



QUEER PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL IN TÁBOR, CZECH REPUBLIC
SATURDAY JUNE 20, 2009

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the Queer Pride Parade and Festival in Tábor Organizing Committee

The **Queer Pride Parade and Festival in Tábor (QPPFT)** will take place on Saturday, June 20, 2009. The main promoters of this event are the international not-for-profit art center CESTA, Jihočeská Lambda and eLnadruhou. The organizers of QPPFT are a wider group consisting of representatives of the above-mentioned organizations together with other individuals meeting regularly since October 2007.

Forging the Queer Pride tradition is necessary following the events of the Czech Queer Parade in Brno in June 2008. This event is not a protest, it is a celebration. Why celebrate? The Czech Republic and Slovenia stand alone as new European member states to have legalized same-sex partnerships. A poll conducted by the Angus-Reid Global Monitor conducted in December 2006 found that the Czech Republic favored Same-Sex Marriage at 52%¹. This percentage number being above the European Union average of 44%, brings this nation into the realm of (the few) nations that consider Same-Sex Marriage as a social likelihood.

So, in fact, there couldn't be a better time for this celebration. Above all, it will serve as an opportunity to **raise awareness, visibility and tolerance** of the LGBTIQ community and issues related to this community in Czech. All this lies within the long-term goals of the QPPFT - **advocate for and encourage the participation of LGBTIQ people in the educational, cultural and civic life of the Czech Republic.**

Why do the next Czech Queer Pride in **Tábor**? Mostly because CESTA is in Tábor and since 1993 works to foster cultural understanding and tolerance through the arts. Additionally, the Queer Pride Parade and Festival will help mark Tábor as a favorite destination for many from the LGBTIQ communities. The Organizing Committee QPPFT would also like to show that smaller towns can also bring a voice to those who need support.

How is the QPPFT being planned? During the first half of 2009 there will be a number of LGBTIQ theme-related cultural and educational events and activities. The activities on Saturday June 20, 2009 are divided into three parts: the Parade, the Festival, and the Afterparty. Beginning at 10:00 AM Saturday morning all Parade participants will gather at the Tábor train station (the Parade Starting Point), and after organizers put the Parade sections in order the Parade through town will begin. The Parade sections will include pedestrians as well as motorized floats (fossil and alternative fueled), non-motorized floats and other forms of motorized and non-motorized forms of transportation. The Parade Route runs through Old and New Town Tábor, across the main Žižkovo square, through the Bechyně Gate, ending at the field next to the CESTA building (Ctibor mill) in the valley under the Kotnov Tower.

¹ Angus-Reid Global Monitor

For organizing purposes it is necessary to register in order to participate in the Parade. Registration can be anonymous through the on-line registration form on the QPPFT website www.queerprideparadetabor.cz, or alternatively via regular mail. Registering will not only grant Parade participants a 50% discount on the Afterparty entrance ticket, but moreover will assist the organizers greatly in assuring a safe and festive event. Unlike many of the Queer Parades abroad registration for the Queer Pride Parade in Tábor is free, as are the majority of festival events and activities

The **Queer Pride Festival** will run throughout the afternoon and evening in the field under the Kotnov Tower. The Festival program will include concerts and other arts and cultural events, workshops, sport activities and children's activities. Information tables and stands from diverse LGBTQTIQ organizations will dot the field next to a variety of food and beverage stalls. The final event of the day is the official Afterparty with a full party program at the Milenium Club in Tábor – recently reconstructed and now providing an ideal location for the Afterparty.

Currently the main organizing work involves recruiting volunteers, curating the entertainment programs, and securing sponsors and supporters. Particular attention is being devoted to arranging a secure environment for all event participants and on-lookers. The Organizing Committee is designing an internal and external strategy involving trained security volunteers and contingency monitors, as well as cooperation with the national Czech police force.

The main media partner for the Queer Pride Parade and Festival in Tábor is **Český rozhlas**.

More about the event itself and much more available on www.queerprideparadetabor.cz.

We look forward to celebrating with you.