

## Top Trans Events This Pride Time

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June has become the month for Pride celebrations, and for trans folks, this year offers more venues than ever to show your pride or protest the current political environment. A few events (past and future):

### New England Trans Pride March

With their slogan ("Remember Stonewall? That was us!") recalling the 1969 New York City riots, the First Annual New England Trans Pride March ushered in the Pride season June 7 when Northampton, Mass., the town best known as "Lesbianville, USA" - played host to a thousand trans and ally marchers.

The following rally featured trans entertainers and speakers like folksingers Joe Stevens (of Coyote Grace) and Cathy Worthley, and activists Gunner Scott, Monica Roberts and Donna Rose.

### San Francisco Trans March

The Fifth Annual San Francisco Trans March, "Marching for a Gender Inclusive ENDA," will be held Friday, June 27th. Festivities (3 pm in Dolores Park) feature thirty trans and gender-variant bands, artists and performers. Former HRC board member Donna Rose will give the keynote speech. Nearly 7,500 people came out last year, and organizers are expecting over 10,000 participants in the march, which begins at 7 pm.

### Fresh Meat Festival

Years before the debut of dedicated trans marches, San Francisco's Fresh Meat Festival provided an annual outlet for transgender artists and their supporters. Launched in 2001 by choreographer Sean Dorsey, Fresh Meat Productions supports established and emerging trans and queer artists.

Seven years later, they're still the only festival of their kind in the US, but they've gained such a following they've had to move to a larger theater.

Fortunately, the relocation to Project Artaud Theater now accommodates ensemble performances like the Transcendence Gospel Choir, the country's only all transgender choral group (featured in the documentary *The Believers*).

"The Transcendence Gospel Choir does exactly what Fresh Meat is all about," Dorsey contends. "[They] inspire, affirm, open hearts and minds - all while making really good art. [It's a] joyful, powerful, deeply moving articulation of the...strength of our community."

This year, Fresh Meat was able to commission five ensembles creating "cutting-edge work in traditional art forms." Dorsey admits, "I want to have trans and queer communities...see ourselves reflected onstage in traditional culture, to reclaim our place in history as important culture bearers."

The 7th Annual Fresh Meat Festival runs June 19-22. This year's performance include the festival's first opera, trans performers Scott Turner Schofield and Ryka Aoki De La Cruz, and *Lipstick Conspiracy*, *Katastrophe* and *Shawna Virago*. The festival's Fresh Meat Gallery will exhibit work by trans and gender variant artists.

### Trans Day of Action for Social & Economic Justice

On the opposite coast, New York City will be celebrating the fourth annual Trans Day of Action for Social & Economic Justice June 27 at City Hall Park. Organized by the Audre Lorde Project's TransJustice project, the Day of Action hopes to develop solidarity with other civil rights movements and social justice organizations. Trans Day of Action ([myspace.com/transjusticenyc](http://myspace.com/transjusticenyc)) organizers say they want to let the world know, "The Stonewall rebellion is not over and we will continue fighting for social and economic justice, raising our voices until we are heard."

### Twin Cities Trans March

On Saturday, June 28, Twin Cities Trans March organizers hope to avoid last year's snafu, when 200-250 marchers were stopped by Minneapolis police, who insisted the marchers disperse or face arrest - despite a valid permit. The stand-off reportedly lasted forty-five minutes before organizers agreed to suspended the rally.

Supporters view the second annual event, (1pm in Stevens Square Park), as an alternative to Pride festivities they criticize for "commercialization [that] draws attention away from vitally needed activism and political education."

An all ages after-party at Pi Bar will feature entertainers like "queernercore" band Tough Tough Skin, drag performers Esme Rodrigues and Kysa Bong and the Androgyny Kings.

Expect even more options for supporting transgender pride next June.

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