



Jer's Vision Presents The International Day of Pink Gala

Ottawa, Ontario, April 11, 2012: Jer's Vision is excited to be hosting the 7th Annual International Day of Pink Gala to recognize Canada's Youth Diversity initiative. This charitable event will be held at Tabaret Hall, at The University of Ottawa, located at 550 Cumberland Street, on April 11, 2012 from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

Rick Mercer, esteemed Canadian comedian, television personality, political satirist and one of this year's Youth Role Model Award recipients is one of over 500 celebrities, politicians, community members and youth that will be in attendance at The International Day of Pink Gala.

Nominated by Canadian youth and selected by the Jer's Vision Youth Advisory Committee, the Youth Role Model Awards recognize individuals for their outstanding promotion of diversity. Along with Rick Mercer, Jack Layton (posthumous) will be honoured for his work in advance human rights at The International Day of Pink Gala while a third recipient will remain a surprise till the event.

This celebratory evening, held at Tabaret Hall at The University of Ottawa campus, will showcase local musical talent, as well as a performance from the acclaimed cast of Rent. Voices from the community, such as Dutch Ambassador Wim Geerts (a 2011 winner); veteran broadcaster Max Keeping; NDP Transport and Infrastructure Critic, MP Olivia Chow; and NDP LGBT critic, Randall Garrison; will be heard throughout the night while guests are invited to enjoy complimentary appetizers at this free event.

Everyone is invited to join us in wearing pink on the International Day of Pink, April 11, 2012. Show your community that you stand against bullying of all kinds. Please check out DayOfPink.org for free resources and tools.

To RSVP:

To RSVP please email your name to Gala@JersVision.org

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The International Day of Pink

Each year, on the second Wednesday of April, millions of people wear pink to remember that positive actions make a difference. The International Day of Pink originated in Nova Scotia after two straight high school students intervened in the bullying of a gay student who was wearing a pink shirt. A few days later, these two students organized the whole school to wear pink to raise awareness. Their actions resulted in the end of homophobic and transphobic bullying in the entire school. For more information, please visit DayOfPink.org

About Jer's Vision: Canada's Youth Diversity Initiative

Jer's Vision is a world leader in anti-bullying and anti-discrimination programming. A youth led organization that reaches 75,000 people annually across Canada and the United States. A proud leader in the International Day of Pink, that engages millions of people to wear pink and to run programs that stand up to bullying. For more information, please visit www.jersvision.org

About Jeremy Dias, director and founder of Jer's Vision

As a youth, Jeremy Dias volunteered with numerous organizations and charities to combat social and political inequality. Among other clubs he founded and coordinated the Sault Ste. Marie's first regional LGBTQ youth group. He faced extreme cases of discrimination from students and school officials for being open about his sexuality. At 17, he started legal action against his school and school board. Four years later he won Canada's second largest human rights settlement. Dias used the money to found Jer's Vision, The International Day of Pink and the Jeremy Dias Scholarship.

About Rick Mercer

Rick Mercer is a beloved Canadian television personality who first gained national attention in 1990. Currently Mercer is infamous for his rants on *The Rick Mercer Report*. He recently has started using his influence to raise awareness of bullying in schools. The suicide of 15 year old, AY Jackson High School student, Jamie Hubley (Ottawa), prompted Mercer to let loose an enraged demand for justice, calling for more gay role models to step up and speak out. He is one of this year's, youth nominated, Youth Role Model Award recipients. For more information, please visit www.rickmercer.com

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