

Dykes take to the streets

Lusting for power? Powerful in your lust? Want to be visible, valiant and vocal? Dykes from all over Ireland and across the world will be gathering in Dublin on Friday June 26 to do just that in the 2nd International Dyke March.

Dyke March? What's that? It's a time for dykes, lesbians, gay women, call ourselves what we will, to come together in a powerful demonstration of visibility. Taking to the streets shows that dykes refuse to remain invisible, and that being together in this way is celebratory as well as political. It's also a good time for women who are coming out to find support and to feel the strength that comes from unity. And why the theme *Lust For Power*? Because our sexuality is what makes us who we are, and our lust for sex, for life, for freedom, is a powerful force.

The Dyke March is women-only. On the following day the Dublin Pride Parade is for all queers and their friends, but it's important that the Dyke March gives women room to support each other. This is a place for women to stand alone, and although men are welcome to support the March from the sidelines, dykes will march with other dykes in solidarity. It's no coincidence, however, that the Dyke March runs during Dublin Pride week, as another gesture of mutual support by the organisers.

Many organisations and individuals have already offered their support and will be in Dublin on the day. A Glasgow-based drumming band as well as Irish samba

bands are looking forward to playing, and Dublin-based organisation Lesbian Education and Awareness (LEA) have offered their support.

As excitement builds, open meetings are being held around the country to encourage women to put their ideas together and plan their participation in the March. Whether you want to march with your friends, your organisation, under a banner or in your own name – in costume, in drag, naked as a jaybird – it's up to you. What's important is that you should get there! The Dyke March committee have stressed that all women *who identify as women* are welcome on the March.

Other events are planned around the March: on Thursday June 25 there'll be a lesbian poetry reading and wine reception at Waterstones Bookshop in Dawson Street, Dublin 2, and on Friday, in conjunction with Dublin Pride, there will be women-only Get Bold workshops at the Outhouse Open Day in 6 South William Street, Dublin 2. On Friday evening, The Furnace club in Aston Quay will be hostess to performances by some of the hottest dykes in Dublin as well as Tara Brandel's new show *Jezebel*, with a surprise band and disco to follow! Suggestions have been made to workshop theatre skills before the March so dykes can display their new skills: if you have skills you could share (fire-eating, stilt walking, whatever), please get in touch with the committee (see contacts below). Badges and T-shirts will soon be available, so you can support the March even before you get



First International Dyke March

there!

The most important consideration about the Dyke March is that it's about *us*. It's women-only time in a male-dominated world. And although some of our best friends may be men, we need to get out on to the streets and assert our right to be dykes – and be proud of it.

2nd International Dyke March Friday June 26. 7pm A the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square. If you'd like more information about the March or any of its plans, call (01) 473 4650, or e-mail <amazon@tinet.ie>.

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