

Vol. 1

# EASE OUT



Say Hello to Seattle 02  
Gay Clubbing 101 With John 06  
Exposé on Phenix 12

## Foreword.

**Congrats, you are gay!** Now that we've established that, we can now explore what it means to be gay, what gay culture is and how we can better love our authentic selves. This is your guide to the gay world you are now a part of. In this issue, we will get to know the gay community of Seattle, Washington, learn about gay clubs, get to know a fellow gay and get educated on one of the most important gay historical events: Stonewall.



# CLOSETS ARE FOR CLOTHES

IT'S TIME TO BREAK FREE.

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CONTRI-  
BUTERS.

Gay City-Seattle  
Non-profit Organization  
Seattle, Washington

Encyclopedia Britannica  
Stonewall Riots  
Britannica.com

Jamilah King  
News Writer, .Mic  
mic.com

John Tyndall  
Interviewee  
Seattle, Washington

Phenix Laughlin  
Interviewee, Model  
Seattle, Washington

Jaden Nethercott  
Editor, Designer, Illustrator  
Seattle, Washington



CONTRIBUTORS



# HELLO SEATTLE

Written by  
Gay City—Seattle

**We believe in love for all and our city has long been welcoming and safe for people who identify in the LGBTQ spectrum.**



## **GAY CITY: SEATTLE'S LGBTQ CENTER**

An organization where their staff and volunteers, their programs and services, and their drive and spirit reflect the resilience and power of Seattle's many LGBTQ communities. Gay City's Wellness Center, our LGBTQ Resource & Referral Program, our Gay City Volunteer Crew, and Gay City Arts all provide multiple ways for our community to gather, connect, find voice and serve. Gay City is an organization that listens and responds, and that continues to evolve. We are a destination for the LGBTQ community to grow and thrive. Gay City is Seattle's LGBTQ Center. Find out more at [gaycity.org](http://gaycity.org)



## **TOP GAY BARS**

**R Place**— Capitol Hill 1509 Broadway St.

**Neighbors** – Capitol Hill 619 E Pine St.

**The Cuff Complex** – Capitol Hill 1533 13th Ave.

**Seattle Eagle** – Capitol Hill 314 E Pine St.

**Madison Pub** – Capitol Hill 1315 E Madison St.

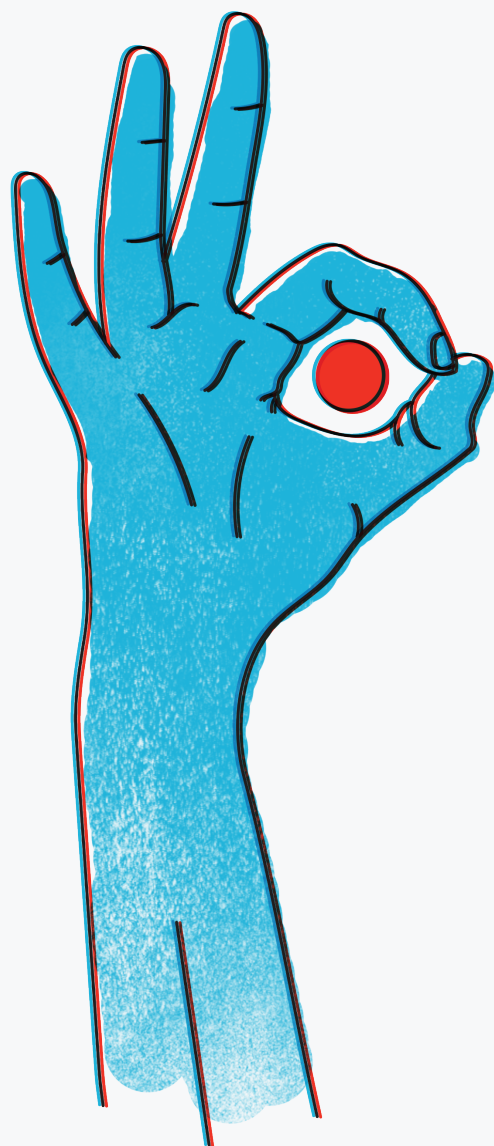


**S** eattle has long been ridiculed for its dreary weather, but when the sun comes out, this city shines. The surroundings are spectacularly beautiful, with Elliott Bay and Lake Washington on either end of the city with a view of Mount Rainier in the distance. The city has come alive in recent years aided primarily by the success of its computer industry (Microsoft and Amazon.com are based here) and the influx of new residents from around the US. Gay Seattle is primarily centered around Capitol Hill, a quaint, friendly neighborhood, but you'll find gay people living and working throughout this city and in its computer industry in the surrounding suburbs.

Seattle has a very strong LGBTQ community that is very welcoming to all. Seattle has many resources and gay bars for anyone to utilize.







“”

**Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start.**

**— Jason Collins**

*Basketball Player for the Washington Wizards and the First Openly Gay player in the NBA*

WITH  
JOHN

# GAY CLUBBING

YOUR  
GUIDE

Interview by  
Jaden Nethercott

START  
THE  
PARTY

**M**y name is John and I am a bartender at *The Cuff*—a Gay Club in Seattle, Washington—and I will be your Gay Club 101 professor. But before I get into all of that, let me tell you a little about myself. I came out to my mother at age ten as a transsexual, while we lived in Ashville, California; but after seeing a gender dysmorphic counselor, I realized that I was just in fact a gay man exploring his options. At age twelve, I would sneak into gay bars by stealing my eighteen-year-old brother's I.D. and dress in drag. So, I've had quite a few years in and out of gay clubs all over the country. One thing to keep in mind for your first night out is that gay bars are not what they once were, where men had their place and woman had theirs. They've now become larger community centers with around 75-80% of the people actually being gay and the rest being allies. Gay bars have definitely diversified. They are safe places for you and other LGBTQ people to get together and just have a good time.

PARTY  
BRING YOUR FRIENDS  
HAVE A GREAT TIME



# 01 Respect the House.

It's important to keep an open mind when it comes to gay bars and clubs. You need to understand that you are going to see things that you have not seen before and you're going to see people behave differently than people in heterosexual societies. If you are in those environments at bars such as Eagle and the Cuff here in Seattle—which are leather bars—don't point, don't giggle, don't take pictures, and be respectful. Understand that these are different people and this is how they've chosen to live their lives. Treat others how you would like to be treated. Be respectful.



Alcohol helps with this, especially if you are inherently a shy person. But even without it, don't be afraid to go up to people and talk to them. If you find someone you like, observe him and his group of friends and make sure you feel comfortable with all of them. If you are, then try to make eye contact or get in his vicinity. Feel free to offer to buy him a drink or ask him if he would like to dance. An important thing to remember is that everyone is as scared shitless as you are and even if they aren't scared, everybody has had their first time and knows how it feels. Don't be afraid to sample things, explore stuff and remember to be aware of those around you.

# Don't Be Shy.



When you get the courage to tip that sexy GoGo dancer that has caught your eye, the most important thing to do is observe how others are interacting with him. Some GoGo dancers are more free with their bodies and others are more about being decoration. When you feel its time to tip, approach the dancer with your dollar bill in view and the GoGo dancer will begin to interact with you. Do not touch the dancer, unless he invites you to and he will help guide you to a place you can put the tip—most likely in his underwear. Remember that it's their job to be nice, so don't get the wrong idea if they are flirtatious with you.

# 02 Tipping Tips.

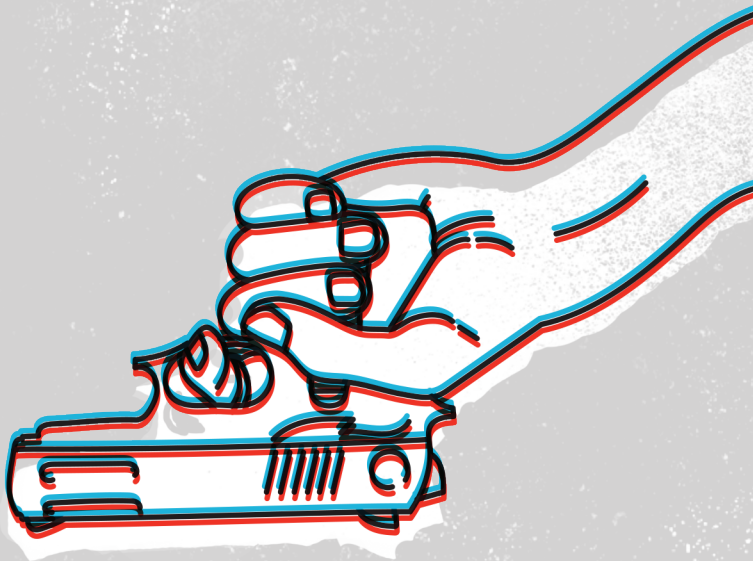


# 03 Saving Money.

Take cash and set a budget. Do not use your card. It may slow down the drinking process, but it will keep you from going broke. If you set yourself a limit of \$40.00, then stick with it—unless you can flirt with guys that will buy you more drinks. Make sure to also take into consideration bartender tips. Bartenders know when you stiff them and they won't treat you very well afterwards.

# 04 Order Drinks.

When you get to the bar, know exactly what you want to drink. If you don't know step aside until you do know. It's great to tell a bartender to surprise you when its slow, but when its not don't ask for a surprise because they will hate you. Top five shots to try are Kamikazes, Blow Jobs, Scooby Snacks, Oozo, Jaeger Shot, and Hi-C. Remember to eat a lot of carbs to help cut down on the hangover and to extend your buzz.



**Why is it that, as a  
culture, we are more  
comfortable seeing two  
men holding guns than  
holding hands?**

— Ernest J. Gaines

*Author and Winner of the National Book  
Critics Circle Award.*





# EXPOSÉ ON PHENIX

Interview by  
Jaden Nethercott

**M**y coming out story is kind of weird. I'm not a fan of labeling, and I never really knew or tried to define anything like "I'm gay" or "I like girls." When people asked me what my sexuality was, I just told them I didn't really care. I'll date a boy or I'll date a girl, honestly, it doesn't really matter. What matters is what makes you happy.

My first boyfriend was in high school, so I didn't really "come out, come out" until then. Prior to that I had dated girls in heterosexual relationships and they were okay, just not what I wanted. The relationships fulfilled me, but not completely. The glass was half full and something wasn't quite working. So I just started to try new things.

If something isn't working or you don't like something, the only thing you can do is try and change it. What can you change to make things better? What can you substitute? In my life, I realized women weren't fulfilling me, so I wanted to try something else. Once I started dating boys, I was completely fulfilled. So, yes I'm gay, it makes me happy and it works for me.

I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, and the people there are great—very chill. I got into musical theater at a very young age, which eventually led to me getting into dance—my true passion—during my junior year of high school. I am now attending Cornish College of the Arts and pursuing a BFA in dance. Growing up in the arts was especially helpful to me because they are so accepting of differences and sexuality.

**“Don't express what others want you to express. Express what YOU want to express.”**





**“Follow your vision, even if you are hesitant. If you want something, just do it. You will be so much more grateful.”**

In Colorado, most of the people were really supportive and accepting of me being gay, but not necessarily my gender. Up until eighth grade, I was totally normal. I dressed as a boy and was the definition of masculine, but I was sick of it. I wanted to experiment. I wanted to express myself. I’ve always been very conscious of how I looked and how others viewed me. I would go into the bathroom, look into the mirror and I wasn’t happy. So I started to change things. I began to wear makeup, dye my hair, wear heels and skinny jeans. I took away things I didn’t like about myself, enhanced things I did like and that was how I learned to love myself. I learned to love my appearance first, which kind of elevated me to then love my personality. In high school, I did face some bullying—especially from the jocks—but I kept my theater friends close and I made it through.

I would suggest to the readers to keep those that accept you close because they will help you get through the hard-times. Also don’t listen to people that doubt you. If I have self-doubt, it probably came from my mom saying something in the past and it still affects me. For example, I would have gotten into drag earlier, if my mom hadn’t said she disliked it. That feedback held me back from completely pursuing my vision. So follow your vision, if you want to do something, then do it.



**“Don’t listen to other people’s doubts.”**





# 1969 STONEWALL

## WHERE PRIDE BEGAN.

In 1969 the solicitation of homosexual relations was an illegal act in New York City (and indeed virtually all other urban centres). Gay bars were places of refuge where gay men and lesbians and other individuals who were considered sexually suspect could socialize in relative safety from public harassment. Many of those bars were, however, subject to regular police harassment.

One such well-known gathering place for young gay men, lesbians, and transgender people was the morning hours of Saturday, June 28, 1969, nine policemen entered the Stonewall Inn, arrested the employees for selling alcohol without a license, roughed up many of its patrons, cleared the bar, and—in accordance with a New York criminal statute that authorized the arrest of anyone not wearing at least three articles of gender-appropriate clothing—took several people into custody. It was the third such raid on Greenwich Village gay bars in a short period.

This time the people milling outside the bar did not retreat or scatter as they almost always had in the past. Their anger was apparent and vocal as they watched bar patrons being forced into a police van. They began to jeer at and jostle the police and then threw bottles and debris. Accustomed to more passive behavior, even from larger gay groups, the policemen called for reinforcements and barricaded



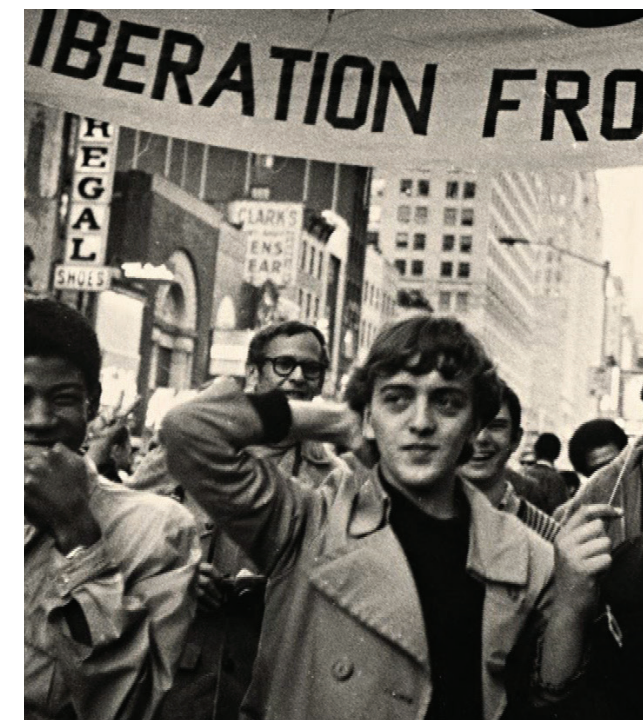
themselves inside the bar while some 400 people rioted. The police barricade was repeatedly breached, and the bar was set on fire. Police reinforcements arrived in time to extinguish the flames, and they eventually dispersed the crowd.

The riots outside the Stonewall Inn waxed and waned for the next five days. Many historians characterized the uprising as a spontaneous protest against the perpetual police harassment and social discrimination suffered by a variety of sexual minorities in the 1960s. Although there had been other protests by gay groups, the Stonewall incident was perhaps the first time lesbians, gays, and transgender people saw the value in uniting behind a common cause. Occurring as it did in the context of the civil rights movement and feminist movements, the Stonewall riots became a galvanizing force.

Stonewall soon became a symbol of resistance to social and political discrimination that would inspire solidarity among homosexual groups for decades. Although the Stonewall riots cannot be said to have initiated the gay rights movement as such, it did serve as a catalyst for a new generation of political activism. Older groups such as the Mattachine Society, which was founded in southern California as a discussion group for gay men and had flourished in the 1950s, soon made way for more radical groups such as the Gay Liberation Front (GLF)

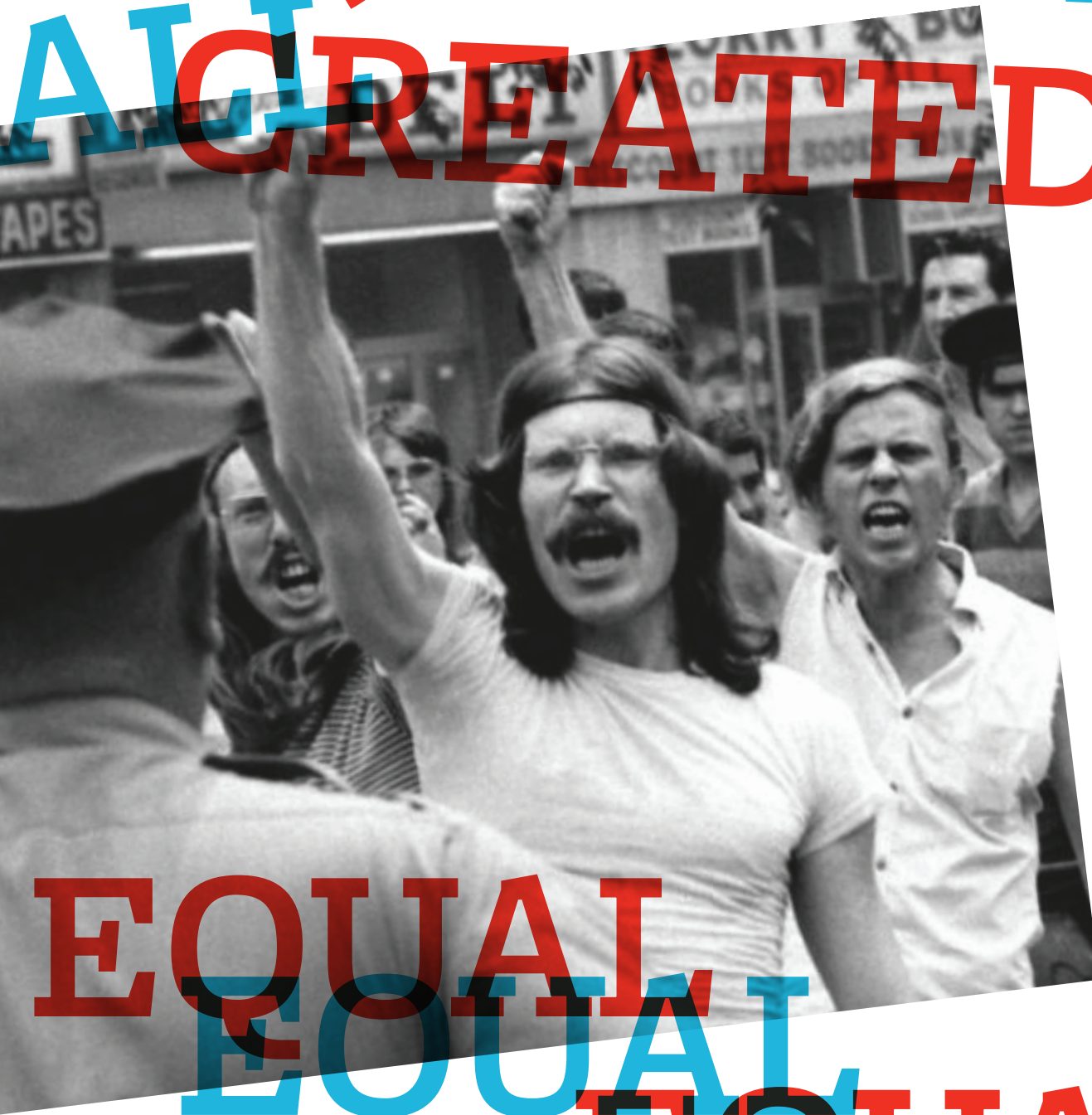
and the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA). In addition to launching numerous public demonstrations to protest the lack of civil rights for gay individuals, these organizations often resorted to such tactics as public confrontations with political officials and the disruption of public meetings to challenge and to change the mores of the times. Acceptance and respect from the establishment were no longer being humbly requested but angrily and righteously demanded. The broad-based radical activism of many gay men and lesbians in the 1970s eventually set into motion a new, nondiscriminatory trend in government policies and helped educate society regarding this significant minority.

The event sparked the formation of scores of gay rights organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign, OutRage!, GLAAD, PFLAG, and Queer Nation. In 1999 the U.S. National Park Service placed the Stonewall Inn on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2016 Pres. Barack Obama designated the site of the Stonewall uprising a national monument. The 7.7-acre (3.1-hectare) monument included the Stonewall Inn, Christopher Park, and the surrounding streets and sidewalks.





# WE, THE PEOPLE ARE ALREADY CREATED



“We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths—that all of us are created equal—is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, Selma, and Stonewall.”

—Barack Obama

*44th President of the United States of America*

# EQUAL EQUAL EQUAL





# THE TRANS WOMEN THAT HELPED PUT STONEWALL ON THE MAP

Written by  
Jamilah King

**B**ack in the 1960s, the Stonewall Inn was the one of the few bars in Manhattan where people of the same sex could dance with each other without police harassment, which was only protected through alleged Mafia ties. On June 28, 1969, the bar's patrons clashed with police officers, in a raid that would have otherwise resulted in arrests and public shaming. However, this time the patrons fought back, setting off what we now know as the modern LGBT movement, including the tradition of LGBT Pride marches. Two often-forgotten people who made an impact that night were transgender women of color: Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera.

While the raid and the riot that followed went down in history, Rivera and Johnson's contributions related to the uprising didn't make much news. In fact, as iconic as Stonewall was to the gay liberation struggle that blossomed in the 1970s, it also became a symbol of a largely white, male movement that relegated people of color and women to its margins.

Johnson was a patron at the bar who "really started it" on the night of the riots, according to one witness in David Carter's 2004 book *Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution*. Originally from New Jersey, Johnson moved to the West Village in 1967 to escape the bigotry she had faced growing up across the river. She went to Stonewall that night to celebrate her



Marsha P. Johnson

25th birthday, reportedly becoming part of that initial moment of resistance to spark the landmark rebellion, according to the documentary *Pay It No Mind: The Life and Times of Marsha P. Johnson*.

During the 1980s AIDS epidemic that ravaged the gay community, Johnson became a prominent activist with the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, which did things like demonstrate on Wall Street against the exorbitant prices of experimental AIDS drugs. Johnson died in 1992 at age 48 under mysterious circumstances: Her body was found floating in the Hudson River. The case remains unsolved.

Rivera was only 17-years-old on the night of the riot. According to one biography, Rivera was in the crowd that gathered outside of the bar as anger in the West Village neighborhood swelled. "I'm not missing a minute of this," she yelled. "It's the revolution!" She's cited as one of the first bystanders to throw a bottle, a big deal given the power dynamics of the situation with police. Talking about the riots years later in Carter's book, Rivera remembered, "This was started by the street queens of that era, which I was part of, Marsha P. Johnson and many others that are not here."

After Stonewall, Rivera became an outspoken activist who rallied against racism, sexual violence and, after she began identifying as a woman, transphobia. In a 1973 Christopher Street Liberation Day Rally, Rivera, a sexual assault survivor, spoke about the complacency she saw in the LGBT community after gay, lesbian and transgender people were arrested, thrown in jail for their activism and assaulted by male inmates in the years after the Stonewall Rebellion. "Do you all do anything for them?" she demanded of the crowd at a 1973



Sylvia Rivera

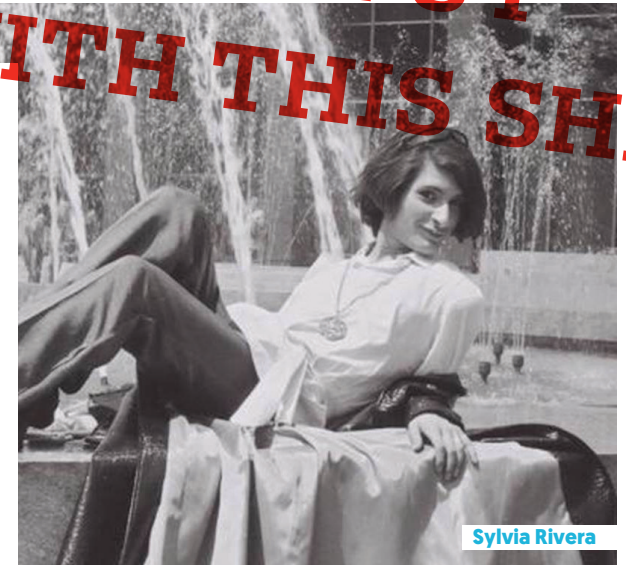
rally in New York City. "No! You all tell me to go and hide my tail between my legs. I will not put up with this shit!"

Rivera and Johnson co-founded the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, a group that worked with homeless drag queens and transgender women of color in New York City. She died in 2002 at the age of 50.

Decades later, transgender people have reached what Time has deemed a "tipping point" in visibility and activism, largely led by countless transgender women of color, most visibly actress Laverne Cox and media personality Janet Mock.

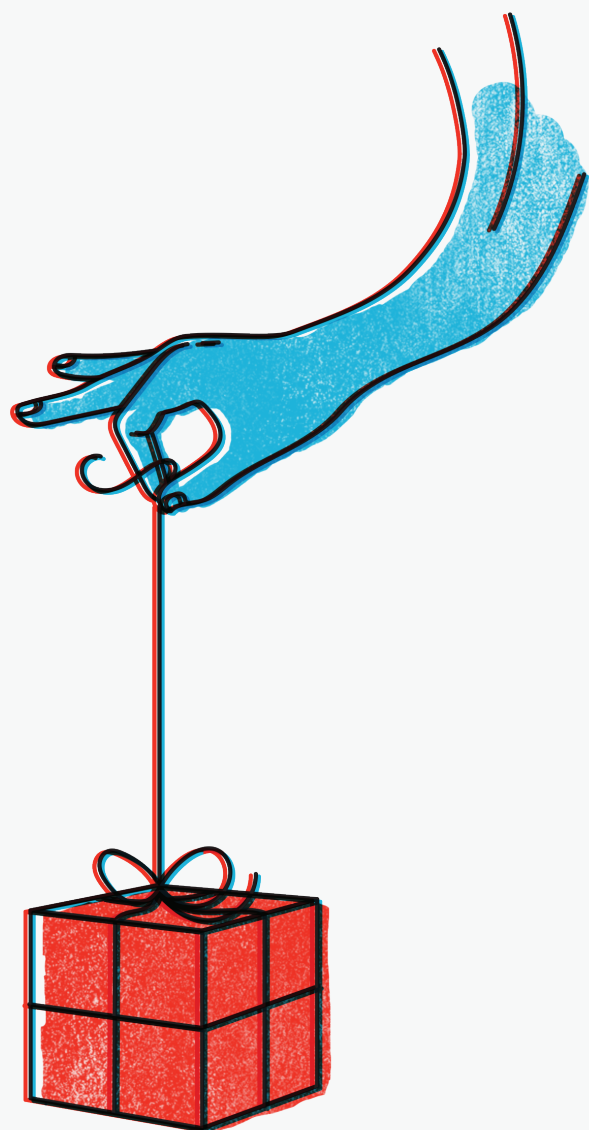
While we celebrate the history of Stonewall, let's also not forget the incredible women who helped make it happen.

I WILL NOT PUT UP WITH THIS SHIT!



Sylvia Rivera

DON'T FORGET.



“

**I think being gay is a blessing,  
and it's something I am thankful  
for every single day.**

**— Anderson Cooper**

*American Journalist, Television Personality,  
and Author*



**THIS  
IS YOUR GAY  
GUIDE.**

**EASEOUT**