

TRANSWAVE NEWSLETTER

Jamaica **PRIDE 2022**

Take a look at Shasha- our Miss Pride Ja winner. Skip the page to see the grace, the poise, the talent!

MISS PRIDE JAMAICA

Blue Ivy

The Indomitable Blue Ivy Memorial





Transwave Magazine

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*Issue
Pride*

*Photography by
Chaday Emmanuel*

Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

I am so pleased with the stories that myself and the TransWave team have put together about the magnificent and joyous time- Jamaica Pride. Pride for me is a time of community, comradery, and celebration. Throughout this year's Pride season, I found friendship, love and fullness in our resilient community. We also reflected on the collective loss we endured this year as our sisters were taken from us by sinister forces.

Sudean Peters

Editor-in-Chief



Still, as you read these pages, I hope you see the hard work and time that was given to put this story together for you- our Pride story 2022. I am also immensely grateful to our partners who made these events possible for us. I am proud of us for pushing forward and remaining steadfast in working to make our community better.

Enjoy the TransWave Newsletter- PRIDE EDITION.



Message from Executive Director

Pride continues to be that time of the year that I look forward to the most. Pride is a time in which we celebrate who we are as a community, the hurdles we have overcome and the future we envision for ourselves. This year's pride saw us crown our Miss Pride JA which was a celebration of Transwomen and the resilience of the trans community. While this is not our first pageant it is a significant one as our current Miss Pride will be traveling next year to Barbados to compete in the Regional Miss Pride pageant representing Jamaica.

Renae Green
Executive Director



The trans community continues to make change and claim space in ways that cant even be imagined, we are changing hearts and minds one person at a time.

The theme of this year's pride was: The Pride of Your Life. The array of events put on by our team and sponsors definitely allowed the participants and attendees to have the PRIDE OF THEIR LIFE.

Thank you for your continued support.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNER: EQUALITY JAMAICA



Elton Johnson- Associate
Director of Marketing,
Communication and
Engagement

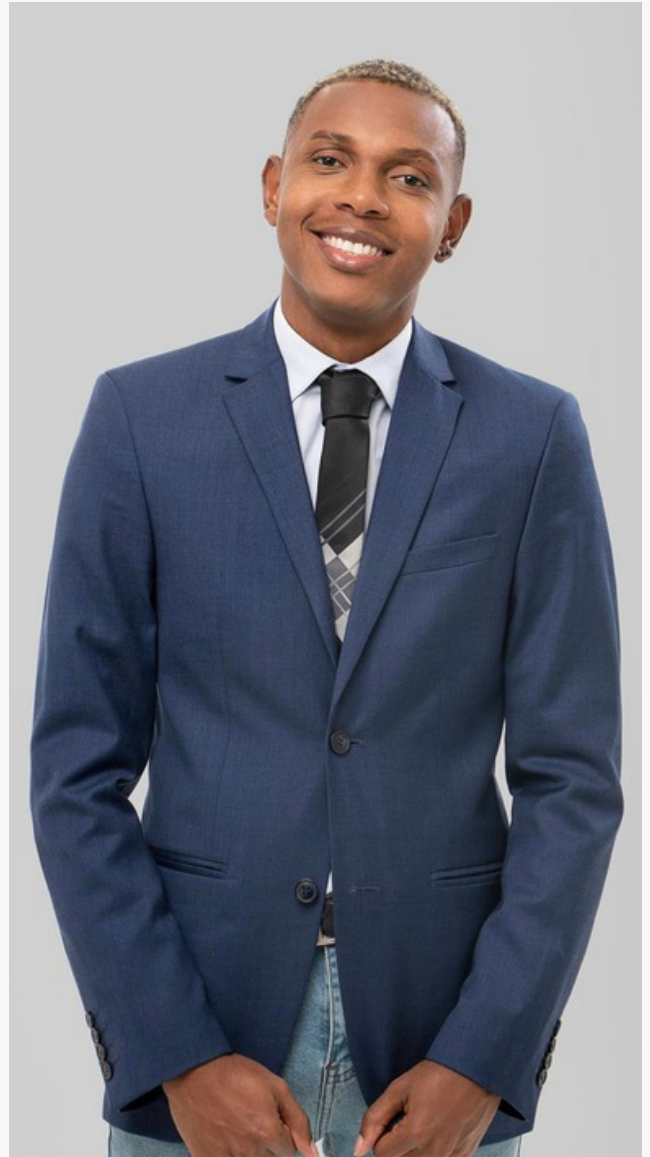
LGBT Jamaicans and allies came together between August 1-6, 2022 for our eight staging of our annual #PRIDEJa celebrations. #PRIDEJa2022 was celebrated under the theme “The Pride of Your Life”. The celebrations marked the re-emergence of Pride Week from COVID-19 and, as the theme suggests, we gave the community and allies the pride of our lives.

The #PRIDEJa2022 committee approved a total of 10 events for execution between August 1-6 which included two trans community focused events, Miss PRIDEJa Pageant 2022, hosted by TransWave and The Doll Ball hosted by CONNEKJa.

Miss PRIDEJa Pageant 2022 saw TransWave creating a space that celebrated the beauty, excellence, and talent within the Jamaican trans community – particularly transfeminine and non-binary femme folks. The pageant featured three categories: swimwear, talent and evening wear. Sasha Berry Robinson (contestant #5) was crowned as the 1st place of the Ms Pride JA 2022 pageant, from a total of 12 contestants, with Tony Allen (contestant #6) and Chassidy West (contestant #9) as 1st and 2nd runner up respectively.

The Doll Ball was the first ball being hosted in Jamaica and gave patrons an event that strengthened the House culture in Jamaica and the bonds between family while providing community a chance to show out and win prizes. Ball categories included Vouge, Walk, Face, Bizarre & Best Dressed House. Patrons were very excited for the event and it showed in the strong level of participation.

We hope to see more trans community-focused events form part of Pride Week and look forward to the continued support of TransWave and CONNEKJa.



MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNER: EQUALITY YOUTH JAMAICA

Sean Lord- Programmes
Director

Equality Youth Jamaica (EYJ) exists as a beacon and safe space for Jamaican LGBTQ+ youth, and that in itself is a huge milestone. Pride Jamaica is a big thing! EYJ's involvement in Pride gives LGBTQ+ youth, more specifically our Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Non-Conforming youth who at times have had harder opportunities to exist in and enjoy spaces as other members of the community do. "The Pride of your Life!" gave our youth from the trans community the ability to express themselves, their true selves, in ways that only members from the LGBTQ+ community can.

In Jamaica the chance to freely experience LGBTQ+ Pride, to be exposed to the different facets of the Jamaican community; as well as the chance to make friends and create (or select) a chosen family. COVID-19 in Jamaica disrupted several events: Carnival, marathons, parties, and the like. Pride Jamaica, also being one of the affected events, but under the theme "The Pride of your Life!" the aim was to encourage LGBTQ+ youth to pride with all they have while priding safely. The LGBTQ+ youth community never stopped 'priding' in that time, and were even more out and loud for this year's events. Using the opportunity to PRIDE OUTSIDE, it's the perfect opportunity to have the PRIDE OF YOUR LIFE and interact with the many friendly faces of EYJ!



The Pride of Our Lives

The global pandemic made it difficult for queerios across Jamaica to come together and celebrate. But, as soon as we were able to, Jamaica Pride was a go this year. This year's festivities consisted of ten (10) fun-filled events.

The week of Pride events commenced with the Pride Fun Day at Hope Gardens on August 1st. The day was hosted by dynamo influencer, TC. Teams came out in their colors to participate in the games and debauchery that the day had to offer. Some of the activities included the ball bounce, track and field, tug o' war, bun eating competition, beer drink-off, house parade and the cheer off (Special mention to the house captain race, that saw some sly tricks being used by the 'athletes' to gain some points for their team). The day was kaleidoscopic as the blue, yellow, green, and red houses showed off their strengths and skills in the events. In the end, the triumphant green house took home the cup. The day closed with the cheering and dancing of patrons and participants.

The Pride Pool Party followed in the evening with the gworls and the gays dressed to the nines in their swimwear as they feted.

The event line-up continued with the Miss Pride Ja Pageant on Aug 2nd, Pride Pop Up Bar on Aug 3rd, and the Healing Arts Excursion on the 4th. The pageant was filled with entertaining and emotional performances from the trans women in our community.



Additionally, the Healing Arts Excursion was well-patronized and was a day of creativity and healing. The HAE was planned and led by Victoria Neil and Nidea Ellis. The participants were able to do creative activities such as jewelry making, pastry decorating, movement, acrylic painting, and ceramic painting. At the beginning of the event, guests participated in guided meditation and tarot readings to set the tone and intention of the day's proceedings. All patrons were positively impacted by the healing and creative space that was curated and created by the team.

Following those events was the Doll Ball- the first of its kind in Jamaica. The ballroom scene has been embedded in queer culture for decades and the Doll Ball personified all its elements. The categories were vogue, walk, face, bizarre and best dressed house. The night was hosted and DJ'ed by Kyym Savage, Devin Lowe, DJ Anash and DJ Venom. Additionally, the capable and fabulous judges were Morticia Godiva, Nala Simone, Eli Saint, Rachel Scott and Glenroy Murray. A surfeit of TGNCNB community members attended and looked glorious as they participated in the events. The night was LEGENDARY.

In the subsequent days, community members enjoyed the Paint and Sip with Aba, and the Summer Sizzle Pool Party. The week culminated with the well-anticipated Pride Breakfast Party and D'Frenchiation. The Breakfast Party was well patronized, with the attendees dressed to the nines. The energy was palpable, and excitement was in the air along with sheer queer joy! Some well known faces in attendance were the witty and effervescent Executive Director of EqualityJA, Glenroy Murray, the ever-energetic trio TC, Rebel & Pretty, EqualityJA's LGBT+ Person of the year 2021, stylist/icon Neko 'Bootleg Rocstar', and a slew of the JFlag and TransWave staff who showed up to celebrate the ending of Pride week with the community members. Rain or shine, the fun went on and the event was a success.



To our readers, thank you for your continued support and participation. Continue to have the Pride of your life.



MISS PRIDE JA

Sasha Berry Robinson

Of the eleven contestants, Shasha Berry Robinson was crowned our Miss Pride Ja Queen! She impressed the judges with her talent piece- a lip sync of Leona Lewis' Happy, which left the audience and judges with chills. The cheers and screams from the audience reaffirmed the judges' response about the quality of her performance. For her evening gown, Sasha donned a two-piece sequined, eggplant ensemble that was the essence of regality. Shasha walked across the stage with true poise and grace. She won the \$25,000 cash prize and will go on to represent Jamaica in the upcoming King and Queen Show.

A DAY OF CELEBRATION

The Miss Pride Ja 2022 Pageant was the perfect beginning to Jamaica Pride. The grand coronation show saw eleven (11) of our beautiful trans community members displaying their poise and talent for the prizes and the title of Miss Pride Ja 2022 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The evening was filled with comradery, joy and love from our attendees and participants.



The contestants were: Shasha Berry Robinson, Alejandro Allen, Chasidy Lee, Shanice Walker, Raven Couture, Jade Dior, Angel Dior, Tian Small, Tianna Jackson, Tanda Gloom, Angel Jolene, Kimiko Allen. Our established and talented judges were Ivanaly Sette, Nala Simone Toussaint and Morticia Godiva. Additionally, the pageant was hosted by Kyym Foster and Devin Michael Lowe

TRANS TALENT



The ladies displayed their talents in modelling swimwear, evening gowns and by putting on an exciting and engaging talent show for the audience. One of the most notable performances came from Alejandro Allen who gave us a lip sync and dance performance with music from some of our favorite musicians- Beyonce, Lady Gaga, and Whitney Houston. Similarly, Raven Couture gave the audience and judges a heart-wrenching lip sync performance of I'm Alive. In addition to that, Jade Dior gave us an emotional lip sync performance to Bella Blair's Punching Bag. Jade dressed in tattered clothes that gave an artistic flare to her performance. Lastly, Chasidy Lee's contemporary/gospel dance performance left the audience starstruck as she wore a symbolic white costume and hit those moves. Similarly, the girls shone during the swimsuit segment. Each contestant wore black swimsuits and modelled for the judges. Tanda Gloom dressed in a black swimsuit with Jamaican colours, holding a Jamaican flag as she slowly strutted across the stage. Raven Couture dressed in a black monokini, with a black sheer swimsuit cover that acted as her queen's cape when she walked across the stage. The ladies did not come to play, and all looked ravishing in the swimsuit segment.

The question-and-answer segment rounded out the night. In the end, our top five contestants were Raven Couture, Shasha Berry Robinson, Kimiko Allen, Chasidy Lee, and Tianna Jackson.



Jade Dior during her talent piece of the Miss Pride Ja Pageant



THE INDOMITABLE

Blue Ivy

MEMORIAL

It has come to our attention that one of our community members, Blue Ivy was murdered Monday, September 12th. We would like to express our sincere condolences to the friends and family of Blue Ivy.

We are so sorry for our collective loss. Blue Ivy was a loved member of our community.

We are losing too many of our trans family to violence and hate. Again, we have been failed by the systems and unbridled transphobia in Jamaica.

*Our deepest sympathies,
TransWave Jamaica*



@transwaveja