

# OUT

INFORM



**MADISON**  
**Hildebrand**

**2012**  
**Grand Marshals**

**OFFICIAL**  
**Pride Events**

Your official guide to  
the Houston LGBT  
Pride Celebration ®

Annual Issue, Vol 2  
June 2012

  
**PRIDE**  
HOUSTON  
[pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org)

# OUT INFORM

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To place an ad in the 2013 Houston LGBT Pride Celebration edition of OutInform, or to get more information about marketing opportunities, please email [advertising@pridehouston.org](mailto:advertising@pridehouston.org).

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June 2012

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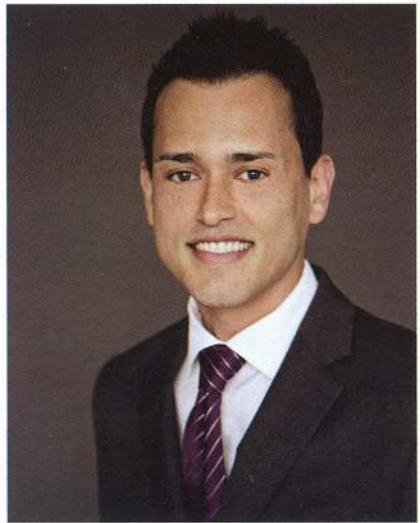
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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Frankie Quijano is President of the Board and CEO of Pride Houston, Inc. Pride is a registered 501(c)3 organization commissioned with enriching the lives of the Houston LGBT community.

Pride season has arrived and many people ask, **Why Pride?**

Pride is more than just coming out; it is realizing who I am in regards to my sexual orientation and gender identity. Also, I realize I don't have to hide behind the closet door to be a successful and productive member of society. That is one reason I volunteer for Pride Houston, as it allows me to be an active member of the Community in a non-political avenue. Pride Houston's main goal is to create an atmosphere of comfort attending LGBT events and educating society on the issues that are important to our Community.

Pride is a time for the community to put our differences aside and celebrate a small part of who we are. Pride is a way for the community to stand united and fight for those who do not have a voice in other countries where homosexuality is against the law and even punishable by death. Pride is never over. Pride is never irrelevant. People have to understand that Pride is a deep word, and that they have to search in their souls for what that word means to them.

In spite of the fact that *Will and Grace* reruns are in heavy rotation on Lifetime and the ABC prime-time lineup loves to include gay couples, Pride is still relevant now more than ever. We must always take a moment to reflect on the struggles of the past, and thank those who fought for us. Pride is our own 4th of July. Like that holiday, we must celebrate it every year and make sure that the future generations of LGBT individuals and their allies never forget what life was like before gay made prime time.

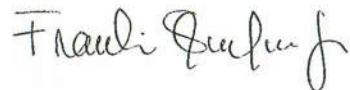
Each year Pride Houston produces the largest Pride Celebration in the Southwestern United States. For many young individuals this is their opportunity to witness firsthand the true family that is here to welcome them to be who they truly are whether it be lesbian, gay, transgender or bi-sexual.

The Houston LGBT Pride Celebration is a celebration of our LGBT culture regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation. It is a place where you can feel at home.

Pride Houston's goal is to make the City of Houston a true LGBT travel destination so the World can see all the great things our city has to offer. Some projects in the works are bringing a World Pride Conference, Gay Games and the possibility of hosting a World Pride Celebration to Houston.

Our teams of dedicated volunteers have been working diligently all year to produce this amazing event. If you see a Pride volunteer be sure to thank them for their efforts. The biggest project taken on this year is Pride's very own Dance Party, Wonderland Houston. Pride Week returns with seven days of events starting on June 16 up until the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration on June 23. That said, on behalf of the Committee Chairs, Committee Members, Volunteers, the Board of Directors and Pride Houston, I wish to welcome you all to the 34th Houston LGBT Pride Celebration, presented by Bud Light.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frankie Quijano".

FRANKIE QUIJANO  
President & CEO  
Pride Houston, Inc.

# Pride Week

## 7 Days of Pride in Houston



Saturday: June 16

### Gay Men's Chorus Show @ Jones Hall



Sunday: June 17

### Salvation Pool Party @ Roak



Monday: June 18

### Dine with Pride @ Canopy



Tuesday: June 19

### Rock the Runway @ South Beach



Wednesday: June 20

### Pride in the Park @ BBVA Compass Stadium



Thursday: June 21

### Pride Superstar. Finale @ South Beach



Friday: June 22

### Wonderland Houston. @ Bayou Music Center

Saturday, June 23, 2012

### Houston LGBT Pride Celebration.

**FESTIVAL**

1 - 7 pm



Presented By

**PARADE**

8:15 pm

[pridehouston.org/events](http://pridehouston.org/events)

Some ad pages from non-gay businesses have been omitted

# GRAND MARSHALS

Jenifer Rene Pool  
Nick Brines

the highest honor the community can bestow on an individual.

PRIDE is that one time of the year when the LGBT community as a whole can come together and celebrate our successes while being mindful of the work left to be done. As the male grand marshal last year, I experienced a whole new level of pride that will remain with me for the rest of my life. It is the highest honor the community can bestow on an individual. Now that my year has passed, it is time to pass the torch to this year's grand marshals. I had the great opportunity to interview this year's grand marshals and ask them about this year's Pride.

Serving as this year's female grand marshal is Jenifer Rene Pool. Jenifer grew up in Beaumont and came to Houston many years ago. She currently serves as co-host on the weekly radio show, *Queer Voices*. She also served as the past president of Houston LGBT Political Caucus. Jenifer was instrumental in getting HISD to pass a non-discrimination clause.

The male grand marshal for this year is Nick Brines. He has been instrumental in getting Pride to the level that is at today. Nick served as president of the organization for four years from 2004–2007. Nick now manages a very successful salon and stays active in the LGBT community.

by *Bryan Hlavinka*



### What does Pride mean to you?

**Jenifer Rene Pool:** Pride, to me, means the first time I was able to come out on the street and be who I was. Pride is about being your true self.

**Nick Brines:** Pride to me is a demonstration of the size, strength and diversity of the community. It's that one time of year where everybody comes and stands up to be counted so that we can show that we are not a small group, we are not all the same. When the community comes out and stands together; it puts a face on the community which reduces the fear and the stigma sometimes associated with being gay. Pride presents an opportunity to stand up and be counted.

### What is your favorite thing about the Houston's LGBT community?

**JRP:** Its acceptance of all members of the LGBT community. It wasn't always that way. When I first moved to Houston 30 years ago, it wasn't that way. Lesbians had their places and gay men had their own places. The transgender members of the community weren't

even on the radar. Over the years, while I have been in Houston this has changed.

**NB:** The diversity in Houston. There are so many cultures and people represented. To hear their story is what Houston's LGBT community so great.

### What does diversity mean to you?

**JRP:** Diversity is everyone. We talk about the community as one, all people. It is about a chorus of voices, not just one voice.

**NB:** Diversity, to me, is the variety of life experiences and life stories. I consider myself diverse because I grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. My growing up experience is so much different than most of my friends who grew up in cities. My story adds to that diversity.

### Who has helped you to get to where you are today?

**JRP:** Vanessa Edwards Foster. When I first started coming out in the Houston community, I was still tentative. I would not venture out of my safe environment. Vanessa took me kicking and screaming into the "real world" of Houston TX; taking Jenifer out to La Madeline. It was terrifying, those first tentative steps in the greater world. I would also include Phyllis Frye and Ray Hill. They taught me about making a difference. They both made it possible to walk the streets of Houston without getting arrested.

**NB:** I have strong circle of friends who I met when I came to Houston to go to college that I have grown up with. We went through our teens and our twenties together. We survived our thirties and now are going into our forties together. It is a solid group of friends that have seen me through times when I have been less mature than other times. They have been a great support network which can give me advice or cheer me on when I need it.

### Who are your role models?

**JRP:** I credit Annise Parker as my mentor/role model. I worked on her campaigns and saw her stand for principle in everything she did.

**NB:** I look up to people who volunteer their time and energy. Growing up, I was brought up to be very volunteer focused. People who give back to the community and give their time are the people that I respect the most.

### Is Pride still relevant?

**JRP:** Very much so. There is a whole generation of people coming up whom because of what people like Ray Hill and Phyllis Frye has built a foundation of trust, and political strength where we can be ourselves in public. Pride is about the celebration of who we are. There is an entire generation of people who don't understand the struggles that have come before them.

**NB:** I think so. All you have to do is watch TV to see the need. We need to be visible and let everyone know what makes up the LGBT community. There are still too many instances where a child commits suicide because of bullying. There are still no federal anti-discrimination laws for employment. There is a lot of work left to be done. Pride also helps people within the LGBT community discover what makes up the LGBT community as a whole. If you are newly out, Pride is the event which allows you to connect with others.

### What advice can you give to those who are coming out today?

**JRP:** Get involved. Join an organization and get to know people in your community. Be prepared, when you step out of the closet, for the possible consequences. There are people out there for whatever reason who will not tolerate us.

**NB:** Get involved. Find an organization that fits your interest. Through these organizations you can meet your network of friends who provide support. Be involved so that you are part of the community and not just on the sidelines.

### What challenges face our community going forward?

**JRP:** Anti-discrimination protection; our community does not have protection in the workplace or in housing. The challenge is educate, rally and organize our



community to enact these protections.

**NB:** I think a big challenge is the control of certain media outlets by the far right and the religious who tend to force their morality upon others. Another challenge is achieving federal protection from being fired and the repeal of DOMA.

### What would you like the readers of the Pride Guide know about you being selected as grand marshal?

**JRP:** I would like them to know how incredibly honored I am and grateful to have been voted grand marshal. The community has honored me. I look at myself as a volunteer. Being named grand marshal is recognition of the service to the community over the years. And for that, I am truly honored.

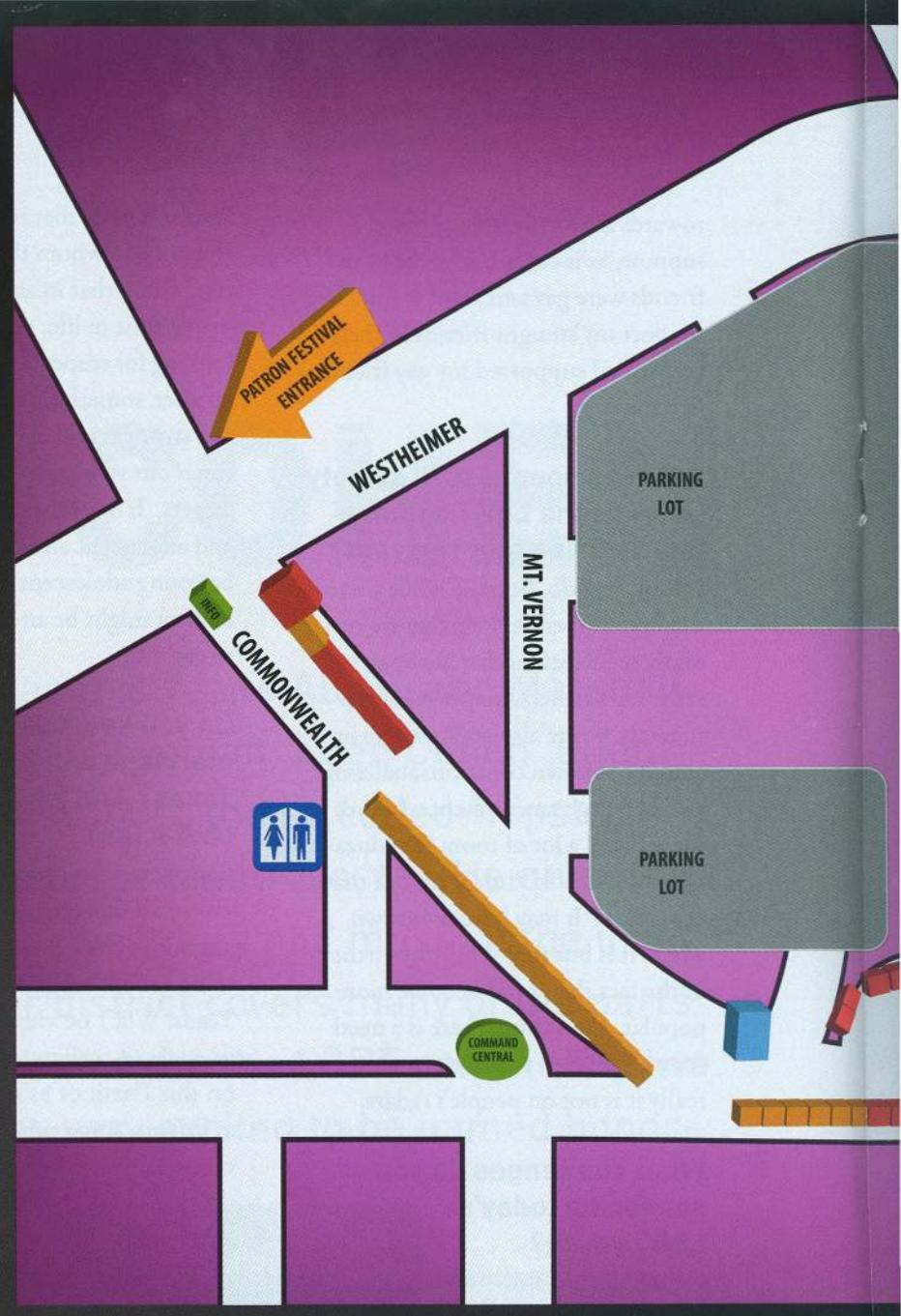
**NB:** I would like them to know about the passion that I have for the mission of Pride. The mission is to educate and celebrate the community. I was so involved with Pride for so many years. I don't really like to single myself out. It feels weird to be in this position because I still feel like a volunteer.

The Houston LGBT Pride Celebration  
is presented by



AARP Texas  
Amnesty International, Group 23  
Austin Pride  
Art Institute of Houston - North  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church  
Bering Omega Community Services  
Blue Girl Pink Boy  
Coco Bongos  
Cookie Associates, Ltd.  
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Houston Museum of Natural Science  
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Sierra Club  
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Texas Coalition To Abolish Death Penalty  
The Obama Store  
UCC ONA Churches of Greater Houston  
Volcano Splash Houston

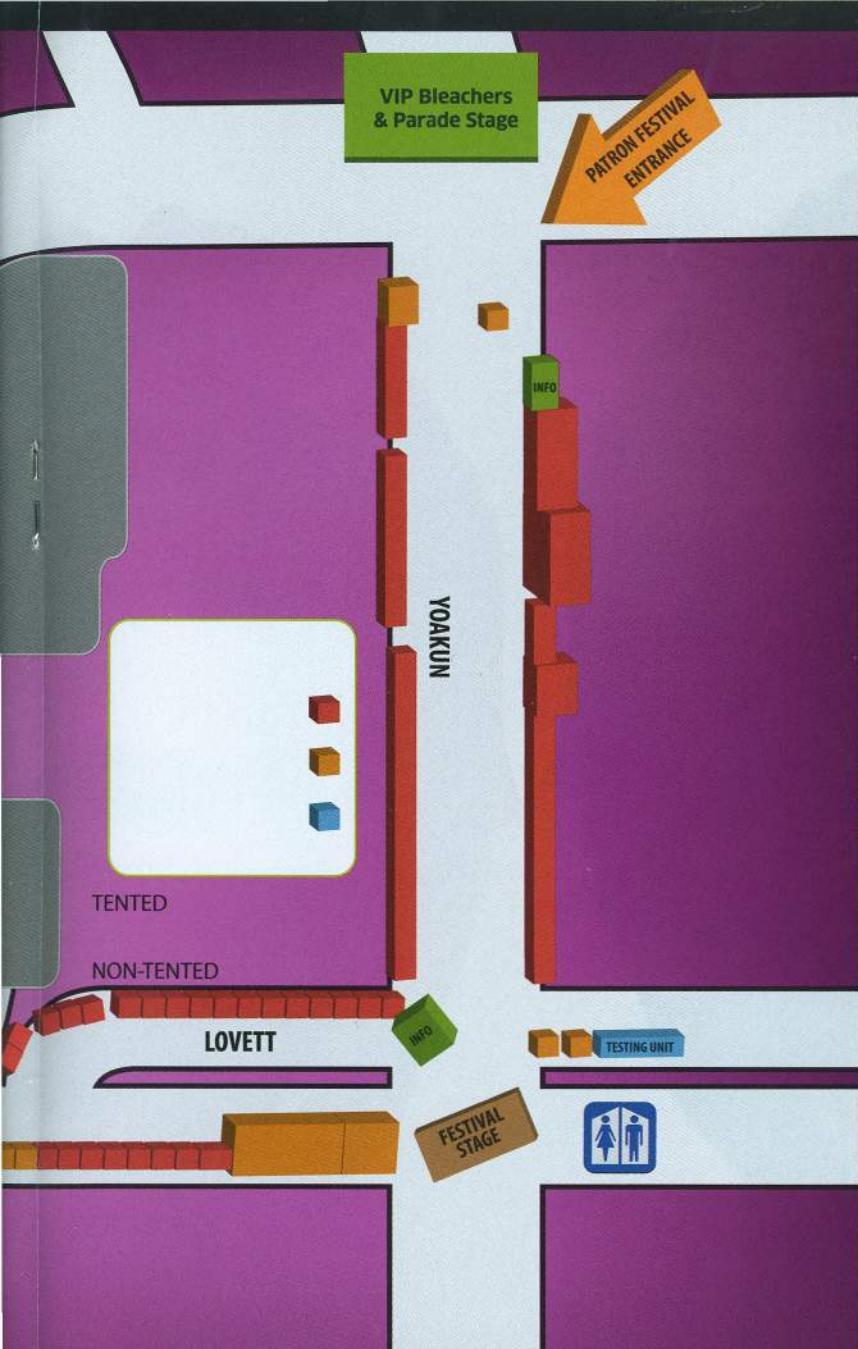
# FESTIVAL



2012 Pride Festival from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The event will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2012 in the Montrose Neighborhood in Houston. With over 200 different exhibitors, multiple stages and over 3000,000 attendees, the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration is the largest LGBT gathering in Texas and the southern United States.

Check out the great artists scheduled to perform on the Bud Light stage during the Festival.



## 2012 Pride Parade from 8:15 PM to 11:00 PM

The LGBT Pride Parade was the first night-time parade in the United States. The Houston Pride Parade has been said to be "one of the Top 10 events to attend in Houston for 2011" by the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau. This year marks the 34th anniversary.

The Pride Parade features a pre-parade show that starts at 7:00 pm.

# PARADE

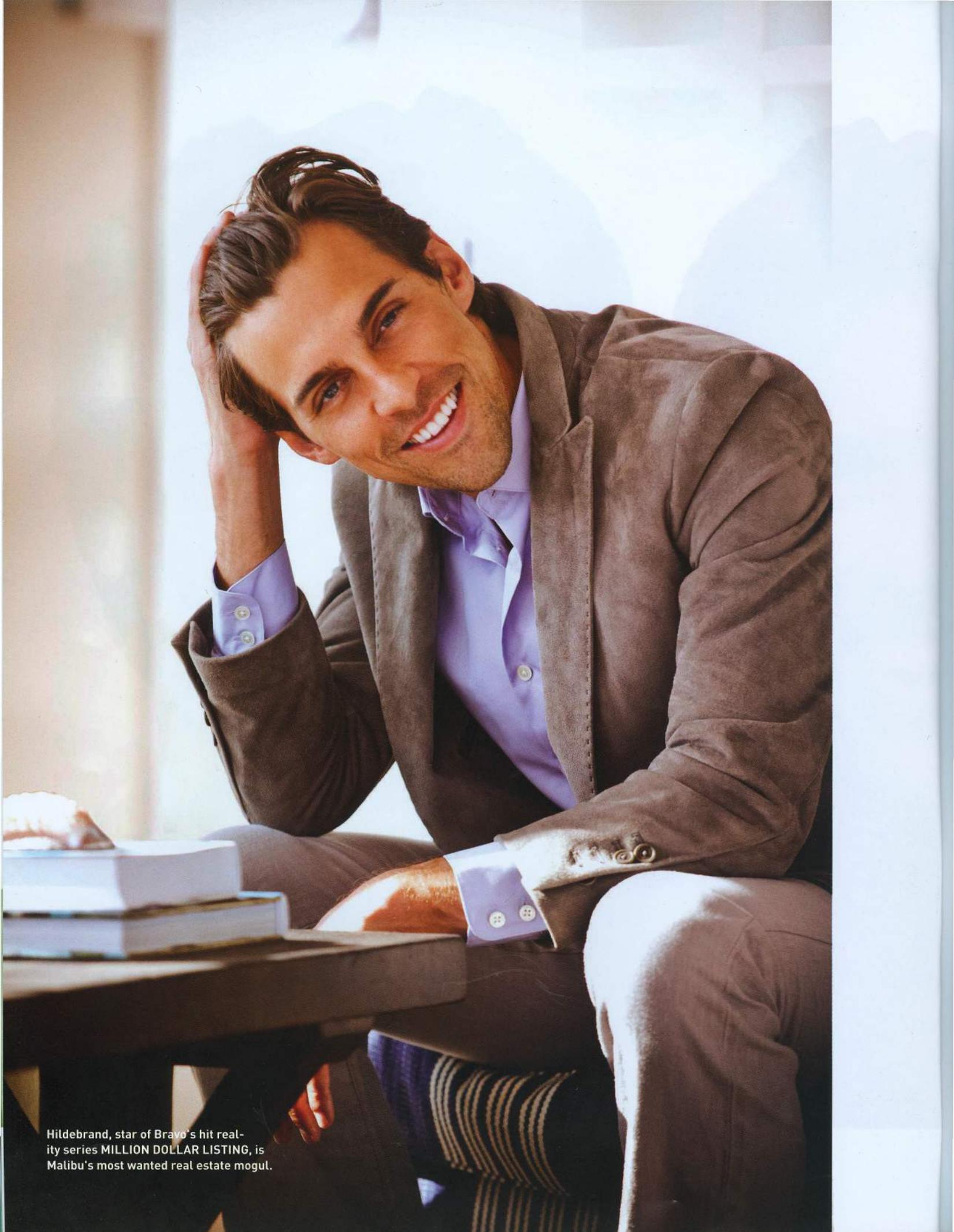


Asians & Friends Houston  
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church  
 Bering Omega Community Services  
 BP Pride, BP America Inc.  
 Carnes  
 Congressman Al Green  
 Covenant Church  
 Baptist Congregation  
 Dodge US Car Club  
 Elite Care 24hr Emergency Center  
 Fundacion Latino Americano Contra el SIDA  
 GLBT Pagan Pride  
 Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA  
 Harris County Green Party  
 Houston Dept of Health & Human Services  
 Houston Human Society  
 Houston Pride, JP Morgan Chase Bank  
 Houston Transgender Unity Committee  
 Houston Unitarian Universalist Network  
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 Legacy Community Health Services  
 Lesbians Over the Age of Fifty  
 Lonestar College System - LGBTQ Clubs  
 Mandell Place Civic Association  
 MD Anderson Cancer Center  
 Meteor  
 Montrose Veterinary Clinic  
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 Out & Allied: LGBT Employees at NASA  
 PFLAG  
 Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast  
 Resurrection Metropolitan Church  
 Rice University  
 Safe Affirming Family Environment  
 SEA Shell Employee Network (Shell Oil)  
 South Beach Night Club  
 The Diana Foundation  
 Tony's Corner Pocket  
 Unite Here  
 University of Houston: LGBT  
 Wells Fargo  
 Whole Foods Market



# MADISON HILDEBRAND





Hildebrand, star of Bravo's hit real-  
ity series **MILLION DOLLAR LISTING**, is  
Malibu's most wanted real estate mogul.

**Madison, you are probably best known for your show on Bravo TV, "Million Dollar Listing LA", tell us about the show and your experience creating it.**

The show's format has progressed over the seasons, but the gist of it is that it's a reality show following three different successful realtors in the Los Angeles luxury market. Viewers can follow the roller coaster market and be entertained by some of the crazy things we [realtors] deal with on a daily basis. I've learned so much about myself from being part of the show over the last few years...both professionally and personally. This new found TV/fame recognition has been a very unique experience to go through.

**What was your childhood like?**

My childhood consisted of a lot of moving. I was born in Arizona, and then moved around quite bit, including years in Austin and Dallas. I'd say my most memorable years of childhood were those when my family lived in San Diego. I remember spending lots of time with my brothers playing at the beach and in the water. I'm a true Scorpio and am happiest when I live close to water.

**I'M A TRUE SCORPIO AND AM HAPPIEST WHEN I LIVE CLOSE TO WATER.**

One day I made a list of the most asked questions, saved them and then wrote the book. It was written with the intent of helping people in all walks of life find what they are passionate about and how to create a successful career in that field.

**How did you first get involved in real estate?**

Real estate was always a passion for me. I think perhaps because of all of the moving around and changes in houses when I was growing up, there was something about it that was always intriguing. When I attended college in Malibu, I decided I needed to figure out a way to get the lifestyle I desired (which was to be my own boss), be passionate about what I was doing, and be able to set my own path. Real estate

seemed like a natural progression for me.

**You participated in the NOH8 campaign in the past, why was this important to you?**

The timing of the campaign was congruent with my actual 'coming out', so it really resonated with me. I felt it was even more liberating because I participated in the campaign on national TV, gaining amazing exposure for such an important message.

**In today's society of growing acceptance of the LGBT community, do you think Pride is relevant?**

Well, of course! We are fighting our way in an uphill battle. It's gained a lot of progress, but we still have many obstacles to conquer.

**Have you ever been to Texas?**

Yes, I lived in Texas for numerous years and my parents just recently moved out of the Fort Worth area.

**Who are your heroes/role models?**

My grandparents. They have accomplished so much in their life and have lived a long life. Most importantly, they found true love and really know how to embrace, respect and nurture it.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**

Not to be cliché but I do really think that "coming out" has been my proudest accomplishment. It's a really tough thing to do and is life changing not only for you but seemingly for everyone in your midst. It's been the biggest defining moment in my life thus far.

**What is next for you Madison?**

I have so much left to accomplish. I don't even think I've skimmed the surface. Stay tuned!

**Pride SuperSTAR** has come a long way from its modest (but still fabulous) beginnings. The city's premiere singing competition attracts some of the LGBT communities best voices — and some of our straight friends, of course. Week after week, finalists contend with rowdy crowds, discerning judges and crazy themes in the quest to be named the voice of Pride Houston. And the payoff is indeed sweet.

The winner earns prime slots during Pride Week, including a performance at the Pride Festival and an entry in the Parade. And that's not all. There's also recording time, a lavish cruise, cash prizes and bragging rights for an entire year. Past winners include Charlotte Simmons (2007), Dave Bermudez (2008), AJ Cabrera (2009), Brittni Jackson (2010) and Ashley Hennessy (2011). Several of them still regularly support the contest, making it indeed a family.

But it's not just the yearly champs who are winners. Pride SuperSTAR has produced and nurtured an impressive stable of singers who have gone on to success in Houston and far beyond.

Raquel Refuerzo (2009) fronts rock band the Shadow and tours internationally, with a recent outing in Hong Kong. Hoja Lopez (2009) was featured on season 2 of 'The Voice.' Linda Lambert is the vocalist for Spare Parts, a popular pop-rock outfit. Nina Lombardo is one of the LGBT community's most popular performers and hosts karaoke at JR's in Montrose. Wendy Taylor made the top 42 on 'American Idol' earlier this year. Freddy Cauley opened for rapper Chingo Bling at the House of Blues. And Lauren Miller has a weekly gig at Prohibition in the Galleria (and an increasingly popular online following, thanks to savvy covers).

Host Blake Hayes is new to the 2012 stage — an adorable mix of confidence and charisma. He's the afternoon drive on-air personality for MIX 96.5 FM and only arrived in Houston earlier this year. Hayes reported from red carpets and interviewed celebrities for various cable networks, including ET Canada and Comcast Cable.

Joey Guerra, music critic for the Houston Chronicle, returns as a judge and has been with the competition since the beginning. Joining him again is Ben Phoenix, producer for the Roula & Ryan Morning Show on 104.1 FM KRBE, on-air DJ and singer/songwriter. (He's the Simon Cowell of the group, with better T-shirts.) Tianna Hall joins the judges' table after guest-judging in 2011. She is a former titleholder of the Miss America Organization and offers motherly advice to every singer. Her fourth album, featuring the Mexico City Jazz Trio, is slated for release this year.

Contestants are whittled down via a mix of judges' scores and audience votes. The final three battle it out in a lavish finale, with the winner taking it all. Past performers and guests have included Grammy nominee Tamar Davis, 'American Idol' semifinalist Kady Malloy and Ren Patrick of L.A.-based pop group Stamps.

For more information on attending shows, contestants or auditions, visit [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org) or [facebook.com/pridehouston](http://facebook.com/pridehouston). Do you have that SuperSTAR quality? Come on. We dare you.

Article by Joey Guerra



# FRIENDS OF PRIDE

By becoming a Celebration Underwriter you can support the hundreds of organizations offering LGBT-related resources to promote their cause, recruit volunteers and raise awareness around issues facing the community.

Pride Houston relies on funding from corporate sponsorships, grants, entry fees and the [Friends of Pride program](#) in order to ensure accessibility to organizations in our community. Without assistance, the entry fees for the parade and festival would rise to high for nonprofits and other participants.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

01. Best view of the Parade from your grandstand bleacher seat
02. Open bar with Top Shelf Liquor
03. Delicious Hors D' Oevres
04. Private Restrooms with Air Conditioning
05. Meet and greet with Celebrity Grand Marshal
06. Private Parking

Individual tickets start at \$100 with options for larger packages. Prices will go up on the day of the Celebration so get yours **TODAY!**

All Friends of Pride ticket holders must be over the age of 21 to enter.

[pridehouston.org/give/fop](http://pridehouston.org/give/fop)