



Heritage of Pride, Inc

Heritage of Pride, Inc, 112 Christopher Street., New York, NY 10014
Telephone: 212.989.2145 • Fax: 212.807.7436 • Web: nycpride.org

Heritage of Pride Announces 2020 Grand Marshals and Talent for Upcoming NYC Pride Broadcast Special on June 28 on WABC-TV

*Dan Levy, The Ali Forney Center, Yanzi Peng, and Victoria Cruz to lead;
Carson Kressley, Janelle Monáe, Billy Porter, Deborah Cox, Willson Cruz and more join;*

NEW YORK, NY, May 8, 2020 — NYC Pride announces its Grand Marshals, performers, and hosts for a **WABC Channel 7** Pride broadcast special on Sunday, June 28, 2020, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Pride March held in 1970, and though it will be a very different type of celebration the tradition of commemorating the LGBTQIA+ movement will continue. In this unique year, NYC Pride is committed to saluting front-line workers alongside several leaders in the community being honored as Grand Marshals: **Dan Levy, The Ali Forney Center, Yanzi Peng, and Victoria Cruz**. The special will feature performances by **Janelle Monáe, Deborah Cox, Billy Porter, Luísa Sonza** and more. Expect to see appearances by **Wilson Cruz, Miss Richfield 1981, Margaret Cho** and others. WABC's **Ken Rosato** and **Lauren Glassberg** will host the special joined by special guest co-host **Carson Kressley**, along with correspondents **Sam Champion** and **Kemberly Richardson**.

"NYC Pride is a special place for so many. I couldn't imagine a year without celebrating with the fabulous LGBTQ people in New York," said Kressley. "When I was asked to join this special broadcast event with my friends at WABC it was a no brainer. Pride is something we carry with us all year long, and though we can't be together in the way we are accustomed I'm grateful to be a part of it in this way."

"We are thrilled to have Carson as our co-host for this special broadcast and what will be a meaningful and entertaining virtual event," said Debra OConnell, President and General Manager of WABC-TV. "The NYC Pride March is such a wonderful day for our city, we look forward to interacting with our viewers in new and creative ways from virtual watch parties to showing us how you are celebrating Pride this year throughout the broadcast."

The NYC Pride 2020 Grand Marshals:

- **Dan Levy** is an Emmy® nominated showrunner, and writer, actor, director, and producer, best known for his work on one of the most beloved shows on television, *Schitt's Creek*, which he co-created with his father Eugene Levy. The sitcom recently ended a wildly successful run after six seasons. A pioneer in seamlessly representing LGBTQ+ people in a positive light this show and Levy stands out in television history.
- **The Ali Forney Center** is the nation's largest and most comprehensive organization dedicated to caring and creating safe housing options for homeless LGBTQ youth. The organization creates programs designed to help young people overcome the traumas of homelessness and family rejection through medical and mental health services, and substance abuse treatment.
- **Yanzi Peng** is a human rights activist, the Executive Director of LGBT Rights Advocacy China, and Director of China Rainbow Media Awards.
- **Victoria Cruz** is an American LGBTQIA+ rights activist and retired domestic violence counselor.



Heritage of Pride, Inc

Heritage of Pride, Inc, 112 Christopher Street., New York, NY 10014
Telephone: 212.989.2145 • Fax: 212.807.7436 • Web: nycpride.org

“The NYC Pride March is such a pillar of our community and I am incredibly honored to be recognized alongside the other Grand Marshals on its 50th anniversary,” said Dan Levy. “While the physical circumstances are less than ideal, our community has always come together in the face of adversity, and this year’s broadcast is no exception. I am so inspired by the opportunity we’ve been given to celebrate together.”

“While we are saddened to not be able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the NYC Pride March in person, we are thrilled to still be able to recognize our Grand Marshals,” said March Director Brian J. Heck. “These inspiring pillars of the LGBTQIA+ community are leading the way as we begin the journey of the next 50 years of Pride. This year we are also proud to honor all of the front-line workers who put their own health at risk to unconditionally serve our LGBTQIA+ community with love and compassion during the COVID-19 pandemic. These heroes prove that the future is a place where we embrace the full rainbow of our community.”

NYC Pride is also responsible for producing events like Pride Island that welcomes celebrity performers for a weekend of music and dancing. Though in-person events like this were canceled, this year’s headliner, Janelle Monae didn’t want to miss out on 2020. The broadcast special will feature a performance by the creative, afro-futuristic singer.

Additional talent announcements will be released in the coming weeks.

This special broadcast with WABC Channel 7 comes in response to ongoing conversations with the community. It will be broadcast on WABC, Channel 7 from 12pm to 2pm and will also be available live on abc7ny.com, the station’s free news and connected TV apps, as well as on the ABC News Live streaming channel. NYC Pride is diligently planning virtual Pride events and will continue to make announcements about additional virtual programming as details become available.

END

Media Contacts:

Maria Colon | Media Director
mcolon@nycpride.org |

Claudia Garib | Communications Coordinator
claudia@nycpride.org |

Cathy Renna | Media Consultant
cathy@targetcue.com | (917) 757-6123

ABOUT HERITAGE OF PRIDE Heritage of Pride, Inc. is the volunteer-directed organization behind the official NYC Pride roster of events. Heritage of Pride’s mission is to work toward a future without discrimination where all people have equal rights under the law. We do this by producing LGBTQIA+ Pride events that inspire, educate, commemorate, and celebrate our diverse community.