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CT | BEAR
2024
CONTEST

DECEMBER 2, 2023



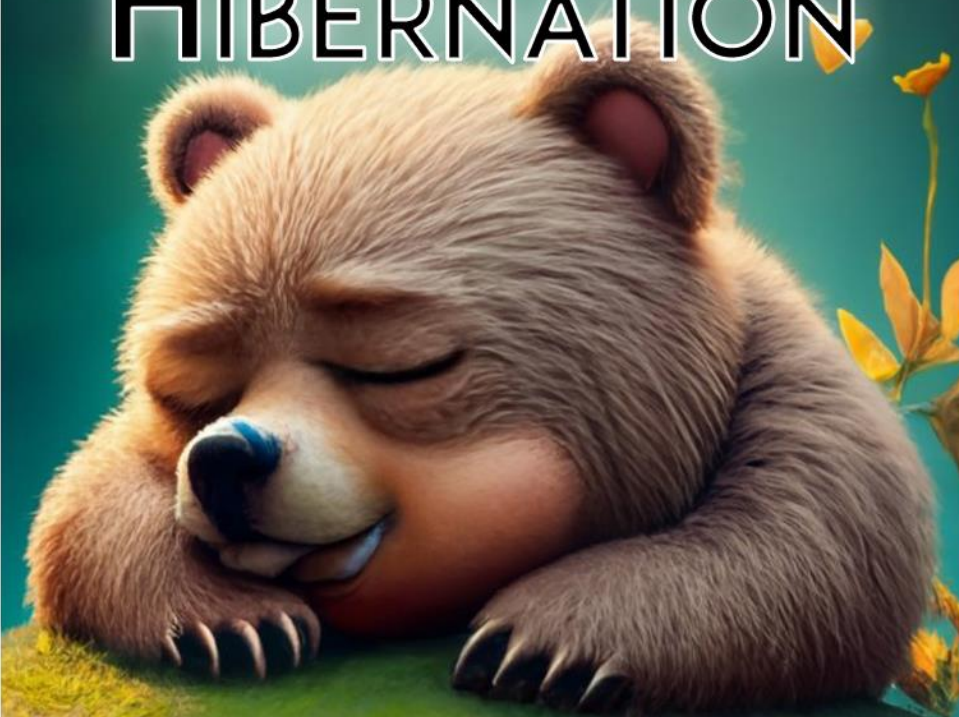
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OUT OF HIBERNATION



MARCH 7 - 10, 2024



MORE DETAILS
TO COME!

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Connecticut Bear 2024 Contest!

I want to congratulate Connecticut Bear 2023 Mikey Bear on his title year! Thank you for supporting the community and the Body Dysmorphic Disorder Foundation during your title year.

Thank you to all the sponsors and supporters of the Connecticut Bear 2024 Contest! We couldn't have put on this contest without you!

Every year we make history in Connecticut helping to make more inclusive events for the Bear and LGBTQ+ Communities at large!

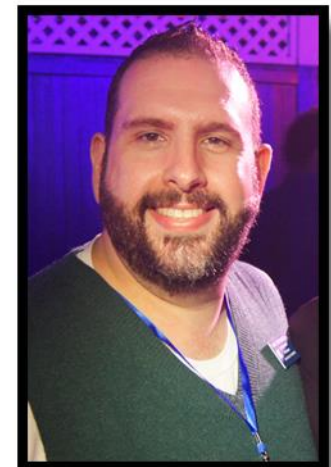
George Hicks-Richards has been an integral part of producing this contest for a 3rd year in a row and his dedication does not go unnoticed!

He has played a vital role in making this contest a reality so thank you to all his hard work! Thank you to the volunteers for all your contributions!

Without your dedication, the contest would not have been possible.

The money raised for the Body Dysmorphic Disorder Foundation this year is going to benefit them in a big way in helping them support our community! Cheers to an amazing year in 2024!

Love and Bear Hugs,
Dave Greenberg
"Brother Bear"
President, Northeast Ursamen





FROM THE PRODUCERS

THE NORTHEAST URSAMEN THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS WEEKEND FOR THE CONNECTICUT BEAR 2024 CONTEST!

THE NORTHEAST URSAMEN IS ONE OF THE OLDEST BEAR ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY, FOUNDED IN 1992. WE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THE DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY AND ARE GRATEFUL TO BE ABLE TO BRING INDIVIDUALS TOGETHER IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE.

THE BEAR COMMUNITY HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE FOR MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NOT FELT LIKE THEY FIT IN ANYWHERE ELSE.

THE BEAR COMMUNITY WELCOMES ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE A PART OF IT, NO MATTER YOUR GENDER, OR SEXUAL IDENTITY, AND SO DO THE NORTHEAST URSAMEN. THANK YOU FOR SHARING THIS FANTASTIC CONTEST WITH US AND HELPING TO WELCOME CONNECTICUT BEAR 2024!





Congratulations to Mikey Bear and the Northeast Ursamen on a successful year!

Please join us February 17th, 2024 for

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**Henry Paquin
Boston Bear 2024**

**Stephen Hogan Jr
Boston Bear 2011**

**BEST WISHES
TO CT BEAR 2024!**



CT BEAR 2023



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CT BEAR CONTEST DJ

RORY ROUX LAY



RORY ROUX LAY (SHE/THEY) IS A CT BASED TRANS DRAG ARTIST WHO LOVES DOING A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF DRAG INCLUDING DANCE, POLITICAL, COMEDIC, AND ALTERNATIVE NUMBERS. AFTER MAKING MIXES AND MASHUPS FOR MANY YEARS, SHE BEGAN TO DABBLE IN DJING THIS JULY AND HAD BEEN HAVING A FANTASTIC TIME EVER SINCE. IN ADDITION TO PERFORMING AND DJING, RORY ALSO SEWS COSTUMES AND MAKES FLYERS.

CT BEAR CONTEST ASL INTERPRETER

SUSAN WEINSTEIN



SUSAN IS A LEATHER WOMAN, PROUDLY HAILING FROM NYC. SHE'S A NATIONALLY CERTIFIED INTERPRETER FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS. IN 2002, SHE WAS ASKED TO INTERPRET AT NYC'S LEATHER PRIDE NIGHT WHICH LED TO INTERPRETING AT THE MR. EAGLE NYC CONTEST AND THAT LED TO INTERPRETING LEATHER CONTESTS & KINK EVENTS ALL ALONG THE NORTHEAST (MR. & MS. NEW JERSEY LEATHER, NEW ENGLAND LEATHER, MR. & MS. CONNECTICUT LEATHER, TO NAME BUT A FEW), AS WELL AS 12 DAYS IN BALTIMORE. SHE'S MAMA'S MAGIC FINGERS IN MAMA'S FAMILY AND SAINT FAST FINGERS WITH THE BOSTON SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE. SHE SPEAKS ELOQUENTLY WITH HER HANDS PROVIDING INVALUABLE SERVICE FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING JUDGES, CONTESTANTS, AND ATTENDEES. SHE IS EXCITED TO BE INTERPRETING AT THE CONNECTICUT BEAR CONTEST AGAIN.

FEATURED PERFORMER



CONNECTICUT'S LATIN WITCH, MOTHER OF THE HAUS OF NIGHT. SHE'S A FIERY, HIGH ENERGY PERFORMER WITH A STRIKING LOOK, LEAVING THE AUDIENCE STUNNED AND UNDER HER SPELL.



JUDGES

“CANDY BEAR”



CANDY BEAR (HEATH HOOPER) WAS JUST RECENTLY CROWNED THE CURRENT MR. WORLD BEAR 2023, HE IS THE FORMER NORTH AMERICAN BEAR 2022, HE LIVES IN MANCHESTER NEW HAMPSHIRE, WITH HIS HUSBAND JONATHAN (MERCURIUS LION). CANDY IS A PROUD DAD OF TWO, ROBYNN AND MOXIE, WHO BOTH IDENTIFY IN THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY. IN 2018 CANDY FINALLY GOT THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO COME OUT AT THE LATE AGE OF 45, TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR HIS KIDS TO NOT HIDE WHO YOU ARE, BUT TO BE PROUD OF WHO THEY ARE. CANDY HAS CONNECTED THROUGH HIS TITLE YEARS WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SIMILAR STORIES, AND HOPES TO CREATE A NETWORK IN THE BEAR COMMUNITY WITH THOSE WHO ARE RAISING KIDS. CANDY HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH CHARITABLE WORK SINCE THE AGE OF 8, WITH NO PLANS TO STOP. THIS IS CANDY'S FIRST TIME JUDGING AT THE CT BEAR CONTEST.

CRAIG BYRNES



CRAIG BYRNES - JUDGE

FATHER OF THE BEAR FLAG 1995 / Mr. BALTIMORE BEAR CUB 1993
Mr. TEDDY BEAR LEATHER OF VA 1994
AMERICAN BEAR MAGAZINE COVER MAN 1994
AMERICAN GRIZZLY MAGAZINE COVER MAN 1998 / Mr. DC BEAR 1998
INTERNATIONAL Mr. BEAR 1999

PUP SCOUT



PUP SCOUT (HE/THEY) IS A NONBINARY, TRANS MASCULINE, BI, QUEER MUTT, AND PROUD TO BE YOUR 2023 Mr. NEW ENGLAND LEATHER. IN THEIR DAY JOB, PUP SCOUT IS AN LGBTQ+ SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE, FOCUSING ON TRANS RIGHTS, EQUITY, AND HEALTH. PUP SCOUT HAS WORKED ON STATE AND NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS FOR TRANS RIGHTS, WRITTEN POLICY FOR NONBINARY GENDER MARKERS ON STATE IDs, AND EDUCATED THOUSANDS ABOUT INCLUSIVE HEALTH AND COMMUNICATION PRACTICES FOR TRANS COMMUNITIES. THEY'VE WON NUMEROUS LOCAL AND NATIONAL AWARDS FOR THEIR WORK IN TRANS ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION. PUP SCOUT IS MARRIED, COLLARED, AND ENJOYS SPENDING TIME IN BOOTS OF ALL SHAPES: LEATHER BOOTS, HIKING BOOTS, OR EVEN RENAISSANCE FAIRE PIRATE BOOTS.

PHOTO: MRMPHOTO

JUDGES

DOLORES DÉGAGÉ HOPKINS



DOLORES DÉGAGÉ HOPKINS (SHE/HER/HERS) CURRENTLY RESIDES IN NAUGATUCK, CT WITH HER FIANCÉ JENNIFER LINDEN. DOLORES HAS WORKED AS A DRAG ARTIST, PHOTOGRAPHER AND IN THE DANCE WORLD FOR 40+ YEARS AND CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE DIRECTOR OF BALLET FOR THE JOAN LYNN DANCE COMPANY IN HAMDEN, CT. SHE FIRST SERVED ON THE NEW HAVEN PRIDE CENTER BOARD IN 2013 AND 2014 RESIGNING TO CARE FOR HER LONG TIME PARTNER SASSIE SALTIMBOCA / DREW MANCUSO WHO WAS LOST TO CANCER IN AUGUST OF 2015. DOLORES AND SASSIE WERE RECIPIENTS OF A DOROTHY AWARD FROM THE NEW HAVEN PRIDE CENTER IN 2016.

“I RETURNED TO THE NHPC BOARD AND WAS HONORED TO BECOME THE FIRST TRANS WOMAN BOARD PRESIDENT IN ITS 25 YEAR HISTORY. REGARDLESS OF HAVING RECENTLY STEPPED DOWN FROM THE BOARD SHE FULLY SUPPORTS THE NHPC NEW VISION & MISSION TO RETURN TO ITS ROOTS AS A COMMUNITY CENTER FOREMOST WITH THE GOAL OF CREATING STABILITY & SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE CENTER'S FUTURE.”

A NATIVE OF TEXAS, DOLORES HAS BEEN AN LGBTQ+ ACTIVIST FOR 45 YEARS AND SPEAKS OPENLY ABOUT HER RECENT DECISION TO TRANSITION AT AGE 60 AND CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE AND RAISE AWARENESS FOR LGBTQIA+ EQUALITY. SHE HAS ALSO SERVED ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR APNH (A PLACE TO NURTURE YOUR HEALTH) PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS AIDS PROJECT NEW HAVEN. BEING A CLIENT OF APNH FOR MANY YEARS DOLORES IS A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR U=U, HIV AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND CONTINUED RESEARCH TO FIND THE CURE. SHE IS CURRENTLY AN ACTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN COURT OF ALL CONNECTICUT AND ENJOYS HELPING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR OTHER NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT BENEFIT OUR LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY.

BONNIE PETITE



BONNIE PETITE IS THRILLED TO BE ON THE JUDGING PANEL FOR CT BEAR 2024! SHE IS CURRENTLY APPOINTED AS IMPERIAL CROWN PRINCESS TO REIGN 24 OF THE IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN COURT OF ALL CT WHERE SHE HAS HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH THE NORTHEAST URSAMEN FOR SEVERAL PAST EVENTS. SHE IS EXTREMELY PASSIONATE ABOUT USING DRAG TO BRING THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY TOGETHER. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN HER HOSTING CHARITY SHOWS, SINGING AT PRIDE FESTIVALS, OR POSSIBLY EVEN READING BOOKS TO CHILDREN. BONNIE LIVES IN NEW BRITAIN, CT WITH HER FIANCÉ JP AND HER DOG TIMBER. WHEN NOT IN DRAG, THEY WORK IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ARE AN AVID ART AND THEATER ENTHUSIAST. THEY ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE BEAR COMMUNITY IN CT AND LOVE ATTENDING URSAMEN EVENTS ANYTIME THEY CAN. THEY FEEL SUPER HONORED TO BE A PART OF THIS WEEKEND AND SPEND TIME WITH SUCH AMAZING PEOPLE!

