



MEMPHIS PRIDE
LIVE AND IN COLOR 2.0

PRIDE GUIDE 2021



MID SOUTH
PRIDE

midsouthpride.org



GRAND MARSHAL'S GRAND MARSHAL'S

DR SHAWN HAYDEN

Shawn J Hayden Md



- Works at Midtown Internal Medicine, Methodist Healthcare
- Worked COVID Clinic for past year at Methodist Covid Clinic
Also on Methodist Covid Task Force
- Medical Director at Friends for Life and The Corner PrEP Clinic
- Lives in Midtown Memphis for 25 years. Originally Born in Massachusetts and raised in Georgia
- Engaged to Connor Paris.
- One pup (Rhodesian Ridgeback) Perry
- Sits on the boards of FFL, Theatre Memphis, Multiple committees for Brooks Museum, Chair of Peer Review for Methodist Outpatient Clinics
- Schools: Emory University and Medical College of Georgia



GRAND MARSHALLS
GRAND MA



ELIJAH TOWNSEND

Elijah Townsend has always **LIVE OUT LOUD!**

He is a native Memphian and graduate of Frayser High School. As a child he discovered his passion and connection with food as a way to deal with the difficulties of growing up LGBTIQA. After high school he attended Rust College in Holly Springs, MS majoring in musical theater. Working for an insurance company in Nashville, TN his oath to food was ignited by his then boss Teresa Campbell. Under the guidance of Chef Penelope Pfunker and Wade Hartsfield Chef Eli Townsend was ready to serve his community through his passion and love of food. He is two time nominated People's Choice for Focus MidSouth and recipient of the distinguished honor of the urban 40 under 40. He supports organizations such as *Mid-South Pride*, *OUTMemphis*, *The Haven*, *Caritas Village*, *Artup*, and *Memphis Black Artist Alliance*. He is the current President - Elect of the Downtown Neighborhood Association.





AUBREY OMBRE



Hello my name is Aubrey ombre I am at 31 year old trans woman. I have been doing drag shows for 10 years going on 11, I have been an activist since 2003, I have also been a karaoke hostess and DJ. I have helped out with numerous charities and have mentored a lot of the Next Generation that looks up to me. I'm also a former Miss Dru's place, a former Miss Mid-South Pride, I am also your current Miss Gay Memphis. My journey started back in October 15th 2010 when I first stepped on the scene I knew nothing about clubs, drag or the lgbtq. I was pretty much a book worm I stayed home and studied and work and went to school. My mom and dad are Christian and strong in their beliefs and somehow have life planned out for me to live in their Shadows but thankfully it did not work out like but that because I became someone greater so I had my first shows in 2010 and happy climbing my way to the top every since. Is currently 2021 and I will continue being humble and doing for others in my community and continuing giving everyone hope and making people Smile as I do for myself.



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XPOPride

CHINESE CONNECTION DUB EMBASSY

Chinese Connection Dub Embassy has a wild array of musical backgrounds from Classical, R&B,Jazz and Gospel. Omar (Lead Vocals/Bassist) and Donnon "One Drop" (Drummer/Vocals) hold the riddim down that will take you to another zone of mental euphoria & a groove that you'll feel deep in your soul. Joseph (I-Dae Han) (Keyboardist/Vocals) Glenn Miller(Guitarist) and David "Dutch"(Guitarist/Vocals) bringing smooth melodies that that will leave you speechless.They have been called one of the hardest working Reggae artists in the Mid-South because of their determination to bring unity back to Reggae Music as a whole, especially in a time that glorifies the negative more that positive. In 2013 they went from just another Reggae band to a "Force to be Reckoned With" when they started to reach their music out to the masses with heavy amounts of networking and their unwillingness to stop growing in music, life, and spirit. They believe the saying "hard work pays off" because, since the rise of the band in 2010 to 2016, their accolades have been just, with such opportunities playing countless amounts of Festivals such as BristerFest,Memphis Electronic Music Festival, Memphis Music & Heritage Festival,Plant Based Food Festival, River Arts Fest, In A Hurry Blues Festival, Flux Festival, Wakarusa Fest, Springfield HempFest,Cooper Young Fest,Ocean Springs May Fest and many more. Since the release of their first LP "The Firm Foundation" released the Spring of 2013 and Cover series called "Farmers Market Chronicles" coming shortly after, CCDE has never been more motivated to reach the masses with their message of truth and rights/love throughout the world.



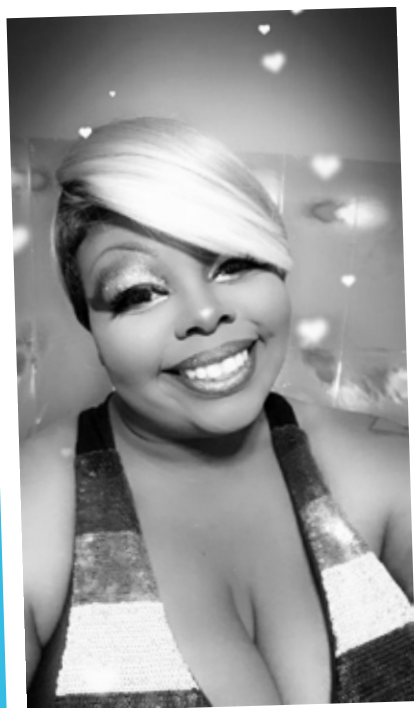
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SHADOW KAT

Hello I am The Krazy Kitty Meow Meow known as Shadow Kat.

I'm a 32yr old Drag Artist located in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I've been doing drag since July of 2018.

You can always find me via the following Social Media Sites



Shadowkat Drag



@Shadow.kat88



shadow.kat8288



My Cash Handles

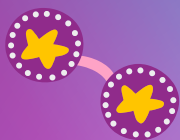
Cashapp: \$shadow8288

Venmo: @shadow_8288



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WILL RYDER

So, who is Will Ryder? Will Ryder has been performing for 13 years now in his home town of Memphis, Tennessee. He is the longest consecutive performing Drag King in Memphis. Over his career he has won a plethora of titles and doesn't plan to stop any time soon. He is a former Mister Mid-South Pride and is excited to be back for his 11th year working with Memphis Pride. This year he hopes you enjoy the new platform of virtual connections and entertainment. Will is very thankful for your continued support not only for himself but for Memphis Pride.



Have fun, be safe, wash your hands and be PROUD!!!

LOVE



JUSTIN ALLEN TATE

Justin Allen Tate (Mr. Mid-South Pride 2020) returns to the Memphis stage after recently being named the 2019 Broadway World Regional Best Actor in a Musical for his performance of Lola in Kinky Boots at POTS. National Broadway Tour Credits include : Smokey Joe's Cafe, Flashdance & Cirque Dreams. Favorite Regional Credits include : Violet, The Legend of Georgia McBride and Memphis the Musical. He is a three time Ostrander Award Nominee. Justin has been a Lead Featured Vocalist for Royal Caribbean International and Holland America Line for five years. A Background Vocalist for Blake Shelton, Gene Simmons of KISS and K. Michelle. T.V. Appearances: Wedding at Graceland (Hallmark), The Deuce (HBO), ELLEN (NBC) & Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve, twice . He is a former four year member of the USO Show Troupe, entertaining our military and their families around the world including tours in Hawaii & South Korea. He is a graduate of the American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York City. And again, most of honored to serve a your King of Mid-South Pride 2020. www.justinallentate.com

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A life well planned can offer each of us – any of us –

THE POWER TO GIVE.

The causes that inspire you are as unique as the life you lead. We all live and give differently, but the support of the right financial partner has the power to multiply generosity. It's our privilege to help people make an impact – and to make our own.

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Originally from Texas, Keleigh Klarke has been a resident of Memphis, TN since 2000 and a Memphis' entertainer since 2001, marking 20 years in the industry this year. Over that 20 years, Keleigh been a cast member for J-Wags, Metro Nightclub, Backstreet Memphis, Senses Memphis, Spectrum Memphis, and Dru's Bar. Keleigh has also been featured at events at The Brooks Museum of Art, The Bartlett Performing Arts Center, The Memphis Zoo, The Memphis Botanic Gardens, and in the Starlight Lounge at the Beverly Hilton Hotel for the Advocate Magazine. Keleigh is a Former Miss Queen of Memphis, Miss River City, Miss Lady Memphis, and Queen Pegasus XIV. As Queen Pegasus XIV, Keleigh and "King Pegasus XIV" Brandon Leslie, along with the Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis, raised \$50,000 for the Metamorphosis Project of Memphis. Keleigh is the co-promoter of Beverly Hills Pageantry along with Buddy Hart. Keleigh and Buddy are also co-promoters of Miss Gay Tennessee, USofA, Miss Gay Tennessee USofA at Large, and Miss Gay Tennessee USofA Classic. While Keleigh has cut back on performing since 2020, you can still catch her entertaining at Dru's Bar and Atomic Rose.



Cashapp: \$kklarke105

KELEIGH KLARKE





ANGELIQUE

Angelique, former Atomic Angel for Atomic Rose Memphis. This biography is to talk about myself but mainly to thank one amazing person for changing my life.

I've always enjoyed glamour and dancing, growing up I always dreamed of being able to perform for cheering crowds. After lots of practice, long trips to Nashville and getting booted off that one show... there she was. Sitting at the corner of the stage, sipping on her cocktail and handing me a dollar, was the one person who gave me the one chance I needed.

Thanks to her, my dream of being able to perform became a reality and a huge part of my life. I was able to perform for a living, travel and work with Voss Events. Most importantly, I was able to move to a bigger city to continue growing as an entertainer. Thanks to the chance she gave me on November 2, 2019, I was able to join a cast at a wonderful bar, meet other amazing entertainers who I will always cherish and have a platform to learn and grow from. Thanks to Holly Walnutz, Memphis will always have a special place in my heart.

- Angelique Diamond Doll

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IN MEMPHIS OR THE MID-SOUTH

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LUNA LUELLA



Hello all my name is Luna Luella! I have been an entertainer in the city of Memphis for 3 years and some odd months and let me tell you it has been a journey. My very first time I stepped on stage was March 11th 2017 at Drus Place. I honestly don't know how I was able to muster up the courage to do it, I was beyond shy, introverted, and had terrible stage fright but ain't pushed myself to try something I never thought I would do. Back then I always thought to myself that I would be much of anything, I was in a really bad place in my life. I was depressed amongst other things, my mental state was held on only by a thin string. I was a lost soul not knowing how and what I was going to do with my life, at the time I really didn't care for my own well being. To my surprise I did something crazy and kept doing it over and over and over, I still don't know what pushed me to keep climbing but drag helped me change, a change I didn't know was a possibility. Over time it was like this 'character' I created found me in a dark and deep corner of my mind, fighting to find me and when she did she pulled me up and led me through the darkness and fought the monsters I had for so long. She showed me what I can become and what I am, Luna wasn't just a character she was me....I became confident, full of life and joy. I knew what I wanted out of my life, I wanted to be happy and finally started to love myself. After awhile of performing I was able to achieve a lot of goals I didn't know I had. I elevated myself as a performer and was able to do amazing things. I have performed on many platforms. I got to perform at Rhodes College, University of Memphis for the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, performing at pride events in Tupelo and Oxford, and got to step on different stages throughout Memphis and in different states. One goal I accomplished was performing at Spectrum on a Saturday, it was meaningful because I had gone to shows for years before I even thought about doing drag. I have been able to learn a lot by competing in pageants, my favorite being Miss Mid-South Pride, which I hope to hold one day. I have met so many beautiful souls through the years and made so many wonderful close friends. My family has also been very supportive of me and have been encouraging as I go through my life, I can't thank them enough for being there for me. I look forward to my future not only as an entertainer but as a person, I still have so much to learn and so much to do. Here is to a beautiful future!

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DEMONICA



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BELLA DUBALLE



Thanks for your inspiration.

Great change starts with small steps.
We're happy to support Mid-South Pride
for the strides it is making to change
the world for the better. We appreciate
all Mid-South Pride has done for its
community and ours.



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JR STONE



Richard Mancell "aka" JR Stone is an American modern dancer and choreographer his strong dramatic style can be seen all over the Memphis and local areas in Tennessee. His multiracial casting has been infused thorough out the LGBTQ community. A force of nature who performs all over the country. He has been on the Memphis Gay Pride Board for 5 years and entertained at several pride parades and events all over. He demonstrates what pride stands for in that he promotes self affirmation, dignity, equality, and increased awareness to the LGBTQ people as a social group. He cant be missed with his charismatic personality and good looks. He has shown that pride is beautiful and not something to shame but to kill the social stigma on the predominant outlook that is human rights. He has been in the entertainment industry for 7 plus years, while always being a shinning example and hand to his community. He is from a small town that very few would even know exists that small town made him grow up in silence that he is now lobbing for all kids to have the strength to speak their truth. You will never find a person with a bigger heart than he. He is an amazing friend, son, and brother to anyone who needs him. He comes from a down home amazing southern family that always stood and still stands behind him today. His drag family can been seen far and wide they are thick as blood and would move mountains for each other. To list all the benefit shows and programs he has headed up or participates in along with raising money for countless non-profits and people in need would take up a whole magazine. His most favorite things in life is his Gir his doggie he travels everywhere with his fur baby. He is more than just an outstanding role model for his 4 nieces and nephew. He has also built a character that both his sisters strive to achieve. He is no less than a true super hero..





RAVEN KELLY

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Legal advocate. Pride grand marshal. Leading donor.
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FREAKNASTY



Phillis Lewis was born in Chicago but raised in Memphis and a graduate of the University of Memphis with a B.A. in Criminal Justice & Criminology. Phillis comes with years of experience not only working with the LGBTQ+ Community but has many years of experience in case management, grant monitoring, trauma-informed care, housing monitoring, and facilitation. Beginning her career at the Shelby County District Attorney's Office where she worked there for almost 9 years. She is the current President of the Memphis/Shelby Domestic & Sexual Violence Council, Committee Member for the Inclusivity Committee for Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence, and LGBTQ Representative/Vice-Chair for the Governing Council for the Memphis/Shelby County Homeless Consortium. Phillis is the former Vice-President of Mid-South Pride which provides a yearly festival for the LGBTQ+ Community that is diverse, inclusive, and community-friendly to over 25,000 attendees. As the CEO of Love Doesn't Hurt, Phillis Lewis works to help provide emergency services to victims of crime in the LGBTQ+ community, addressing barriers this population faces while seeking social services, and helping to educate providers and the community to practice cultural humility.





"BREEZE"

Born and raised in Memphis, I like to think of myself as a True Memphis Queen. I've been performing as "Breeze" for a little over a year. My performance style is very diverse. I love to perform fun songs! I perform songs that tell stories and offer moments for captivating choreography. Having fun on that stage is always the goal. I started doing drag years ago, but who Breeze is today gradually happened over the years. I've always loved performing from early in life. I loved drag and had to get on the stage. I didn't know where to start, but I started!!!! It was a bit discouraging at first, but I kept taking baby steps into drag. I was asked by a very well-known drag queen if I would be in her show. I graciously accepted and we got to work. That show lit a fire in Breeze and I started performing. It was a dream come true. I can't wait to grow and explore my character more. I've been so grateful for all these amazing opportunities and I can't wait for more.



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IRIS LEFLEUR



Iris Lefleur (Joseph Grant) has been performing for the Memphis community since 2009. Iris has spent his drag career devoting his talents to giving back to our community. Performing in and organizing more fundraisers and benefits than he (or she can count). Serving with groups like Mystic Krewe of Pegasus, Friends of Georges, Operation Stand Up, Mid-South Pride as well as benefits created to help so many individuals in our extended Memphis family. Currently the show director at Dru's Bar, Iris has been apart of Backstreet, Metro, Crossroads and Spectrum. Iris is committed to making Memphis a better place and over the years has become a fierce performer and mentor. Constantly working to improve his craft Iris and Joey strive to push the boundaries of performance and serve as an example both in and out of drag.





MACC ONNER

Alex Carpenter has been an active member of the Memphis Queer community for 13+ years, making her debut as drag king Macc Onner at Dru's Place in 2011. A proud representative of the Coxxx family, Macc had the honor of serving as Mr. Misster Memphis 2015 and Mister Mid-South Pride 2016. They have since joined Friends of George's and Cazateatro Bilingual Theatre Group for performances at Evergreen Theatre, TheatreWorks on the Square, and other venues throughout our artful city. Though theatre and drag shows have changed drastically during the pandemic, Macc has not shied away from opportunities to explore new performance platforms. From Zoom improv shows, to YouTube plays, to Facebook Live family Pajama Parties complete with Dr. Seuss raps, quarantine has only stoked their creativity. They're excited to join fabulous friends and family on screen for another virtual Memphis Pride Fest.

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MOTH MOTH MOTH

Powerful giant insect space witch clown magical librarian from an alternate dimension currently possessing the body of a skinny art teacher.



BU\$TED

Jordan Scott is a 23 year old entertainer professionally known as Bu\$ted. Bu\$ted comes to us from the legendary Arkansas drag scene & has performed all over the country. Bu\$ted has left a mark on female impersonation & the art-form of drag itself.



CASHAPP: \$jsco33





TORI WHODAT

Tori WhoDat has rightfully earned the spotlight of the Memphis music scene and is destined to be a household name. This young creative was once classified as a Hip-Hop artist but has transformed into an artist that can successfully transcend genres.

Tori is truly paving her own lane. She began writing reflective lyrics before the age of fifteen that eventually deemed her the outcast of a blue collar, devout Christian home. These real accounts of her experiences and associated emotions have been shared and appreciated by the LGBTQ community as well as given a different perspective to others. Having moved from New Orleans to Memphis and later Chicago and Baltimore, the heart of this female lyricist is filled with stories of skeletons in the closet, struggles with society and the rollercoaster ride that comes along with grinding and sacrificing for your dreams.

On top of being an incredibly talented recording studio artist, Tori's stage presence has gained much attention and captivated the hearts of many fans and spectators. She began gigging professionally in 2012, with notable performances at A3C Festival, SXSW, Mid-South Pride, Atlanta Pride, Chicago Pride, Capital Pride, Pensacola Pride, Sundance Film Festival, Brooklyn Bowl, 101.9 KISS FM's KISS Concert and the world famous Apollo Theatre along with opening sets for Juicy J, Machine Gun Kelly, B.o.B., SoMo, Rae Sremmurd, Flo Rida, Charlie Puth, Meghan Trainor, Riff Raff, Mike Stud, Al Kapone, Lil Wyte, Da Mafix 6ix, Dizzy Wright and many more. Tori WhoDat's electric energy fills the room and will be an experience you will not forget.



STANISHA BONET DUPRESS



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ALEX WALLS

Alejandro Paredes aka Alex Walls has been performing in and around Memphis since 2015, the year he came from Venezuela. His repertoire includes many popular latinamerican songs, usually accompanied with the guitar, but most recently with the Ukulele. He also plays many English songs, mainly from the 50s and 60s. He has had the opportunity to play in many venues and events including the Graceland Guesthouse, the Hu Hotel, Dixon Galleries, Crosstown Concourse, Theater Memphis, The Health and Sciences park, The Evergreen Theater and was also a special guest at the 2018 Memphis Blues Society Challenge. This year he performs for the first time for the Mid South Pride Festival, thanks to his connection to Friends of George's, with whom he has collaborated many times in the past as a light operator. You can follow him on Facebook or Instagram at **@AlexWallsMemphis**

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BRENDA NEWPORT

Brenda Newport is the addiction you just can't quit! She is a queen who's got it going on! She's got a beautiful face and a campy, can-do attitude to go with it. She's sexy with a side of stupid, but most of all, she's always here for a good time. So, make sure to catch her at any of local drag bars here in Memphis, TN.



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