

Intl Day of Pink Presents

COLOURING

WITH

PRIDE

4th
EDITION

12 trans and queer Canadians
you SHOULD know

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EDITED: JEREMY DIAS

JOURNÉE
ROSE
INTL.
DAY OF
PINK

Colouring with Pride
Day of Pink
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CREATOR'S NOTE

Since launching the first edition we continue to be inspired by trans and queer people in Canada.

Thank you to all those who nominated this new set of heroes who continue to create safer and more inclusive spaces.

We also want you to know that this book is not done. We will be creating more, so please reach out, send us your ideas and names of folks you wanna see featured!

Learn more about the Day of Pink at:
DayOfPink.org

Thank you,

Ron Crepin
& Jeremy Dias



Lucas Silveira

TRAILBLAZER

Lucas Silveira is best known as the frontman for the Canadian rock band, The Cliks.

Silveira rose to fame in 2007 by becoming the first out of transgender man to be signed to a major label record deal with Warner Music/Tommy Boy Silver Label. He has toured worldwide with acts such as Cyndi Lauper, The B-52's, Debbie Harry, Tegan and Sarah, The Cult, and The New York Dolls to name a few.

Lucas now divides his time between being a TV show co-host for the new Vice Production docu-series *Shine True* airing in Canada on OUT TV and in the US on Fuse TV, freelance writing, songwriting, performing, public speaking, and life-coaching.

Lucas is a passionate public speaker who addresses issues affecting the transgender and LGBTQ2SI community, his journey as a trans identified musician in the mainstream music industry, mental health, spirituality, healing trauma, and the revolutionary power in the practice of self-love.

Lucas is currently writing a memoir, an illustrated children's book based on trans identities and recording a solo album.

Keep learning:

- Check out his website: thecliks.com
- What is your favourite Lucas Silveira song? What common themes are in his music?
- Queer and trans musicians still struggle to find their place in the industry. What can we do to support them?





Baby Bel Bel

TRANSFORMING DRAG

Baby Bel Bel is a full time Drag performer in Toronto. She is currently the reigning Miss Crews & Tangos 2019/2020.

Her Drag name is a cheesy take on Lady Gaga. She started drag over 7 Years Ago shortly after winning Drag Contests all over Church Street in 2014. You can catch her every week at Venues all over Toronto from Buddies in Bad Times Theatre to Glad Day Bookshop to name a few examples.

She studied Musical Theatre and Makeup in post-secondary and worked for MAC COSMETICS for 4 years before taking on Drag full time. She loves recreating inspiration looks for pop stars to superhero's she's known as one of the main Cosplay Queens in Toronto.

Keep learning:

- Follow her: @baby_bel_bel
- Drag marries performance, artistry, and music in unique and interesting ways. What skills would you bring to drag?
- What would your drag name be and why?
- Drag allows performers to have difficult conversations about oppression in our community. Drag queens like Baby Bel Bel have raised thousands for charity. What topics would you use drag to talk about and what charity would you raise funds for?





Dayna Danger

CLAIMING SPACE IN ART

Dayna Danger is a 2Spirit, Métis - Saulteaux - Polish visual artist and kin gatherer. Danger was raised on the northwest edge of Win-nipi, Treaty 1 territory, or so-called Winnipeg. They are currently based in tiohtiá:ke or so-called Montreal.

Utilizing the processes of photography, sculpture, performance and video, Danger creates works and environments that question the line between empowerment and objectification by claiming space with their larger-than-life works. Ongoing works exploring BDSM and beaded leather fetish masks negotiate the complicated dynamics of sexuality, gender and power in a consensual and feminist manner. Their focus remains on Indigenous and Metis visual and erotic sovereignty.

Danger has exhibited their work most recently at the National Gallery of Canada with *Àbadakone | Continuous Fire | Feu continuuel*.

They were featured on the cover of Canadian Art's June 2018 Kinship cover, and they have participated in residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts and at Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art. Danger is pursuing an INDI-PhD at Concordia University that focuses on hide-tanning stories passed on from their great-grandmother, Madeline.

Keep learning:

- Check out their website: daynadanger.com
- When exploring difficult topics like sexuality, gender, and power, we must recognize that queer and trans folks have historically been marginalized. What do you do to create respect?
- With the launch of the Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls there has been a difficult conversation about how to support 2Spirit peoples. What can you do to support folks?





Fay Slift

DRAG PIONEER

Kindergarten teacher by day with the TDSB and The Lady Bear Extraordinaire on weekends, Fay Slift toddled onto the stage at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in the Winter of 2007. She has evolved into a unique and respected drag performer having many amazing opportunities to work alongside some of Toronto's finest performance artists who ultimately have become her friends. She has entertained audiences at events such as World Pride 2015, The Rhubarb Festival, The Toronto Burlesque Festival, The Junior Festival at Harbourfront, Inside Out Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, TIFF, The Toronto Burlesque Festival, The Summerworks Festival, Luminato, OUT tv, the Scandelles, Starry Night, Rue Morgue Festival of Fear, CANFAR, AIDS Action NOW, Steers and Queers, The Bentway, Pride TO, the ROM, The AGO and the Frigid Fringe Festival in New York.

Fay is part of Fay & Fluffy's Storytime which has been creating inclusive and safe spaces for members of the LGBTQ+ community since 2016.

Based in Toronto, they have been fortunate to do so many local events at some of Toronto's biggest cultural institutions, as well as hit the road to adventures beyond the city. Their special events focus on books, songs and include lots of laughs to show that Reading is FUN-damental! They especially want to support families with LGBTQ2S parent(s) and gender variant children, and read culturally diverse books, by providing a supportive and inclusive environment focused on fun. Most recently, Fay&Fluffy were honoured to be the recipients of the 2020 OLA (Ontario Librarians Association) President's Award for promoting literacy, advocating for LGBTQ2+ children and their families.

Keep learning:

- Check out Fay's website: fayandfluffy.com
- Drag queen story time has become very popular across the world. Why do you think it is important for everyone to celebrate the diversity of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities?





T'áncháy Redvers

2-SPIRIT SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIOR

T'áncháy Redvers is a Dene/Metis two-spirit writer, multidisciplinary performer, speaker, and advocate belonging to Deninu K'ue First Nation in Treaty 8 territory.

They have been nationally and internationally recognized for their work and advocacy, including a Governor General's Meritorious Service Decoration.

In 2016, T'áncháy and their brother founded We Matter, a national Indigenous-led campaign and non-profit dedicated to Indigenous youth hope and life promotion.

Their writing has been published in numerous creative, anthology and academic publications, and their debut book of poetry, *Fireweed*, was released in 2019 by Kegeedonce Press. As their drag self, Mx.Wolverine, they have disrupted stages across so-called Canada, and was featured in CBC Gem's Season 3 of Canada's A Drag.

Keep learning:

- Learn about We Matter, the organization T'áncháy founded: wemattercampaign.org
- T'áncháy's story speaks about intergenerational trauma and the inclusion of diverse people like herself. When how does trauma and discrimination affect someone's life? What can you do to support folks who have experienced discrimination and marginalization?
- T'áncháy has travelled across Canada. The experiences of diverse folks differ in each community. How do you think living in urban, rural, remote, or Indigenous communities may differ for 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples?





Kimahli Powell

LGBTQ-REFUGEES ACTIVIST

Kimahli is a long time advocate for social justice, having spent over twenty years advancing the rights of youth, the African/Caribbean/black community, people living and affected by HIV, and the LGBTQI+ community.

Kimahli completed his undergraduate studies in Political Science at the University of Ottawa. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria. Among his career highlights is supporting Dignitas International's innovative work in supporting community based - system health strengthening in Malawi, as well as helping launch the HIV Legal Network's constitutional challenge to Jamaica's anti-sodomy law while developing a monitoring and evaluation framework on legal advocacy.

Since joining Rainbow Railroad as Executive Director, Kimahli has led the organization through transformational growth, helping thousands of people in the process.

Kimahli and Rainbow Railroad have been recognized with several awards, including the International Lesbian & Gay Travel Association's Pathfinder Award, the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies' 2018 Award, and the 2018 Inspire Award for Community Organization of the Year.

Kimahli is the 2019 recipient of the Steinert & Ferreiro Award and was listed in Out Magazine's Out 100 profile of influential LGBT people.

Keep learning:

- Check out Rainbow Railroad's website: rainbowrailroad.org
- Kimahli's work involves regional, federal and international politics. What will it take for all governments to support 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees?
- After reading about Kimahli, what do you think the impact of his work is?





Susan Gapka

TRANS LOBBY GROUP

Susan Gapka is a dedicated campaigner for social justice highlighting her record on affordable housing, homelessness, mental health, harm reduction & lesbian, gay, bisexual & trans issues since coming out as a community leader 20 years ago.

As founder and chair of the Trans Lobby Group Susan helped lead a lengthy campaign to persuade the Minister of Health to fund Sex Reassignment Surgery for trans people in Ontario, helped change the Vital Statistics Act sex designation so that trans people's legal documents more accurately reflect their lived identity, and amended the Ontario Human Rights Code to include 'gender identity' and 'gender expression'. Susan also successfully advocated for trans human rights protection at the federal level across Canada. Susan has served on the Toronto Local Advisory Committee & as Toronto representative on the National Consumer Panel of the At Home/Chez Soi Research Demonstration Project, the Housing Component for the Mental Health Commission of Canada.



She also served on the Board of Pride Toronto which hosted World Pride 2014 and is past Fierté Canada Pride's Central Regional Director for Ontario. She is the first trans person to be awarded the Key to the City by Toronto in 2018.

Susan has been employed at The 519 since 2015 in the Education Department as an Education and Training facilitator. She was elected to CUPE Ontario Pink Triangle Committee in December 2017 and appointed to CUPE National Pink Triangle Committee in January 2018. Susan was elected to CUPE Ontario Women's Committee in December 2018. In June 2019 Gapka was appointed to CUPE Ontario's Executive Board as Pink Triangle Representative.

Susan has a degree in Political Science from York University & a diploma in Community Work from George Brown College. She has also been re-elected to the CUPE Ontario Executive Board last week.

Keep learning:

- What a world without sex and gender would look like? How would that feel? What would it mean?
- What are the challenges Trans and non-binary folks face today? How can you support them?





Gia Irina Brunetti-Provenzano

TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST

Gia Irina Provenzano was born in Thunder Bay.

She started her illustrious performance career over 35 years ago by the stage name Gia Maria Corangie at the Foot Light Theatre in Orlando, Florida lead by the infamous late drag mother Ms. P. She is the mother of the house of Corangie with an empire of 29 children and grandchildren.

Gia then returned to Thunder Bay where she became one of the pioneers of drag in the city. This work expanded nationwide when she moved to Ottawa in 2000. She founded Miss Ottawa Continental, Miss Gay Ottawa, Miss Gay Universe, and GMC Productions. She was also crowned the first Ottawa's first transgender Miss Gay Pride in 2001.

In 2012, Gia decided to return home to Thunder Bay and reestablish her pioneer position in Thunder Bay's 2SLGBTQIA+ community. She started Pink Mafia Productions.

Gia continues to give back to her community through the Gender Journey for Youth and Adults program that offers support and education for trans people

Gia continues to inspire the youth of today. This strong and beautiful woman has shown us all that even in the depths of hardship you can overcome anything and become the woman you are and were always meant to be.

Keep learning:

- Coming out is tough. How do you think creating drag inclusive spaces in Thunder Bay might be?
- Why are trans and queer mentorships still important? How is learning from your peers important?
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Kevin Allen

HISTORIAN AND ACTIVIST

Kevin has been documenting and profiling queer people and events for decades through freelance writing and editing for various queer publications including: Clue! Magazine, QC Magazine, Xtra! West, and Xtra.ca. In 1999, he co-founded the Fairy Tales Queer Film Festival, which remains a celebrated annual event in Calgary.

In 2012, Kevin founded the Calgary Gay History Project, a research collective working to uncover and preserve stories from Calgary's LGBTQ2 past. The Project achieved national recognition at the Governor General's History Awards in 2015, and its research has been covered in both local and national media.

Up until recently, Canada had mostly forgotten Everett Klippert, the Calgary Bus Driver whose court case led to the partial decriminalization of homosexuality in 1969.

Kevin spent years excavating his history, with the help of Everett's family, which led to an award winning play, *Legislating Love* and an award-winning film, *Gross Indecency: The Everett Klippert Story*.

Kevin was the inaugural Historian in Residence at the opening of Calgary's new Central Library in November 2018. During his residency, Kevin launched his bestselling book, *Our Past Matters: Stories of Gay Calgary*.

Keep learning:

- Learn more at: calgarygayhistory.ca
- What do you think are some of the challenges in researching queer histories?
- Local histories are important. What are some LGBTQ2 stories from your community?
- Google the film, *Gross Indecency: The Everett Klippert Story* on Youtube. What did you learn?





Ma-Nee Chacaby

SURVIVOR

As a child, Chacaby learned spiritual and cultural traditions from her beloved Cree grandmother and trapping, hunting, and bush survival skills from her Ojibwa stepfather. She developed warm friendships with some other children, but also suffered physical and sexual abuse by different adults.

In her teen years, Chacaby became alcoholic herself, and, at twenty, she moved to Thunder Bay with her children to escape a violent husband. Abuse, compounded by racism, continued, but Chacaby found support to help herself and others. Over the following decades, she achieved sobriety; trained and worked as an alcoholism counsellor; raised her children and fostered many others; learned to live with visual impairment; and came out as a lesbian.

In 2013, Chacaby helped lead the first gay pride parade in Thunder Bay. In 2016, Ma-Nee wrote *A Two-Spirit Journey The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder*. A Two-Spirit Journey is Ma-Nee Chacaby's extraordinary account of her life as an Ojibwa-Cree lesbian. From her early, often harrowing memories of life and abuse in a remote Ojibwa community riven by poverty and alcoholism, Chacaby's story is one of enduring and ultimately overcoming the social, economic, and health legacies of colonialism.

Keep learning:

- Ma-Nee has spoken about her experience in struggling with addiction and overcoming pain. Folks who experience trauma can someone turn to diverse coping strategies. What would you do to offer to support to someone struggling?
- In her book *A Two-Spirit Journey*, Ma-Nee speaks of the role of queer & trans Elders. What role do elders have in our community?





Ryan G. Hinds

PERFORMER

Ryan is a Toronto-based theatre artist. He is an Associate Artist for lemonTree creations and serves on the national council of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association; his work on Equity Council has helped improve working conditions and industry standards for actors across Canada.

Born in Mississauga, Ontario, he has lived in Toronto and New York City and has appeared as an actor across Canada and the US. Productions include Michel Marc Bouchard's "Lilies; Or, The Revival of a Romantic Drama" at Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto; "It's A Wonderful Life" in Fredericton and on tour in New Brunswick; and "We Will Rock You" and "The Rocky Horror Show" at Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay.

A versatile performer, skilled in singing, acting, and dance, Ryan was the first black actor to play the role of Hedwig in "Hedwig & the Angry Inch" and toured internationally in his critically-acclaimed, award-winning solo show "#KanderAndEbb. and many more.



Ryan has performed alongside artists such as Liza Minnelli, Toderick Hall, Taylor Mac, Debbie Reynolds and more. Many emerging queer artists have been mentored by Ryan, learning the lessons shared with him by legends like Chita Rivera, Eartha Kitt, and Luigi. Through volunteerism, community work, and maintaining a commitment to creating space for queer and racialized voices, he has also emerged as a community leader. His long association with the Pride movement includes hosting the opening ceremonies for Pride Toronto, performing an hour-long concert for an audience of 4000 at World Pride 2014, several years as emcee of Blockorama, and onstage appearances at Pride festivals in Los Angeles, Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, and New York.

Keep learning:

- Check out RyanGHinds.com to learn more about Ryan's work.
- What are some challenges that stage actors may face in their careers?
- What other black queer actors can you think of and what shows have they done?
- If you were an actor, what characters would you want to play and why?





Laureenblu Waters *Istchii Nickamoon* METIS ACTIVIST

Laureen (Blu) Waters is a member of the Metis Nation of Ontario. Her family is from Big River Saskatchewan, Star Blanket Reserve and Bra'dor Lake, Eskasoni First Nations, Cape Breton Nova Scotia.

Blu grew up with her grandmother and learned about traditional medicines performing extractions, healing, and taking of care of the sick. At 10 years old Blu was adopted by a white family in Parkdale. She has worked at Peel Aboriginal Network as an Elder and at Seneca College, where she has been an on campus Elder. She was also an elder advisor to Commissioner Brian Eyolfson at National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. On November 19, 2019 Blu visited us at Crestwood for our second Human Rights Symposium, on the subject of Reconciliation. As part of her day at the school, Blu was kind enough to sit down with Ella, Hanna and Elana for an interview.

She has been a traditional counselor for most of life. She is a mother of 3 and a grandmother of 3 and a Sun dancer and a pipe carrier. Blu was also the national caucus Representative for the Toronto urban aboriginal strategy for 5 years working with the community of Toronto and the Government.

Blu's gifts include: Traditional teachings Giving traditional spirit names, Hand drumming, Song writer and Creative writings.

Laureen (Blu) Waters: Istchi Nikamoon: Earth Song, Wolf clan. Cree/Metis/Micmac, Blu is a member of Metis Nation of Nation

Keep learning:

- Blu has incorporated her traditional practice into her work as a counsellor and healer. What is the role that Two-Spirit communities can play today to promote health and well-being?
- The leadership role Blu has played has shaped government policy. What other policies need to change to support Two-Spirit communities?





