

K
SPRING 2000
ISSUE

<http://gmobupdate.webjump.com>

GAY MEN OF THE BRONX NEWSLETTER

G.m.o.b.

P.O. Box 511 Bronx, NY 10451 (718) 390-3559

Come celebrate Night of 12 Gowns 2000!



NIGHT OF 12 GOWNS 2000

"Where the audience is just as much a part of the show!"

Saturday, April 29th at 7pm



Repertory Theater/450 Grand Concourse
\$15 before April 15th/\$20 at the door, if available



The Night of 12 Gowns has been an institution for GMoB since 1991. This year, we are going forward with the show that will take place on Saturday, April 29th at Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture. We are moving back into the smaller Repertory Theater for this year's show. We wanted to bring back that cozy feeling we have with the audience, because we all know that the audience is just as much a part of the show as the performers.

Chris Jones will be coordinating the acts, and we need lots of help, particularly with the producing/business part of the show.

Here is the rundown for all who want to participate. GMoB is gearing up for a fabulous return to Gay Pride and a delicious role in Bronx Pride.

By participating in the show you will continue a strong tradition of being out and proud in the Bronx. 12 Gowns:

1. Presents ourselves in a positive light.
2. Raises money for our organization which exists to unite and empower us.
3. Shows how we are proud of who we are and how we like to express ourselves.
4. Combats isolation and bigotry with our visibility.

As in past years there are several guidelines performers must adhere to when planning acts.

1. All acts have a maximum time limit of 6 minutes.
2. Individuals may participate in one solo or duet or be the featured performer in a production number.

Any special requests should be brought to the production team for review.

Wed., Feb. 23rd at 7pm:

SIGN UP AND ORIENTATION:
HOSTOS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
450 GRAND CONC. (AT 149TH ST.)

ACTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. This will be the first time that acts will be able to join 12 Gowns show. ONLY 20 ACTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE SHOW. You will not be required to present acts.

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THIS MEETING, YOU MUST MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SHOW'S COORDINATORS, PRIOR TO, OR ON FEB. 23RD. IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT US, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE SHOW.

Wed., Mar. 2 at 7pm:

1st PRESENTATION OF ACTS:
THE POINT, 940 GARRISON AVE

ACTS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. You will be asked to present or describe your act.

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THIS MEETING, YOU MUST MAKE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SHOW'S COORDINATORS, PRIOR TO, OR ON MARCH 2nd. IF YOU DO NOT CONTACT US, WE WILL ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE SHOW.

We have tentatively scheduled the following meetings:

Thurs., March 16, 6PM: PRESENT ACTS/FINAL SIGN-UP:
THE POINT

This is the last time to submit an act if there is space available. You must bring your music, present whatever choreography may be ready, etc.

Thurs., March 30, 6pm: REHEARSAL OF 12 GOWNS FINALE : THE POINT/ Only participants in the finale are required to attend.

Thurs., April 13, 6pm REHEARSAL OF 12 GOWNS FINALE: the Point/Only participants in the show's finale are required to attend.

Thurs., April 20, 6PM ACT PRESENTATION: FINAL: THE POINT
Thurs., April 27th - 5:30 p.m.: TECH REHEARSAL: HOSTOS
Fri., April 28th - 5:30 p.m.: DRESS REHEARSAL: HOSTOS
Sat., April 29th, 7pm: SHOWTIME!!!!

Keep in mind that, we need people to assist with sets, lighting, sound, make-up, costumes, props, concession, ticket sales, publicity, programs, etc. So, tell your friends, neighbors and lovers.

Thank you. Chris Jones, Act Coordinator [REDACTED]
e-mail: [REDACTED]

Newsletter Desk!

Eric Stephen Booth - Editor

Daniel Delvalle - Art Director

THERE IS NO UNITY IN THE BRONX

I would like to share my thoughts and opinions regarding the editorials which appeared in your previous (September/October 1999) GMOB Publication.

In an editorial written by Charles Rice-Gonzalez (Gay Pride! Bronx Pride! Where was G.M.O.B.!), it was stated "...for the first time in GMob's existence, we [GMob] did not march in the annual *Heritage of Pride Parade*." This is so very heart-breaking, even though I am not self-identified as a gay male, for this does give a very bad and poor example of the type of unity which people in the Bronx have for one another. To have people look forward to seeing you [GMob] organization in an annual event which attracts so many people, and not being seen at all, only discourages people to becoming a part of your organization.

The editorial statement by Charles Rice-Gonzalez reading, "Where were the 30-40 men who marched down 5th Avenue each year..." is difficult to believe as true. I think many people forgotten the old saying "Silence Equals Death." to see many people marching together as one group shows unity, strength, and hope, and may also discourage people in even thinking about endangering the lives of one of these people marching together. Having GMob marching in parades gives encouragement to those still in fear [in the closet], and people over-powered by fear may result in personal problems and even suicides.

The Bronx Pride Parade (which I wish to call the Unknown Parade) was



CLUB

SCENE

DEAREST MEMBERS,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers, (from the balloon blowers to the performers), who came together and helped to make GMOB's anniversary celebration a successful one. Sadly, it was far from the turn-out we had hoped for. I've been with the group for about three and a half years and we've gone through many changes including the process of re-organization but also a very steady and slow decline in member participation. It was my belief that GMOB was the only group of its kind located in the Bronx; that in itself made it special. I am calling on all members to volunteer your time, your positive energy and yes, your money to help make this organization even greater than it once was. It would be a sad day in the Bronx gay community if Gay Men of the Bronx ceased to exist.

Thank you very much,
Christopher Jones a.k.a. - Miss Onassis

VICTOR'S VICTORIA

1332 Blondell Avenue
For info: 718-597-6539
#6 train to Westchester Sq.

Artie is still packing a crowd on Saturday and Friday nights.
Friday he is trying different things like comedy and special events.

THE WAREHOUSE

141 E. 140th Street (bet. Grand Concourse & Walton Ave.), Bronx, NY
SATURDAYS

For info: 718-992-5974 - \$15 after
#2,4,5 trains to 149th/Grand Concourse
The space is massive! MASSIVE!

UP & DOWN BAR

1306 Unionport Rd (Bx)(off Westchester Ave.) 718 822-9585
Scandalous Productions hosts Gay & Lesbian Thursdays only. They moved from
Tuesday nights.
#6 train to Castle Hill Ave.
DJ Tacon spins the hottest sounds. Open at 9 pm. \$3 till 11 pm/\$5 after.

Annual Bronx Pride Parade and Multi cultural Festival;

2. Bronx Pride advertising & outreach was bad; NO flyers, palm cards, news pages, newsletters;

3. There were no Bronx Pride banners hanging on the street lights along the Grand Concourse;

4. There was no Bronx Pride Guides available from either last year and/or this year's events.

Because Bronx Pride did not have so many groups and marchers, I immediately lost interest in marching in the parade, but marched anyway because a friend came all the way from northern New Jersey to join me. The memories of Bronx Lavender Community Center will never be forgotten, nor the people who had differences and never tried to resolve them, which perhaps hasn't changed. Being a transgendered female may make people uncomfortable, but I still got many good friends who once had differences with me, and successfully resolved them with some good discussions. Which may solve many other issues.

Sincerely, Katherine Charlotte Michelus

PROPS TO MILTON PENDAVIS

G.M.O.B. wishes to acknowledge the art work "Mr. Latex" himself, Milton Pandarvis. Over the years, Milton's artistic contributions have been a valuable part of this news letter although they haven't been seen much over the past year. We want to let him know that his work is well appreciated and we look forward to working with him in the very near future.



PASSION
386 GUN HILL ROAD/BET. WEBSTER & DECATUR AVE.

THURSDAYS

CALL: 917-563-8734

Don't know if this party is still going on. Call before going, and let GMoB know whassup.

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

Julio Cruz and Ivan Alvarez are stepping up to the bat to take GMoB into the new Millennium. But what do you guys want? Do you want a group? And what do you want of that group?

Some people think that we should just do a show once a year and keep the newsletter going. Do you care?

Julio and Ivan also need lots of support and partners to develop GMoB's new identity.

I am down to support them but I cannot lead the group. I love participating, but I can't take the role I had with the group.

This summer we hope to celebrate our tenth anniversary. Our last anniversary was not well attended, and some people felt that it wasn't worth it. At the event I started to sink, but stopped when I took a look at who was in the room, and at what was happening. There were different people running the show. Bobby who said he was shy and didn't like to speak publicly was hosting the show, and doing a wonderful job. Julio and Chris were coordinating the program. The performers were giving their all. There were different people doing the work, and I was warmed by their dedication. I want to support that dedication. I want to support the people who want to continue working and creating for Gay Men of the Bronx.

At the anniversary I was asked, "Where's this person and where's that person." I thought, they are doing what they want to do at that moment, and where ever they were whether visiting a friend, watching the De La Hoya Fight, making love, getting ready for a disco, watching TV, whatever. They were doing what they wanted, and being at GMoB's anniversary wasn't where they wanted to be. Cool. GMoB needs those who want it. GMoB has existed to serve the people that come to it for whatever reasons. GMoB doesn't people who not interested in it. It needs gay men who value their lives, lifestyles and their local organization.

So, to anyone who would like to join Julio and Ivan, whether as a partner or supporter, I ask you to make yourself known. Because as long as gay people are marginalized and oppressed, there will be a need for an organization to speak out for them, and to create a space where they can feel free to be gay.

Love, Charles Rice-González