

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Questioning/Queer+ History Month

LGBTQ+

Oct.
1-31

Marsha P. Johnson

Marsha P. Johnson (1945 – 1992) was an American LGBTQ+ activist and prominent figure in the Stonewall Uprising of 1969. A founding member of the Gay Liberation Front, Johnson co-founded the activist group Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries with friend Sylvia Rivera. In 1970, Johnson and Rivera established STAR House, a shelter for homeless LGBTQ+ youth and, on the first anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, Johnson marched in the first Gay Pride rally, then called Christopher Street Liberation Day. In the 1980s, Johnson was also an AIDS activist with ACT UP.

Known as the “mayor of Christopher Street” in Greenwich Village, Johnson was active in the New York City art scene, modeling for Andy Warhol and appearing in the drag performance troupe Hot Peaches. American drag queen and TV personality RuPaul cites Johnson as an inspiration, describing Marsha as “the true Drag Mother.” In 2019, Johnson became one of the first 50 American “pioneers, trailblazers, and heroes” included on the National LGBTQ+ Wall of Honor at the Stonewall Inn. It is the first U.S. national monument dedicated to LGBTQ+ rights and history.



NYSUT, a statewide union of professionals, proudly supports equal rights for all people, a non-discriminatory workplace and non-discrimination based on gender identity and expression. NYSUT's goal is that union members feel safe and welcome in their environment. For more on the contributions of LGBTQ individuals, visit nysut.org.