

For Immediate Release

February 26, 2009



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Benefit Marks 12th Anniversary

The East Point Possums announce location, performers and other information for 12th Anniversary Drag Show, which will benefit Atlanta Pride.

EAST POINT, GA- The East Point Possums organization announced today that their 12th anniversary show would be held on Saturday, June 20th, 2009 from 8-11p.

The location for this year's event will once again be in downtown East Point, GA.

East Point Possum spokesperson and co-founder, John Jeffrey said of the location, "Even though we often move event sites from year to year, it is important for us to keep it in downtown East Point. Returning again this year is away to show our support for the downtown businesses that are so supportive of the yearly benefit." He added, "The fans really love the outdoor setting and we know this location gives us much needed space for the anticipated attendance. With Atlanta Pride as our beneficiary this year, we expect a record turnout!"

The full event lineup will be announced in Mid-May, but is already shaping up to be an impressive cast! The program will feature show organizers, The East Point Possums, as well as guests from Drag-O-Rama; perennial favorites, Ginny Tonic – a founding member of the Armorettes, and Alexandria Martin, along with the indomitable Armorette, Wild Cherry Sucrette; the East Point Villagers, and several other crowd favorites from year's past as well as some newcomers – and as always with this entertaining event, a few surprises will be in store!

Possums Matriarch and co-founder, Rick Westbrook said of the event, "We are so excited when this event comes around each year. We have people from all over the region come out for the show – it really is a great showcase for the inclusive community we have in East Point." He also noted, "This year, we are especially excited to have Atlanta Pride involved, and also with this year being the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, it seems appropriate to commemorate the week of the occasion with our little ole show. The new fall date for the Pride Festival allows this fundraiser an opportunity to offer entertaining programming during June, when folks are looking for something fun to do for Pride." "We couldn't be more pleased or *proud* to be involved," he added with a wink.

East Point Possums co-founder, Chesley Thurman stated, "This is truly a community event. The show is designed so that every penny of the proceeds goes to benefit Atlanta Pride. Both Atlanta Pride and the East Point Possums volunteers will work to get everything donated - from the stage to signage and everything in between. Sponsors offset other costs, performers donate their time, and all the tips are pooled and given directly to Atlanta Pride." Thurman continued, "We really hope that we have more people than ever. Atlanta Pride is a great cause that everyone is familiar with, and it is an easy way to be supportive – just bring a bunch of dollar bills and have a good time with your friends!"

Atlanta Pride Events Manager, J. Sheffield said, "The Atlanta Pride Committee has been familiar with the East Point Possums show for many years, and in fact, many on the Committee have been long-time individual supporters. So we were thrilled when the Possums approached us about selecting Atlanta Pride as the 2009 beneficiary." Sheffield added, "This is the kind of community event that is the cornerstone of Atlanta Pride. We serve the community, but in order for us to do that effectively, we need the community to support us, and this partnership does so in such a fun and entertaining way. We hope everyone comes out for this great event!"

There is plenty of free parking in the downtown East Point area, and the event takes place only 2 blocks from the East Point MARTA station. You can get on the south line, and get off at the East Point station and take a short walk to the event site.

Some seating will be provided, but lawn chairs are recommended. Drink tickets for the bar will be sold on site.

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About the Atlanta Pride Committee: The main purpose of the APC is to promote unity, visibility and self-esteem among lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons and to promote a positive image in the Atlanta area and throughout the Southeastern United States through community activities and services.

The main mission of the APC is to provide lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons with cultural and educational programs and activities which enhance mental and physical health, provide social support, and foster an awareness of the past and present contributions of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons, through community activities and services, including an annual Pride event.

About East Point Possums: This volunteer group was started by 4 friends from East Point, GA. They began performing in drag in 1998 rather informally, but as their supporters grew they saw it as a way to raise money for their favorite charities. For the past eleven years, they raised tens of thousands of dollars. After more than a decade they are responsible for one of the most well attended drag shows in the southeast. One of the 4 founding members passed away in 2004, and now the group performs in his honor, continuing the legacy of supporting worthy local nonprofits.

For more information about the Atlanta Pride Committee, please visit: www.atlantapride.org
For more information about The East Point Possums, please visit: www.eastpointpossums.com