



For All Womankind

BOSTON // For the Past 14 Years, The Boston Dyke March Has Remained Committed to Offering a Non-Commercial, Fundamentally Grass-Roots Alternative to Boston's Pride Celebration

BY WILLIAM HENDERSON

The Boston Dyke March, say event organizers, is for everyone.

And then they give a list that is equal parts inclusive and innovative: lesbians, dykes, lesbians of color, boychicks, tomboys, grrrls, bois, lesbian moms, Asian dykes, lesbianas, femmes, butches, androgs, queer women, gay girls, womanists, transmen, fat dykes, genderqueer dykes, sorority girls with pearls who are sleeping together, rugby dykes, dykes on bikes, lesbian crones, African American lesbians, rural dykes, goddesses, poly girls, Amazons, hippy chicks, lipstick lesbians, lesbian Avengers, dykes in wheelchairs, wise old lesbians, softball dykes, leather dykes, babydykes, and, of course, the ubiquitous

you, as in you dear reader.

Which wasn't always the case.

Initially, Dyke Marches were organized to increase lesbian visibility and activism, but have grown to include all women-loving-women, regardless of labels. That means, bisexuals, intersex persons and transgender women, you're more than welcome at Dyke March 2008, where you'll find, according to event organizers, an "ever-improving venue for influential speakers and artists, high-quality performance, and a growing number of community-based organizations."

The Dyke March Committee is all volunteers. They meet each week to organize the event and ensure that attendees go home with something to sing about. But on the day of the march, volunteers are needed to help set-up the stage, manage the crowd (what the dykes lovingly call "crowd marshalling"), distribute signs (for instance, "Pussy Power" and "We Heart Girls," two of our favorites from last year), distribute flyers, talk up the after-party (this year, as always, organized by Kristen Porter) lead chants on a megaphone, hand out stickers, fly panties on a stick (we're sort of lost with this one), meet hot girls (or women, womyn, girlz, ladies, femmes, et cetera, depending on your personal preference) sign on for making noise (drums and whistles are two popular instruments year after year) and, afterward, pick up trash (of course, you could pick up said hot girl at the same time, so don't knock it 'til you've tried it).

This year's entertainment include the all-women Boston-based band paying the

rhythms of the African Diaspora, Zili Misik and Lyndell Montgomery, with Faith Soloway serving as emcee.

An interactive web-based community (which translates into flesh-and-blood encounters, as well, such as the swan song for Dyke Night at Toast, on April 25) has grown up around the Dyke March. At bostondykemarch.com, you can interact with many of the women you'll meet at the march, plan events (or simply plan on attending events planned by other members, such as speed dating nights, a queer prom, a variety show, a silent auction, a bake sale, or a night to write letters for a specific political cause).

The Dyke March meet-up group is also a place to meet new people, make new friends, find new romance (again with the new romance!) organizing, politicizing, socializing and staying tuned in.

This year's event, promises organizers, will be "bigger and better than ever before," and with what the Dyke March committee has created in previous years, we're excited to see just what's in store for us. (At the time of the New England Pride Guide print deadline, the final roster of speakers and events around the Dyke March had not been finalized.)

"Our top priority is to provide a dynamic and welcoming space for participants of all sexualities, genders, races, ages, ethnicities, sizes, economic backgrounds, and physical abilities," say event organizers. "We strive to create a place where political and social change can be expressed and inspired." //

The Boston Dyke March takes place on Friday, June 13 starting at 6 p.m. For more information go to www.bostondykemarch.com.