

# JUNE

## NEWSLETTER

# 2020



ESWATINI



**Eswatini**  
**Pride**  
Love Wins

# OUT & PROUD LAUNCH

On Monday 18th of May, The Rock of Hope Eswatini launched the Out and Proud: LGBTI equality and rights in Southern Africa project which is aimed at strengthening capacities of and creating opportunities for Human Right Defenders and their organizations in Zimbabwe, Malawi and as well as Eswatini to defend, advocate and promote their rights and fight discrimination. This launch follows the Regional launch which was graced by Her Excellency Dr Riina Kionka (EU ambassador to South Africa), Her Excellency Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés (EU ambassador to Eswatini) and partners in the project; the Southern African Litigation Centre (SALC), COSPE Onlus, Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) and Trans Research, Education, Advocacy & Training (Zimbabwe) and Nyasa Rainbow Alliance (Malawi). Moreover, the project will ensure or help in improving the legislative framework which at the moment does not favor LGBTI individuals.

In Eswatini, the project was launched on the Rock of Hope Eswatini Facebook page and it was graced by the

European Union Ambassador Her Excellency Esmeralda Hernandez Aragonés. Her Excellency affirmed her delegations support of the project and further cited that she looks forward to contributing in advocating meaningfully for the full realization of rights for the LGBTI people in Eswatini. Representatives of local human rights defenders organizations also graced this launch with their presence and these included: Eswatini Sexual Gender Minorities (ESGM), Lesbian Bisexual Queer Rights Swaziland (LBQRS), HealthPlus4Men (HP4M), TransSwati, Cospe Onlus and The Rock of Hope Eswatini. These were in full support of the launch as their aim is to be the voice of the LGBTI community and protection of human rights.

This project was launched virtually to allow for immense coverage and indeed the public and members of the LGBTI community showed great interest in this project. Many had questions which were tackled by the panelists. The Rock of Hope was applauded and encouraged to keep up with this project as it might finally open gates for the LGBTI community, and end the discrimination and stigma faced by the LGBTI on a daily basis. Indeed this marks a new chapter for the Eswatini Human Rights Defenders and LGBTI individuals as they have noted the challenges and risks they face. Correspondingly, they all noted that working in unison would be the best way forward.

The Rock of hope remains committed to serve and is available for any further comments relative to the local launch.

# PRE JU DICE

It is quite evident that the prejudice upon the LGBTI is something that will continue to fight against. I have always mentioned that trying to cure the symptoms never really eradicates the issue. The real issue being of-course social constructs, which then led to prejudicial judgments and that emanates to stigma and stigma. In analytical sense, it's a whole cycle, a chain reaction as some would add. With every chain reaction fortunately, a scientist would know that it can be broken.

Many LGBTI people continue to be violated, disgraced and killed for expressing their sexuality. As statistics would have it, in Canada; 173 cases were reported in relation to offences conducted driven by homophobia (Statistics Canada, 2018). This indeed is an alarming number and as such this day is very significant. The continuous discrimination continues to have drastic impacts on the LGBTI persons / identities themselves as there is still a high suicidality rate.

Affirmative action is therefore necessary to break this chain reaction as we were to call. Anti-discriminatory policies would ensure that all life is valued. A perpetrator of violence against a homosexual would know that by engaging in such action, they would face the full wrath of the law. Enjoy this month's read.

**This month we have a familiar face being part of our newsletter. She is kind hearted, speaks her mind and yet a hardcore boss and known LGBTI health activist, Nontobeko Jinx Dlamini, the Executive Director of House of Pride**



**GUEST: NONTOBEKO JINX DLAMINI**  
Executive Director of House of Pride

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR GUEST

**NONTOBEKO**

**JINX**

**DLAMINI**

**Executive Director  
of House of Pride**

**In your line of work, what have you seen to be a challenge due to covid-19?**

Not being able to help your community due to the rules we have to live by lately, it is a different world now and we are limited to the services we provide to the community.

**What messages do you have for the LGBTI community post covid-19?**

Basically the message that has been going around, stay at home, be safe and reach out when you can no longer handle some things.

**So tell us about yourself?**

Most people know me as Jinx but my birth name is Nontobeko and I am the first born of two girls, grew up in the village, Big Bend and started working for House of our Pride as a peer educator in 2014 and am now the executive Director of the same organization am a lesbian feminist, and in a committed relationship. I am a lover of everything beautiful, and surround myself with people who share the same values of me

**On a lighter note, what does a human rights defender like you do in their spare time?**

Wow, me well I enjoy my movies and series and I do a lot of reading about current events happening around me, also YouTube helps me catch up faster.

**Cyberbullying**

As the world continues to battle with this global outbreak pandemic, global citizens have found a way of passing time and keeping themselves entertained during this lockdown

**How do you manage to be both a human rights defender and executive director of an LGBTI organisation?**

when I started working for the LGBTI community, 2014 I did it because I wanted to enjoy my fundamental rights face any form of threat, attack and criminalization head on, that's why even now as an Executive Director I still fight for those, am a human rights defender first so I wake up with the same motivation and that helps me as a director.

, and one of the ways in which they do this is through social media which kept the world educated, informed and entertained. However, some people have been using some media for the wrong reasons, hacking into other people's accounts and cyber bullying. On so long ago 50 cent was spreading homophobic memes on instagram, making gay jokes for clout.

For more information on this visit:

**PinkNews on Facebook.**

## Messages From the Community

All over the world, people have been sending messages to encourage everyone to stay at home and rest assured that coronavirus will be over in due time. The Rock of Hope didn't want to leave LGBTI individuals out, they were asked to send words of encouragement to the nation and this is what they had to say.



**Nobuhle Maseko**

"To the nation, I urge you all to be strong now because things will get better. It might be stormy now, but it can never rain forever. Let's be patient and put our trust to the Almighty. Tough times never lasts, but tough people do, and for us to be tough people let us stick to the rules and precautions stated by the King, the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Health. Let's stop the spread of Covid-19."

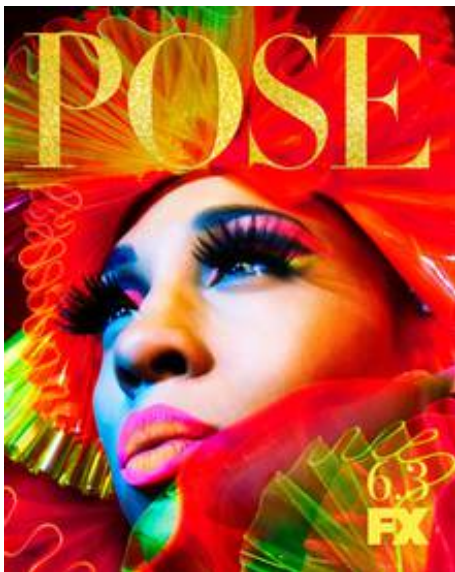
"Don't be a alarmed for this too shall pass, it might not be as soon as we want it to but want matters is that it shall come to an end. Please stay at home and be safe, remember to wash your hands every now and then. Lastly, never share masks as this will put you at high risk of being exposed to coronavirus."



**Thulani Mmbembe  
Dlamini**

# Movies / series for LGBTI

**Choosing movies for LGBTI individuals has never been easy, especially movies which show in-depth the lives of the LGBTI community. Here are a few series recommended for the LGBTI individuals to watch and keep themselves entertained during lockdown:**



## **Pose**

An American series about African American and Latino and gender nonconforming individuals who lived in the 1900s, it looks at the juxtaposition of several segments of life and society in New York. It shows how difficult life was for LGBTI individuals, being accepted by the families, getting medical health assistance, going for sex change operation, assumptions that they were spreading HIV and a lot of them were dying from AIDS. This is a must watch as it resonates with the challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ persons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **The Lword session 6**

This series features intertwined stories about the lives of a group of lesbians and bisexuals in Los Angeles. Characters in this series fall in love, start dating and get into serious, committed relationships. Love as has always been said, tends to conquer all. Do get to watch this and be captured, entertained and be enlightened on the diversity that exists.

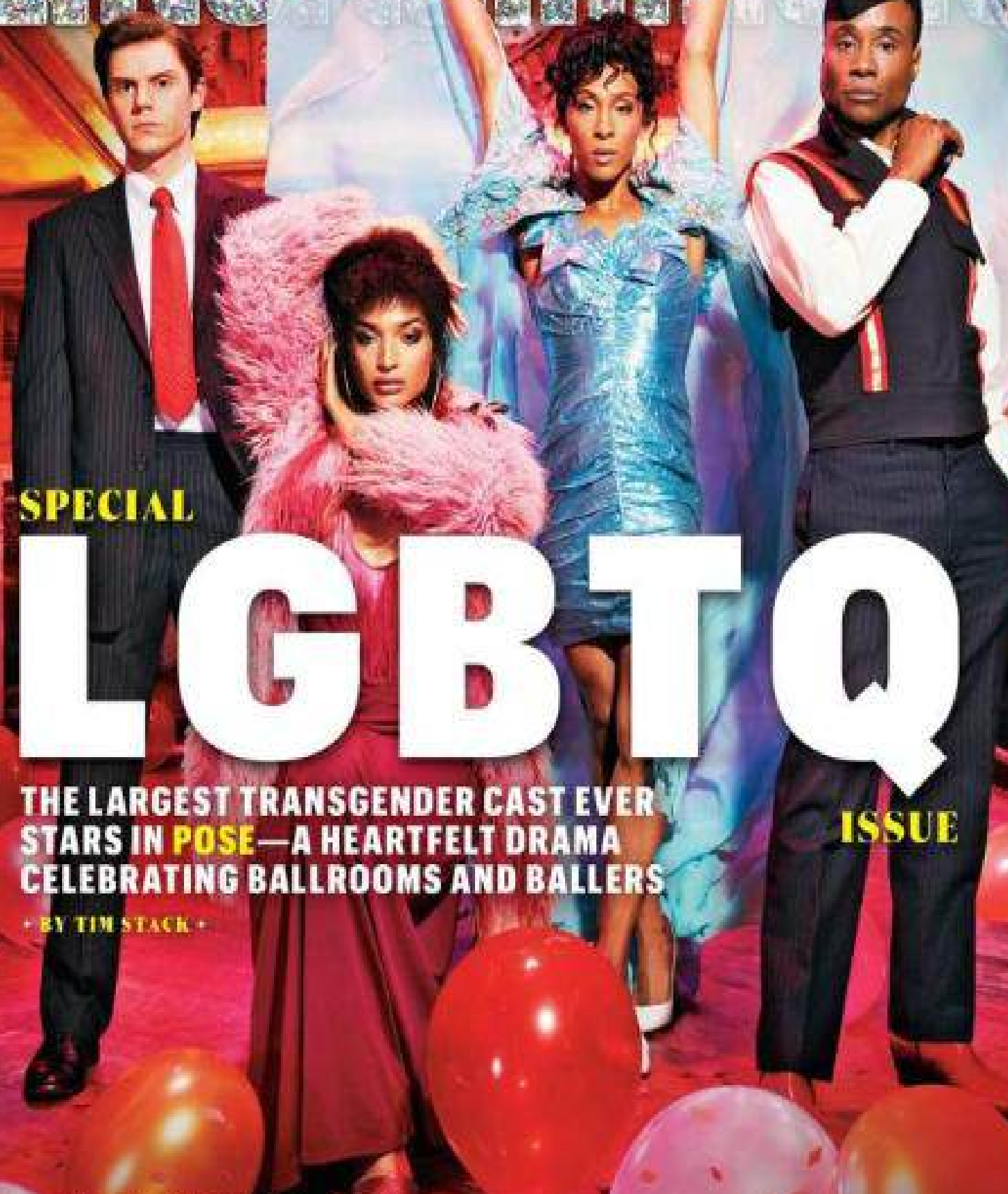


EXCLUSIVE! QUEER AS FOLK REUNION

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#E19

# Entertainment



SPECIAL

# LGBTQ

THE LARGEST TRANSGENDER CAST EVER STARS IN **POSE**—A HEARTFELT DRAMA CELEBRATING BALLROOMS AND BALLERS

ISSUE

BY TIM STACK