 is a historic 50th anniversary, upward of a million people were expected to attend. Since the COVID-19 pandemic has brought these festivities online, an even larger global audience can now experience the celebrations from the world leader in the Pride movement from the safety and comfort of their own homes.

On Friday, June 5, San Francisco Pride hosted Mayor London Breed's LGBTQ+ Pride Kick-off with an online celebration and panel discussion, "Pride in Defense of Black Bodies," moderated by Board President Carolyn Wysinger, featuring the Transgender District Executive Director Aria Sa'id, National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon, and San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Tuquan Harrison. San Francisco Pride contributed \$10,000 to the SF Bay Area COVID-19 LGBTQ Relief Fund and \$10,000 to The Transgender Cultural District, providing support to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as organizations that serve the Black LGBTQ+ community,

San Francisco Pride will also take part in **Global Pride** — a 24-hour, live-streamed festival uniting hundreds of Pride organizations from around the world — on **Saturday, June 27**. Led by **Interpride**, a collection of Pride organizers around the world, Global Pride will be an opportunity for the more than 350 Prides from around the world that have been cancelled or otherwise affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, allowing them to share individual messages of support and solidarity.

San Francisco Pride is always a citywide effort, featuring events from supporting organizations and promoters, and this year is no different. SF Pride is glad to help bring awareness to events which are supporting Pride 50, such as **Frameline44 Pride Showcase** (Thursday-Sunday, June 25–28), **Openhouse’s LGBTQ+ Senior Prom** (Thursday, June 25), the **Trans March 2020** (Friday, June 26), **Gary Virginia and Donna Sachet’s Pride Brunch 2020** (Saturday, June 27), and **Illuminate the Pink Triangle** (Saturday, June 27).

## Entertainer Bios

### **Big Freedia (Headlining on Saturday, June 27)**

Born and raised in New Orleans, Big Freedia is known as the cultural ambassador of Bounce music, a call-and-response-style hip-hop with a rapid-fire beat indigenous to New Orleans. A staple on the New Orleans club scene for over a decade, Big Freedia moved to the national stage after Hurricane Katrina. One of the first residents to return to New Orleans, her music was considered one of the uniting forces of the ravaged city. After a series of cult hit singles during the mid-2000s, Big Freedia was tapped for a reality show, *Big Freedia Bounces Back* on Fuse TV. The docu-series followed the life of a choirboy turned Bounce rapper and remains the highest-rated original series on the network. As a result of the show, Big Freedia became a full-fledged star, releasing her first major label album, *3rd Ward Bounce* (Asylum Records) in 2018. In 2016, she was featured on Beyoncé’s Grammy-winning single, “Formation;” in 2018 on Drake’s “Nice For What.” In 2015, Big Freedia penned her first memoir, *Big Freedia: God Save the Queen Diva!* on Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster. Big Freedia also lends support to the following charities: Habitat for Humanity, Liberty’s Kitchen, Upturn Arts, Youth Run NOLA, Team Gleason, Louisiana Department of Public Health, Dancing Grounds, Southern University, and Xavier University.

### **Betty Who**

Australian singer-songwriter Betty Who makes big-hearted pop music. Borrowing sounds and styles from the ’80s onward and putting her own joyous stamp on them, the viral success Who earned with early independent releases such as 2013’s *The Movement* EP led to major-label releases including 2017’s *The Valley*. By the time of 2019’s *Betty*, she was back to being an independent artist with a wide range of strengths.

### **David Hernandez**

David Hernandez gained national attention with his powerful voice and affable personality as an *American Idol* finalist. He began acting and singing at age six, starring in musicals and performing with various theatre companies throughout Arizona. As a teenager, David began writing original music and recording his material. A Phoenix native, Hernandez moved to Hollywood, where he is writing new songs, working in the recording studio producing his newest music, and pursuing his passion for acting. He has already completed his first feature film as the lead in the movie *Synthetic Truth*. In addition to “American Idol”, David has showcased his talents on *The Ellen Show*, *The Today Show*, MTV’s *TRL*, *EXTRA*, *Entertainment Tonight*, *Access Hollywood*, the “Teen Choice Awards,” *TV Guide’s Sexiest Stars 2008*, *Idol Tonight*, *Idol Gives Back* and FOX-TV.

### **Dorian Electra**

Rising pop star Dorian Electra (pronouns: they/them/theirs) makes music that defies gender norms. In the past year, their work has gained a queer cult following and led to them being named a must-know talent by *Buzzfeed* and one of *PAPER Magazine's* "100 Women Revolutionizing Pop." Not only that, but Electra has also quickly built a dedicated fan base thanks to their futuristic spin on '00s pop, '80s funk, and a long-standing love of satirizing rigid gender roles and views on sexuality. A Charli XCX collaborator, Electra was featured on the Pop 2 track "Femmebot (feat. Dorian Electra & Mykki Blanco)." In 2018, Electra performed at NYC Pride, toured with British pop sensation Rina Sawayama, Charli XCX, and supported Russian group Pussy Riot on their first U.S. tour. Electra's recent singles and music videos, "Career Boy," "Man To Man" and "Flamboyant" have garnered press and playlist spots from *Pitchfork*, *Billboard*, *The Fader*, and *Nylon* among others. 2019 saw the release of Dorian Electra's debut album *Flamboyant* and an accompanying headlining tour.

### **Honey Mahogany (Hosting on Sunday, June 28)**

Activist, politico, and drag queen rolled up into one, Honey Mahogany is a San Francisco native and a social worker by training who received her Masters in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. Honey currently serves as the 3rd Vice Chair of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, is a co-founder of the Transgender Cultural District, co-owner of the Stud Bar, and currently works as a legislative aide to San Francisco Supervisor Matt Haney. Honey's work has earned her commendations from the Board of Supervisors; Sainthood from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; and awards from the Milk Club, SF Young Democrats, SF Women's Political Committee, and the Women's Foundation of California. In 2019, Mx. Mahogany was featured in both the Stonewall 50, *Queerty's* list of advocates continuing the legacy of Stonewall, and in *Out Magazine's* Out100, a yearly list of the 100 most impactful and influential LGBTQ people in the world.

### **Kidd Kenn**

Hailing from the South Side of Chicago, Kidd Kenn discovered an unparalleled joy for performance at an early age. His viral freestyle videos quickly gained him local notoriety and an influx of fans online racking up hundreds of thousands of views. With the mission of encouraging young people to be comfortable in their own skin, Kidd Kenn approaches his music with a passion and hunger that cannot be denied. He's a pioneer in his hometown and pushing the boundaries of hip-hop as we know it. As more and more artists embrace their authentic selves, they will continue to look to Kenn to lead the pack in breaking the mold. With artist cosigns so far from the likes of Lil Nas X, Kehlani, YoungM.A, QueenKey, Lizzo and more, Kidd Kenn's career is just getting started.

### **Per Sia (Hosting on Saturday, June 27)**

Per Sia was born from the burgeoning creative mind of a child in South Central Los Angeles. With degrees from the University of California, Santa Cruz and the San Francisco Art Institute in one hand, and a few pairs of heels in the other, she set out to conquer and revolutionize the drag community. Per Sia began performing weekly at Esta Noche. Whilst performing at events

around the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Mexico — including a few quinceañeras — Per Sia has also curated art shows, performed stand-up, appeared on a few television shows, modeled, and has represented SFMOMA by transforming into Matisse's *Woman with a Hat*. She also works as a teacher's assistant in a Children's After School Arts Program called CASA, a program focused on social justice.

### **Sister Roma (Hosting on Sunday, June 28)**

For more than three decades Sister Roma — The Most Photographed Nun In The World™ — has been one of the most outspoken and highly visible members of the San Francisco's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, dedicating more than half her life to community service, activism and FUNdraising. Over the years, Roma has stood on the front lines in the war against HIV/AIDS and protested and marched for everything including the right to marry, gun control, the Women's March, and Black Lives Matter. A mover and shaker for decades, Roma created the STOP THE VIOLENCE campaign in 1989, a safety information and whistle distribution that continues today. In 2014, one tweet thrust Roma into the international spotlight as the creator of the #MyNameIs movement, a protest to Facebook's "real name" policy. One of San Francisco's favorite entertainers and emcees, Roma has hosted the main stage of SF Pride, Folsom Street Fair, and Easter in the Park where she emcees the infamous Hunky Jesus Contest. Roma travels the globe from New Orleans to Shanghai to Sydney as an LGBTQ+ ambassador and event host, striving to uphold her vows to expiate stigmatic guilt and promulgate universal joy.

### **Urias**

Urias is the Uberlândia born Brazilian transgender artist gaining an enormous following from her fellow LGBTQI+ community members, and it is not hard to see why. With her uncompromising, grungy, cyber-futurist aesthetic as well as her husky and hypnotic voice, it's practically impossible to not be drawn to this rising artist. Urias has accepted her position in the limelight, and she is someone who has the platform to hopefully aid in a societal shift in Brazil, normalizing concepts of gender diversity and showing other trans girls that they are loved. For now, she's on the frontlines fighting.

### **Yves Saint Croissant (Hosting on Saturday, June 27)**

Don't be deceived by her picture-perfect persona. This beauty queen prefers the company of punks and queers to the pageant world she ironically resembles. An absolute pleasure with zero nutritional value (just like her namesake), Yves Saint Croissant's accolades include being one of the creators of CreatureSF (the city's premier alt-queer club) and the second inductee into the internationally acclaimed "Drag Queen Story Hour," a program in which drag queens read to kids.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **San Francisco Pride's 2020 Online Celebration**

*Saturday, June 27, 1-9 p.m. and Sunday, June 28, 2-7 p.m.*

*Available online at [sfpride.org](http://sfpride.org)*

A full suite of live and pre-recorded musical performances, greetings from elected officials, and reflections on 50 years of Pride. These 13 hours of programming over two days represent the core of Pride Weekend.

### **Lavender Talks: A Celebration of SF Pride's 2020 Awardees, presented by The Commonwealth Club**

*Thursday, June 25, noon-1 p.m.*

The fourth in a series of moderated panel discussions produced by SF Pride in collaboration with the Commonwealth Club, this discussion is moderated by **Michelle Meow**, a radio host and former president of SF Pride's Board of Directors. Confirmed panelists for the June 25 Lavender Talk include **Mike Wong**, and **Cleve Jones**.

### **Frameline44 Pride Showcase**

*(\*A production of a partner organization of SF Pride, Frameline)*

*Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28*

Frameline, the world's longest-running and largest showcase of queer cinema, is pleased to present the **Frameline44 Pride Showcase** in celebration of the 50th anniversary of San Francisco Pride. Presented in partnership with the **Castro Theatre**, this four-day virtual event features 12 world premieres, one international premiere, three North American Premieres, and two U.S. premieres, including new narrative features, documentaries, and shorts programs, along with special live and pre-recorded intros, Q&A's, and other unique programming to evoke the live festival experience Frameline is known for. Tickets (\$8-\$10 per screening) and passes (starting at \$250, and valid all year) are available now online at [frameline.org](http://frameline.org). To ensure maximum flexibility for patrons, ticket holders will be able to tune in live to each screening or access any film at any time during the four-day event.

### **Openhouse LGBTQ Senior Prom**

*(\*A production of a partner organization of SF Pride, Openhouse SF)*

*Thursday, June 25, 4-6 p.m.*

Openhouse, the non-profit organization providing housing, housing assistance, social services and community for LGBTQ seniors in San Francisco, presents its annual LGBTQ Senior Prom, with an evening of entertainment, inspiration, and celebration via video conferencing and Facebook streaming. Usually held at the San Francisco War Memorial's Green Room, this intergenerational dance event reimagines high school prom for seniors whose memories of high school are less than nostalgic. Including a lineup of performances by community members and special friends of Openhouse, the Openhouse Dance Troupe will lead guests in a distance dancing routine. For community members without internet access, Openhouse is looking for a solution to include them in the celebration.

### **Trans March 2020**

*(\*A production of a partner organization of SF Pride)*

Friday, June 26, time TBA

Online-only for 2020, full information TBA, at [transmarch.org](http://transmarch.org)

## **Gary Virginia and Donna Sachet's Pride Brunch 2020: Live at home!**

### **Battle of the Queens Brunch Challenge**

*(\*A production of a partner organization of SF Pride, the Positive Resource Center)*

*Saturday, June 27, noon-1:30 p.m.*

*Ticket information will be available on Tuesday, May 26 at 10 a.m. PDT at [www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)*

Hosts Gary Virginia and Donna Sachet bring their legendary Pride Brunch into homes across the world as they get saucy and battle it off in the kitchen, competing for the title of Pride Brunch Queen. Ticket holders will enjoy hosted cocktails and a delicious brunch delivered, just in time for the celebration, featuring the San Francisco 50th anniversary Pride Parade Grand Marshals, live entertainment, live auctions, and special surprises. All proceeds from the Pride Brunch support Positive Resource Center's (PRC) integrated legal, social, and health services for those affected by HIV/AIDS, mental health issues, and substance use.

### **Global Pride**

*(\*A production of Interpride, a partner organization of SF Pride)*

*Saturday, June 27 - a 24-hour Livestream*

[www.globalpride2020.org](http://www.globalpride2020.org)

### **Illuminate the Pink Triangle**

*(\*A production of a partner organization of SF Pride)*

*Saturday, June 27, at 8 p.m.*

*Livestream: [illuminatethepinktriangle.org/join-us/](http://illuminatethepinktriangle.org/join-us/)*

For its 25th year, **The Pink Triangle** will shine as a symbol of resilience, hope, and remembrance atop Twin Peaks to celebrate the 50th anniversary of San Francisco Pride, thanks to a special partnership with the nonprofit organization, **illuminate**, the masterminds behind the Bay Lights digital art installation that illuminates the western span of the Bay Bridge. Previously, hundreds of volunteers have gathered on Twin Peaks in San Francisco to assemble The Pink Triangle, a reminder of one of the darkest chapters of human history that is now embraced as a beloved symbol of hope and inclusion. In 2020, a community-driven effort will keep the Pink Triangle shining brighter than ever. Using more than 2,700 LED nodes, which will be installed safely by a small team of volunteers, an acre of glorious pink light will form a vibrant and mesmerizing triangle on Twin Peaks — making it more visible than ever before. The global grand lighting will be streamed live on Saturday, June 27 at nightfall. The illuminated Pink Triangle will light up Twin Peaks for the following three weeks, offering a reminder of resilience, in memory of the HIV/AIDS crisis and the current COVID-19 crisis.

### **"Pride 50: Generations of Hope"**

*Sunday, June 28, 2020, 5-8 p.m. PDT*

*Broadcast on KBCW 44/Cable 12 in the Bay Area, livestreamed at [kpix.com](http://kpix.com)*

This special will feature archival parade footage as well as reflections on the many voices of the annual Pride Parade and the diverse viewpoints of LGBTQ+ communities.

## **PRIDE 50 HONOREES**

### *Community Grand Marshals (6)*

- GLBT Historical Society Executive Director **Terry Beswick** (Members' Choice)
- Documentary filmmaker **StormMiguel Florez**
- Photographer; Founder and Project Director of the Bay Area Lesbian Archives, **Lenn Keller** (Lifetime Achievement Grand Marshal)
- **LGBT Asylum Project** (Public Choice, Organization)
- Spahr Center Founder **Rev. Dr. Jane Spahr** (Public Choice)
- CEO of San Francisco Community Health Center **Lance Toma**

### *Awardees (3)*

- San Francisco AIDS Foundation Founder **Cleve Jones** (Gilbert Baker Pride Founder's Award)
- Author **Gabby Rivera** (José Julio Sarria History Maker Award)
- San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band Artistic Director of the Marching & Pep Bands **Mike Wong** (Audrey Joseph LGBTQ Entertainment Award)

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*For a complete list of San Francisco Pride sponsors, visit [sfpride.org/sponsor/](https://sfpride.org/sponsor/)*

### **ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE**

The San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded to produce the San Francisco 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, San Francisco Pride is also a grant-giving organization through its Community Partners Program. Since 1997, San Francisco Pride has granted over \$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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