

Icons

Alan Turing

Turing was a British Mathematician and scientist, and he played a key role in breaking the code for the Nazi Enigma machine in WW2. This went down in history as assisting in the downfall of Adolf Hitler. He was arrested in the 1950s for gross indecency, after admitting he had relations with a man. He was chemically castrated and died in 1954 from cyanide poisoning. In 2013 he received a Royal Pardon and was recognised for his amazing contribution to the war effort.

James Baldwin

James Baldwin was an American writer and his first book (a semi-autobiographical novel) 'Go Tell it to the Mountain' was published in 1953. But it was his novel the following year which was ground-breaking for the main character being a gay man - Giovanni's Room. Baldwin was well known for his writing with LGBTQ and African-American characters.

Icons

Christine Jorgensen

Named George at birth, Christine said she felt like a woman stuck in a man's body. Christine travelled to Europe for hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery, after reading about a doctor in Copenhagen who was carrying out gender therapy. Christine returned to the US as a woman and became an instant celebrity. The public was fascinated by her transformation.

Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin was openly gay and would talk about how important it was to fight for LGBTQ rights. Prior to this he was a civil rights campaigner, and it was he who organised the March on Washington for fair treatment and equal opportunities for Black Americans, with Martin Luther King JR in 1963.

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Marsha P Johnson

Although Marsha did not officially identify as transgender, she is considered a transgender pioneer. Marsha was a self-identified transvestite, drag performer and sex worker. After the Stonewall riots in 1969 Marsha became a leader in the community and helped transgender youth after opening the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries organisation.

Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King is most famous for competing in professional tennis. From 1966 through to 1975 she earned 39 Grand Slam titles. In 1981 Billie Jean was outed as a lesbian. At the time her publicists wanted her to deny the claim, however Billie Jean confirmed she was instead. This made Billie Jean King the first openly gay athlete. In 1973 Billie Jean competed in the famous Battle of the Sexes match against Bobby Riggs and won in straight sets. She won \$100,000, however won more than this by beating him. Bobby Riggs claimed women's tennis was so inferior to men's that even at his age he could beat the top female players. Billie Jean undertook the challenge to disprove his accusations.

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Harvey Milk

Harvey Milk was a prominent LGBTQ activist. In 1977 he was one of the first openly gay politicians to be elected in US History. In the City of San Francisco he helped to introduce the city's first LGBTQ+ rights ordinance which banned discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on public preference. Harvey Milk was assassinated in 1978 by a disgruntled former city supervisor named Dan White.

Gilbert Baker – created the gay pride flag

Gilbert Baker was the creator of the Pride Flag. It was Harvey Milk who asked him to make a symbol that would represent gay pride. Gilbert took his inspiration from the US flag and hand made a rainbow flag using specific colours to represent what was important to the community. 25th of June 1978 saw the Flags Debut for Gay Pride Day in San Francisco.

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Larry Kramer

Kramer created the organisation, Gay Men's Health Crisis. This was a group devoted to supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS. In 1981 he was at the forefront of bringing attention to the disease that men were facing across the US

Ru Paul

Ru Paul was possibly the most famous Drag Queen in the 1990's. He was an entertainer whose break came from the hit single "Supermodel (You Better Work)." Supermodel Ru Paul starred in a number of films, although currently most notably known for the hit series 'Ru Paul's Drag Race'. This was a huge hit with the LGBTQ+ community

Oscar Wilde

Wilde was a novelist and poet and critic. He was known in the Victorian era for being one of the greatest playwrights. He wrote numerous poems and short stories as well as nine plays. His novel The Picture of Dorian Gray has been adapted for screen over 30 times. The Importance of Being Earnest being one of his more well known of plays. It was his homosexual relationship with the son of an aristocrat that saw him tried and imprisoned for 2 years. He died 3 years following his release.

Icons

Allan Horsfall

Allan Horsfall was a member of the Homosexual Law Reform Society and a gay activist. In 1967 he helped to bring about the decriminalisation of male homosexual activity. It was this impactful law reform that saw him as being one of the founders of the gay movement and community.

Leonard Matlovich

Matlovich was an American War Veteran. A Technical Sergeant. He purposely outed himself to the military while in service to fight their ban on gays in service. He was a recipient of the medals the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Along side Harvey Milk, Matlovich was the best known openly gay man in the USA in the 1970's.

Elton John

Elton John (real name Reg Dwight) is a singer, composer, and brilliant pianist. He has sold over 300 million records worldwide, making him one of the 20th century's biggest music icons and a huge international star. He composed the music for Broadway musical Billy Elliot. Some of his best known tunes include I'm still standing, Candle in the Wind, Rocket Man, Tiny Dancer, Bennie and the Jets, Saturday Night's Alright and many more. He was also famous for his iconic sparkly, feathered, vibrant and extravagant outfits often paired with oversized glasses to match.