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Boston Pride Photos

Boston Pride Week’s 49th Anniversary Sets New Records

Submitted by Boston Pride

This year’s 49th Boston Pride Parade and Festival set new records. The Boston Pride parade included a record-breaking 431 contingents and over 50,000 marchers who marched along the 2.27-mile route from Copley Square to City Hall Plaza lined with an estimated 1-million spectators. The Pride Festival at City Hall Plaza was filled with activity all day long including 130 vendors, a Family Fun Zone and headline entertainers Todrick Hall, Robin S. and Beth Sacks who drew huge crowds.

see PRIDE, page 8

34th AIDS Walk & Run Boston Raises More than $520,000

To Support HIV/AIDS Services and Programs

Submitted by AIDS Action

More than 2,100 walkers, runners, and volunteers turned out for the 34th annual AIDS Walk & Run Boston on Sunday, June 2 at the DCR Hatch Memorial Shell. The Walk is New England’s largest HIV/AIDS public awareness event and raised more than $520,000 to support the work of AIDS Action. The Walk is approxi-

see AIDS WALK, page 10

“Gay liberation? I ain’t against it. It’s just that there’s nothing in it for me!”

— Bette Davis.

find Billy Masters on page 9!

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Taylor Swift Calls Out Homophobes on New Song

Makes surprise appearance at Stonewall

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift’s latest song has a new target: homophobes.

Coinciding with the announcement of her seventh album, “Lover,” the pop star on Thursday released a new tune called “You Need to Calm Down,” where she addresses her own haters but also calls out those who attack the LGBTQ community.

see SWIFT, page 3

The Bravest Knight

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

The Bravest Knight, a children’s television series that centers on a family with same-sex parents, is premiering on Hulu June 21—the first such series on a mainstream network. I spoke with creator Daniel Errico about the show, his motivations, and working with the all-star voice cast.

The animated series is based on Errico’s 2014 book, The Bravest Knight Who Ever Lived (available in an updated 2019 edition from Schiffer Publishing). In the book, a young pumpkin farmer named Cedric becomes a knight and marries the prince of his dreams. The television series shows Sir Cedric and Prince Andrew now with a daughter, Nia, who is training to be a knight herself. In each episode, Cedric shares stories of how he transformed from a “not-yet knight” to a full-fledged one. And in a larger arc, the season is about “helping Sir Cedric’s troll friend Grunt find his bridge, which was stolen by a bigger troll,” Errico revealed.

see MOMBIAN, page 4

Photo by Chris Pizzello / Invision / AP, File

The Bravest Knight

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

The Bravest Knight, a children’s television series that centers on a fami-

Photo by Jason McGorty for Boston Pride

Photo by Caitlin Cunningham Photography

Photo by Chris Pizzello / Invision / AP, File

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"Gay liberation? I ain’t against it. It’s just that there’s nothing in it for me!"

— Bette Davis.

find Billy Masters on page 9!
For 50 years, Stonewall has been the symbolic place where Pride began, lives and thrives. Comcast NBCUniversal honors this and all the monumental achievements made by the LGBTQ community and salutes the brave individuals continuing the fight.
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Swift

Continued from page 1

At one point on the beat-laden track, Swift sings: “And control your urges to scream about all the people you hate/ ’Cause shade never made anybody less gay.”

At another point she sings: “You need to just stop, like can you just not step on his gown?”

“You Need to Calm Down” is the second single from “Lover,” to be released on Aug. 23. The song is the follow-up to “ME!,” which featured Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco and peaked at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Swift also released a colorful lyric video to match the new song on YouTube late Thursday — appropriately during Pride Month. A music video will be released Monday.

On “You Need to Calm Down,” Swift even references the gay rights organization GLAAD when she sings, “Why are you mad when you could be GLAAD?/ Sunshine on the street at the parade/ But you would rather be in the dark ages/ Making that sign must’ve taken all night.”

Earlier this month Swift posted a letter on social media asking Tennessee’s Republican U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander to protect LGBTQ rights and support the Equality Act. Swift lives in Tennessee and said she supported the House’s recent passage of the act, which would extend civil rights protections to LGBT people by prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

In the letter, 29-year-old also wrote that she “personally rejects” the notion that President Donald Trump’s administration supports equal treatment of all people.

Swift’s last album was “reputation,” released in 2017. In an Instagram Live session Thursday, she described her new 18-track album as “very romantic.”

“I think the idea of something being romantic — it doesn’t have to be a happy song,” she said. “I think you can find romance in loneliness or sadness or going through a conflict or dealing with things in your life. I think it just kind of looks at those things with a very romantic gaze.”

Swift made a surprise performance at New York City’s iconic Stonewall Inn on Friday night, a day after releasing "You Need to Calm Down,” Swift sang her hit song “Shake It Off” at the New York City bar with “Modern Family” actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson, who hosted the event.

Ferguson is working on a documentary about Stonewall Inn, where patrons resisted a police raid in 1969 and helped spark the gay rights movement. The bar is marking 50 years since the riots.
Notably, the show won’t be “about” having same-sex parents. “Just to have parents being parents is what we’re going for,” Errico said. Nevertheless, he understands the significance of showing a two-dad family. “It’s so important that kids feel represented in the stories they’re seeing,” he affirmed. “It’s a way for them to draw strength, solace, and understanding of themselves. To take that away from any child has consequences for them. It’s also a missed opportunity to introduce them to all these beautiful aspects of lives in the world and all forms of love and identity.”

Errico had a background in mechanical engineering and a career in finance before he decided to pursue his love, writing for kids. As preparation, he studied old fairy tales, but “I noticed there was really a stark lack of diversity in the characters.”

Still, the genre had an appeal. “Fairy tales have always been such a bastion for allegories, and I find that allegories are incredibly powerful,” he explained. “You get to hear these stories that take place in an unfamiliar world, like a fairy-tale kingdom, but draw on them in your own personal life.”

Inspiration also came from close to home. “At the time,” he related, “two friends of mine were living in New Jersey, my home state, and couldn’t get married, yet their relationship and their romance was every bit the fairy tale that I had read about.”

With them in mind, he wrote the original Bravest Knight story in 2013. When he tried to get it published, however, several large publishing houses said that because of the story’s same-sex relationship, they couldn’t publicly support it. They were afraid of protests and “can’t afford the loss of money.” Errico then tried pitching the story as an animated short, but “I couldn’t even get anyone to put it up for free, because they were worried there would be backlash.”

In 2015, however, he met with Hulu, “and they just got it,” he said. “They understood the importance of stories; they understood the importance of having an openly gay protagonist.” They published The Bravest Knight as an animated short, and a year later, added Errico’s short Rosaline,
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Mombian
Continued from page 4

about a young farmer who outwits a witch and a big bad wolf on her way to visit her girlfriend. Actor Teri Polo, who played a lesbian mom on Freeform’s The Fosters, narrated Rosaline.

Hulu was then willing to consider a full series, so Errico partnered with animation studio Big Bad Boo, which he said also understood the importance of the show’s inclusive message. Errico was executive producer, wrote all the episodes, and had a hand in backgrounds, character design, voice casting, and more.

He’s effusive about the six voice leads. “Each one of them, every time they spoke, became my favorite,” he said. T. R. Knight (“Sir Cedric”) and Wilson Cruz (“Prince Andrew”) “are everything that you could hope for from parents, from people, and from cast.” Errico added, “T. R. Knight, I think, is going to help redefine what a hero is meant to be.”

Fifteen-year-old Storm Reid (“Nia”), from Disney’s A Wrinkle in Time, is “the heart of the show. She’s everything we needed.” Twelve-year-old Chance Hurstfield (“Young Cedric”), another Disney alumna, “just could not be more perfect.” Saturday Night Live veteran Bobby Moynihan (“Grunt”) “made me laugh every day.” And Teri Polo (“Saylor the Raven”) “brought this mature perspective and soul to the show.”

Other actors who appear throughout the 13-episode season include RuPaul (“as a wolf who identifies as male but wears what is traditionally considered feminine clothing and a wig,” Errico shared), Jazz Jennings, Christine Baranski, Wanda Sykes, Steven Weber, Donna Murphy, AJ McLean, Dot-Marie Jones, and Maz Jobrani.

The theme song was written and performed by Grammy-nominated musician Justin Tranter.

While there are no definite plans beyond the first season, “I wrote the show with a few seasons in mind,” he affirmed. “There’s a larger overarching story that we’re ready to tell, so we’ll see. I’m more excited personally just to have kids get to meet these characters that we’ve been working on almost in secret for so long—to unveil them to the world and hopefully have kids see them as friends.”

He added, “I think that The Bravest Knight at its core is about friendship and family, but it’s going to take our viewers on this grand adventure that shows them examples of bravery and resourcefulness that I don’t think are seen as much in kids’ media as they should be. I think that it is going to create a fun and safe environment to introduce them to some new ideas in an old way, through fairy tales.”

Inclusive stories matter—and that’s no fairy tale.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.
It was a balmy Saturday morning for DC’s Capital Pride. Friends and I sipped our coffee on the Trio patio and watched preparations for the parade, including volunteers spraying-painting the 17th Street crosswalks in rainbow colors. Pride on the Pier began in the afternoon at the Southwest waterfront, with fireworks in the evening uninterrupted by a presidential address.

A controversy arose concerning the June 7 DC Dyke March, in which the Israeli flag and the rainbow flag with a Star of David superimposed were banned as symbols of violent nationalism, while the Palestinian flag was deemed okay. This decision by the organizers was condemned by many otherwise friendly groups. I regard the West Bank occupation as illegitimate, but Hamas has its own crimes. Selective demonization is no better coming from the left than from the right.) In the event, some women displayed the banned flags and no one stopped them.

Another Pride controversy concerns efforts to ban police and corporate sponsors. Another year, another band of bossy radicals with trendy prohibitions scampering from the left than from the right.) In the event, some women displayed the banned flags and no one stopped them.

Pride Month began for me on June 1 with DC Latinx Pride, which was held at the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington DC. All went well until emcee and Latinx Pride founder José Gutierrez invited Lt. Marcus Pugh, the Montgomery County Police chief, to carry the church’s cross and set off. Who responded calmly and professionally and didn’t announce the march route until shortly before with a lit fuse. The organizers hadn’t applied for a permit slogans and the old Lesbian Avengers logo of a bomb reading the names of the 49 victims. A handbell was rung after each name, and after Jose was done, the church’s bell tower tolled 49 times. The Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington sang several selections including “We’re Not Lost, We’re Here” from the powerful song cycle Naked-Man, recorded by the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus in 1996. The D.C. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence sat in front of me; an officer from the LGBT Liaison Unit sat beside me. There is, there must be, room for us all.

Unfinished business calls. It requires that we resist self-absorption and reach respectfully and creatively across our differences. The large, benign crowds at Pride, like so many we have formed before, give us cause for hope.

On Saturday evening of Capital Pride, when minor injuries resulted from panic following false reports of a shooting at Dupont Circle, it was again police who responded quickly and calmed the situation.

Still, I think of those who fell in terror, running into buildings and hanging on doors to escape the perceived threat, which was all too reasonable given America’s recent history.

On June 12, the third anniversary of the Pulse nightclub massacre, a memorial observance was held at Foundry Methodist Church. At its heart was Gutierrez reading the names of the 49 victims. A handbell was rung after each name, and after Jose was done, the church’s bell tower tolled 49 times. The Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington sang several selections including “We’re Not Lost, We’re Here” from the powerful song cycle Naked-Man, recorded by the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus in 1996. The D.C. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence sat in front of me; an officer from the LGBT Liaison Unit sat beside me. There is, there must be, room for us all.

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Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist who can be reached at rrosendall@mac.com.

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One of the highlights of this year’s Pride Parade were the two large flags that will also be appearing in World Pride in New York City on June 29. The Unity Flag, a patchwork quilt flag that represents intersectionality and unity in the LG-BTQ community, and the River of Pride Flag, a quarter-mile long rainbow flag both ended the Pride Parade.

“This year’s parade was both a celebration and a reflection of this year’s theme – Looking Back, Loving Forward – a recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and the challenges and victories our community has faced over the years,” said Linda DeMarco, President of Boston Pride. “We are wicked proud for all the support from our community and allies to help make this year’s parade one for the record books with one-million attendees and more contingents than we have ever had.”

Another highlight was two Stonewall veterans, Charles Evans and Paul Glass of Falmouth, Mass., who joined Grand Marshal Dale Mitchell during the parade. Mitchell, Evans and Glass are all veterans of the Stonewall Inn Uprising in 1969 in Greenwich Village as they witnessed the aftermath of the raid on Stonewall and the clashes with patrons and police officers. Stonewall is widely acknowledged as a defining event in the U.S. LGBTQ movement.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh kicked-off the parade on Saturday, June 8th with a ribbon-cutting featuring Boston Pride Committee members.

Pride Week included more than 50 events throughout the community, which started with the annual Rainbow Pride Flag Raising on City Hall Plaza, followed by Pride Day @ Faneuil Hall and the High Heel Dash for Charity, the Stonewall50 Community Forum where a panel discussed the significance of the Stonewall riots in 1969, Pride Lights honoring victims of HIV/AIDS, block parties in the Back Bay and Jamaica Plain and ended with Pride Night @ Fenway where the Red Sox donated 100 tickets to Pride youth groups.

Pride Sponsors helped to fund costs associated with the parade, festival and other free public events, and 10 percent of all sponsorships are dedicated to the Boston Pride Community Fund, which supports grassroots LGBTQ organizations. This year, Boston Pride distributed a record amount of over $46,000 to 24 grassroots organizations. Since 2016, Boston Pride has awarded almost $100,000 to 60 local grassroots organizations, supporting the mission of promoting social justice for the LGBTQ community.

Boston Pride’s Official Broadcast Partner NBC10 Boston, Telemundo Boston and NECN helped spread awareness of Pride Week through special programming, news stories, live coverage and interviews, moderating events.

Boston Pride is sending a contingent of representatives to World Pride in New York City for the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising on June 28 to 30. In addition to her duties as Boston Pride President, Linda DeMarco is co-president of InterPride, the organization responsible for licensing WorldPride.

Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility and dignity, we educate, communicate and advocate by building and strengthening community connections. Boston Pride Week 2020 will be held Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 15.
have a right, even an obligation, to know about half of them do not know it. Don’t voters of homosexual men are infected with HIV and tuberculosis, pneumonia, etc. About 20 percent admits to having at least one STD plus they are tinues, “Moreover, 70 percent of homosexuals presidents didn’t finish THEIR terms! Boys con- tinues, ‘Gay’ Are You?”, says that for Buttigieg to be a candidate’s health status since the candidate’s health is always an issue? Is a homosexual candidate an exception? If so, why?” While I certainly cannot speak for the candidates, I’d venture to guess that Mayor Pete will allow an STD screening if Donald does. Although, Trump may get a bit too excited at the thought of Pete peeing! I went to several Pride-related events in Hollywood, including a book signing for Frank DeCaro’s encyclopedic volume, “Drag: Combing Through the Big Wigs of Show Business”. What an entertaining and informative book—certainly a “must” for anyone reading this column. Why, it is simply staggering the amount of information you learn. In addition to the current drag divas, I was interested in reading about the people who paved the way—because, we all know that without drag queens, we’d have no Stonewall. The event I went to at Barnes & Noble at The Grove was standing room only and featured the grand dame of Los Angeles drag, Momma. On the day we had Bruce Vilanch (who apparently is the go-to when it comes to writing material for men in drag on television), Alaska Thunderfuck, and the reigning Best in Drag, Reba Ariba. The panel discussion was fascinating (I’ll link to it on BillyMasters.com) and special celebs like Jack Plotnick, Melissa Peterman, Tom Lenk, Drew Droege, Carolyn Hennesy, and others made it truly a celebration. Go out and buy Frank’s book NOW!

Do you remember “Bicentennial Moments”? They were little PSAs that ran on network TV. I don’t remember exactly when— I believe it was sometime in the mid-’70s. Anyhoo, here’s your Gay Pride moment. Didya know actor Michael Gross—yes, Michael J. Fox’s dad on “Family Ties”—made his Broadway debut in the original production of “Bent”? And in drag? Gross was also at DeCaro’s book signing, and we had a long conversation about him getting the role of Greta. The story is included in Frank’s book.

Let me take a moment to applaud The View for their LGBTQ+ Pride Month FYI. Each day in June, we learn about notable members of our community—just like they do during Black History Month. The more you know...

The Hollywood Museum is a magical place filled with oodles of memorabilia and special theme events. A few weeks ago, I told you about their seventh annual exhibit “Real to Reel: Portrayals and Perceptions of LGBTs in Hollywood”. This exhibit kicks off Pride Month in LA, and I was thrilled to be at the gala opening, where some special awards were given out. Most notably, Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner were named Hollywood Trailblazers. The honor made the duo chuckle. “Neither one of us has ever had a good sense of direction, so being perceived to be blazing a trail we find very flattering—it implies we knew where we were going!” Other notables at the event were Fran Drescher, Sam Harris, Lisa Vanderpump, Tyler Henry, Judy Tenuta, R-syn Kind, Kate Linder, Kevin Spirtas, Anita and Bonnie Pointer, Dawn Wells, and the rest. BTW, Lily, Dolly and Jane still plan on reuniting for a “9 to 5” sequel. Last week, Dolly told CNN’s Robin Meade, “We’ve got two scripts and we’re waiting for the last rewrite. So as soon as we all sign off on that, I’d say in the next few months we’ll be in production.” A few months ago, Jane Fonda said the same thing.
AIDS Walk
Continued from page 1

mately 4.8 miles and the 5K run is a competitive, timed event fully sanctioned by the USA Track & Field Association.

Proceeds from the Walk & Run will benefit AIDS Action’s public policy advocacy work, housing and legal services, prevention outreach and education, local and national advocacy, and health services for people struggling with substance misuse.

“Thank you to everyone who came out to walk, run, or volunteer, and to all of the individuals and sponsors whose donations made this year’s Walk such a success,” said Jane Powers, MSW, LICSW, Acting CEO of Fenway Health, AIDS Action’s parent organization. “Your support has helped Massachusetts make tremendous progress toward the goal of zero new HIV infections and serves as a model of HIV prevention and treatment across the country. We’ve only come this far through wise investment in a system of health care access and supportive services to help people living with HIV/AIDS improve their quality of life and increase their adherence to treatment, which reduces the likelihood of transmission.”

During the Walk, the Bette Byrne Award, which recognizes an individual or group that goes beyond to promote HIV/AIDS education and awareness within the community, was presented to Bostonian Kelly Rush. The award is named after a longtime supporter of AIDS Action and a top fundraiser for AIDS Walk & Run Boston until her passing in 2017.

Rush was honored for his years long participation in AIDS Walk & Run Boston, having raised more than $42,000, mostly through his team Divas & Devils, since his first Walk in 2011. Rush’s story, which he shares in his fundraising appeals, is one of courage in overcoming his paralyzing fear of living with HIV and sharing his status with his family and other loved ones.

Carmen Carrera, a model, actress, and transgender rights activist who transitioned publicly after competing in the third season for RuPaul’s Drag Race, led the warm up before the 5K run and spoke about her father’s passing due to HIV.

The post-Walk stage program created a celebratory atmosphere, featuring up-and-coming talent from greater Boston, including Caramelo Latin Dance, Weird Autumn, Sarah & The Shirzans, and Shea Rose, singer, songwriter, fashion icon and curator of the RISE Music Series at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Mimi the Chihuahua took home first prize in the Dog Costume Contest, including treats from Polka Dog Bakery and a day at Red Dog Pet Hotel & Spa.

Corporate sponsors of this year’s Walk included Gilead, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Partners HealthCare, Pfizer, Abt Associates, Planned Parenthood League of MA, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Ameriprise, JetBlue, Power Up, Heartbreak Hill Running Company, Dunkin’ was the breakfast sponsor. Media sponsors include WCVB Channel 5, Kiss 108, Jam’n 94.5, The New 97.7, and EDGE Media Network.

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Follow @AIDSWalkBoston and the hashtag #AWB2020 for information about HIV/AIDS and next year’s AIDS Walk & Run Boston, which will take place on Sunday, June 6, 2020. You can view photos from the 2019 Walk on our Facebook page.
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Masters

Continued from page 9

"Right now, Dolly, Lily and I are all intending to be in it." Fingers crossed.

At the Hollywood Museum, I got to spend some time with the incredible Anita Pointer. She told me all about her upcoming exhibit at the museum, "The Pointer Sisters Ever After", which will celebrate 50 years of The Pointer Sisters. Anita has been collecting and saving memorabilia since the group began, way back as a quartet with sister Bonnie, and then mega-stardom as a trio with sisters Ruth and June. "I kept almost everything I wore on stage through the years...I am so proud of all the hard work we have accomplished—it’s a very exciting and fun exhibit, with lots of live videos, posters, jewelry, vintage merchandise—even a disco floor! It’s all there!"

The exhibit opens on June 20th. For more info, check out TheHollywoodMuseum.com.

Could it be that a network star is itching to come out? So say people in the know who tell me that the campy, coy cutie planned to say he’s family once he left a certain professional obligation behind. Since that has been delayed about a year, he’s biding his time. What hasn’t changed are plans for Halloween 2019 in West Hollywood, which will be a very big night for him and his buddies. After all, he’ll be out...and legal.

When it doesn’t take a genius to solve a blind item, it’s definitely time to end another column. For something a bit more titillating, check out www.BillyMasters.com —the site that could lead to hysteria and horniness. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I book a flight back to Dallas! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
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