

News from Gay Amsterdam

Newsletter for the media: July through November 2011

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Amsterdam is one of the most attractive cities in Europe for gays and lesbians. The city with the first Gay Monument and the first same-sex marriage in the world. Nowhere else can one find more gay attractions per square metre than in the centre of Amsterdam. So it is no wonder that Amsterdam is so popular with gay visitors.

In this newsletter you will find a summary of the new gay bars that will be opening and of the gay events taking place in the next six months. Visitors wanting more information about gay Amsterdam, cultural events and things to do can go to www.amsterdam4gays.com, www.gayamsterdam.com, www.gaytic.nl and www.iamsterdam.com/visiting

Spectacular photos of gay Amsterdam on Amsterdam Mediabank

The Mediabank of the Amsterdam Tourism & Convention Board (ATCB) has been online since March 2011. On the website there are many pictures of gay and lesbian Amsterdam, especially of the Amsterdam Gay Pride and the Canal Parade. These high-resolution images are available to the media free of charge. Go to the Mediabank's website at <http://mediabank.atcb.nl>



Reguliersdwarstraat – the street back at the centre of the city's gay scene

Amsterdam's gay scene – along with the street at its centre, Reguliersdwarstraat – is rapidly reviving after experiencing a turbulent year. Bar Soho has already re-opened, and several other well-known nightspots will re-open on July 21 with a big party: Havana (under the same name), Ludwig II (formerly April) and Eve (formerly Arc). That means this year's Gay Pride – from July 30 till August 7 - will be ringing in a newly revitalized gay scene in Amsterdam.

Theme of Amsterdam Gay Pride is 'All Together Now'

Amsterdam Gay Pride 2011 will take place from 30 July through 7 August 2011 and the theme is 'All Together Now'. The event will be more international than ever before. Here, gays and straights of all nationalities, ages, and religious and cultural backgrounds come together to celebrate the enriching contribution to society by the gay and lesbian community. Many sporting and cultural events as well as festivities will be organised during Gay Pride. The highlight of Gay Pride will once again be the world



famous canal parade of barges and boats on Saturday, 6 August, which is expected to draw half a million visitors. What started with just a few barges has become the largest event in Amsterdam as around 80 barges cruise down Prinsengracht. This will be the 16th edition of Amsterdam Gay Pride and it will offer plenty of festivities, such as street parties, sports matches and a film festival. Street parties will take place primarily on the Amstel (between Muntplein and Halvemaansteeg), Reguliersdwarstraat, Zeedijk, and on and around Westermarkt. On Sunday, 7 August, there will be a closing ceremony with many popular artists performing at Rembrandtplein starting at 2 p.m. till 11 p.m. For more information: www.weareproud.nl

Uniformed Armed Forces personnel to sail in Gay Pride: A world first!

The Dutch Armed Forces will be sailing in Amsterdam's Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, 6 August 2011, marking the first time ever that uniformed military personnel will be participating in a Gay Pride event anywhere in the world. The Armed Forces boat is the result of an initiative by *Stichting Homoseksualiteit en Krijgsmacht (SHK)*, a foundation dedicated to promoting the visibility of homosexuals in the military. The military's contribution to Amsterdam Gay Pride this year signifies a giant leap forward in the social

acceptance of homosexuals within the Dutch Armed Forces. This forms a contrast with previous years; military personnel were banned from participating two years ago and only allowed to participate in a personal capacity last year. Henk Itzig Heine, the man responsible for gay policy within the Dutch Armed Forces commented on the change by saying:

"We know that visibility is an important part of further acceptance for gays". Amsterdam Gay Pride

organisers ProGay welcome the military taking part in the event: "Politicians, multinationals and members of the police force already take part in Amsterdam Gay Pride", says ProGay head Irene Hemelaar. "By doing so, they send a clear message that homosexuality is an integral part of society. We're pleased that the military is also joining us in sending that message".

For more information: www.weareproud.nl



ALL TOGETHER NOW 2011
Amsterdam GayPride

Sneak Peek at 2011 Pride Photo Award at Amsterdam Museum

A preview of the 2011 Pride Photo Award will be on display in the Amsterdam Museum's Museumcafé Mokum during Amsterdam Gay Pride from 29 July till 7 August 2011. The exhibition shows Amsterdammers expressing their identity through a series of triptychs: a self-portrait, a photo of the most important person in their lives and a photo of their greatest dream. The photographs will be projected on one of the walls in the café. The 2011 Pride Photo Award exhibition opens on 2 September at Het Sieraad in Amsterdam.

For more information: www.pridephotoaward.org

- Amsterdam Museum, Kalverstraat 92

Free Grey Pride open-air canal concert

GreyPride will be presenting the fifth edition of its annual large, free open-air concert on Thursday 4 August 2011, from 8-12 p.m. The event is scheduled to take place on Oudezijds Voorburgwal in front of cabaret club Paleis van de Weemoed right in the city centre. The concert is set to feature a variety of acts from theatre and opera to jazz and dance. As part of the festivities, the concert annually honours two members from the lesbian and gay community for their outstanding service to the community as Mr. and Mrs. GreyPride. Although GreyPride was originally set up for gays and lesbians over 40, it currently attracts a much broader following.

- Paleis van de Weemoed, Oudezijds Voorburgwal 15

Club Fuxxx, formerly Cockring

A new gay club opened in Amsterdam's Warmoesstraat in April of 2011 called Club Fuxxx, the successor to Cockring. The new club features theme nights from Wednesday to Sunday starting at 11 p.m., such as Dance + Cruise on Wednesdays and Cruise XL on Thursdays. Fuxxx is open till 4 a.m., and till 5 a.m. on Saturdays. Fuxxx is owned by the same company behind well-known leather and fetish retailer RoB, which has its flagship store on Warmoesstraat. RoB is also behind the revival of Argos, Amsterdam's first leather bar. Warmoesstraat is once again



proving to be the hub of Amsterdam's fetish scene. For more information:

www.clubfuxxx.com

- Club Fuxxx, Warmoesstraat 96

Gay bar ARC re-opened as EVE

On July 21 2011, the gay bar formerly known as ARC at Reguliersdwarsstraat 44 is re-opened as EVE. The bar's new manager, Alexis Deenen, has plenty of experience in the industry, especially on Reguliersdwarsstraat. EVE has got a warm and stylish interior, complete with fireplace and "dark earth tones flirting with gold". The new bar contains both a bar and restaurant area offering high-quality finger food and cocktails. EVE continues the ARC tradition of Wednesday night Cocktail specials. The bar is open 7 days a week. The bar ARC closed last September following the collapse of bar and nightclub owner Sjoerd Kooistra's chain of nightspots.

For more information, visit www.eve-amsterdam.com

Café-Bar April re-opened as Ludwig II with newly refurbished interior

World-famous gay bar April on Reguliersdwarsstraat re-opened on July 21 2011 as Ludwig II, named after the extravagant Bavarian king. Ludwig II is set to be a coffee/lounge bar, and serve daily in the afternoons from 2 p.m. The lounge part for a trendy public is open from Thursday till Sunday. The new owner is Casper Reinders, successful Amsterdam bar and nightclub owner known for exclusive dance club Jimmy Woo. In addition, he's also the force behind Suzy Wong and Bo Cinq, as well as bar/restaurant Lion Noir, which opened on Reguliersdwarsstraat in November. Reinders has the ambition to make Ludwig II one of the leading trendy gay bars of Europe. Designer of the new interior is Thijs Murré. The coffeebar got a somewhat taut and raw look. The walls show exclusive pictures of the Berlin photographers Billy & Hells. The lounge part got the extravagant atmosphere of a 19th century Parisian night club. A glass wall with 60 original phallus symbols divides the room for smokers.

The focus of Ludwig II will remain towards attracting a mixed gay crowd. April was shut down in May of 2010 as the result of a conflict between Heineken and the bar's owner at the time. For more information: www.reguliers.net

Bar Havana re-opened

Well-known Reguliersdwarsstraat gay bar Havana re-opened on July 21 2011. For years, Havana has been known for its trend-setting parties and spectacular performances. Not only will Havana continue this tradition, but the bar will sport its



famed murals once again. The two-storey venue located at Reguliersdwarstraat 17-19 once housed the first gay club on the street at the hub of Amsterdam's gay nightlife scene. Havana is set to open 7 days a week starting from mid-July. Visitors are welcome from 2 p.m. For more information contact: www.barhavana.nl
- Havana, Reguliersdwarstraat 17-19

Gay café 't Leeuwtje re-opens as 't Dwarsliggertje

As of May 28 2011, gay café 't Leeuwtje on Reguliersdwarstraat, near Rembrandtplein, has been open under the name 't Dwarsliggertje. The name change refers to the bartenders' self-proclaimed fun, but uncompromising (that is "dwars") spirit. The café is open from 5 p.m. on Monday to Wednesday and from 2 p.m. on Thursday to Sunday. For more information: www.hetdwarsliggertje.nl
- 't Dwarsliggertje, Reguliersdwarstraat 105

2011 Pride Photo Award - sexuality and gender diversity in the spotlight

Pride Photo Award is an annual international photo contest focusing on sexuality and gender diversity. The second edition of the exhibition is scheduled to take place from 3 September to 2 October 2011 in the historic Het Sieraad building in Amsterdam West. A selection of the winning pics will also be shown on 7 of Amsterdam's city squares. Pride Photo Award aims to counter some of the stereotypes associated with ideals of masculinity and femininity that dominate the media. Photographers could submit pieces in 6 categories: "Straight back at you" (reactions to those who deviate from stereotyped ideals of hetero and homosexuality, masculinity and femininity), Sport, Gender, Current Affairs, Documentary and an Open category. The competition offers photographers a platform from which to present their own definitions regarding sexuality and gender. Visitors to the exhibition and website can vote for the winner of the Audience Award. Het Sieraad is a beautifully restored historical building constructed in 1924 in the Amsterdam School style of architecture.

For more information: www.pridephotoaward.org
- Pride Photo Award, Het Sieraad, Postjesweg 1

Gay Africa is featured at the Africa in the Picture Film Festival for the tenth time

Since 2001, the Africa in the Picture Film Festival has been the only festival in Europe to feature a Gay Africa film programme. This year's Gay Africa programme is being screened from 5 to 9 October 2011 at Bioscoop Het Ketelhuis and Theater MC, both located in Cultuurpark Westergasfabriek. The programme offers the best gay films by directors from Africa and the African Diaspora. Homosexuality is a crime in 38 of the 52 African countries, and in some countries, punishable by death.

These countries consider homosexuality to be un-African and something that needs to be kept outside the borders of the continent. These notions are reflected in the films, documentaries and shorts made for and shown by Gay Africa - films that are moving, shocking and often poetic. In addition to the film programme, a debate has been organised including the film makers and important speakers from the gay scene. For more information, visit: www.africainthepicture.nl



Amsterdam Gay Tourist Office offers personal guided tours

GAYtic, the Amsterdam Gay Tourist Office (a branch of VVV Amsterdam), offers tailor-made personal tours of Amsterdam. You can take these tours choosing from a variety of themes, depending on your interests. Are you interested in architecture, art, gay history or something else? The guides at GAYtic create personalised tours lasting anywhere from a few hours to your entire vacation. You can visit all the places worth seeing around Amsterdam, such as Volendam, Marken or the windmills in Zaandam with your personal guide. For more information: www.gaytic.nl

- GAYtic, Spuistraat 44, 1012 TV Amsterdam

Get Ruff 2011 - Leather Pride Amsterdam featuring mega event Ruff! The Party

Each year around 1 November, Amsterdam plays host to one of the world's first and largest Leather Pride events, known as Get Ruff. The 16th edition of the event is scheduled to take place this year from 28 till 31 October 2011, when the city expects to welcome thousands of visitors from all over the world. Over four days, visitors in leather, rubber, army sportswear and other fetish-wear are set to converge on the city, with the festivities culminating in "Ruff! The Party" on Saturday 29 October in Lexion Venue. The event will welcome over 2000 visitors and feature several dance floors, as well as the infamous playrooms. In addition to the mega parties, 30 smaller events have been scheduled to take place throughout the city's gay bars, restaurants and shops, attracting visitors to Amsterdam. Amsterdam's revitalised gay village at Warmoesstraat and Zeedijk is set to be the epicentre of all the fetish friendly events. Visitors can also get great deals on hotel packages for Leatherpride/Get Ruff including admission. For all the latest information and full events listings, visit: www.get-ruff.com



We reserve the right to make changes without notice.

Most recent Gay Newsletter Amsterdam on the internet:

Announcements of events are subject to change. The updated texts of this Gay Newsletter Amsterdam are available at: www.atcb.nl.

For additional press information and visual materials, please contact: Amsterdam Tourism & Convention Board, Communications Department, tel. 020 - 5 512 531; e-mail: h.terbalkt@atcb.nl

Information for the public: tel. 020 - 201 8800 and www.iamsterdam.nl