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FRIENDS FOR ALL ANNOUNCES VOTING-THEMED ANNUAL PRIDE PARTY

Memphis, Tenn.-- Memphis-based non-profit organization Friends For All will be hosting its annual Big Gay Dance Party at Crosstown Theater on May 31 to kick off Mid-South Pride.

[Friends For All](#) (formerly Friends for Life) kicks off Pride Month in Memphis with Big Gay Dance Party every year with a theme relevant to national and local issues that impact the LGBTQ+ community. This year's event marks the twelfth volume of the party titled "Big Gay Dance Party Volume 12: Red, White, and You." Friends For All (Friends) hopes this year's theme will encourage the Mid-South community to get registered to vote as this year's primary election nears closer.

"Having your voice heard is so important, especially for our LGBTQ+ community members who are having their everyday lives affected by recent legislation," said Friends For All CEO Diane Duke. "Helping our community members get registered to vote, no matter how they choose to vote, is so critical in this moment."

Big Gay Dance Party is a large annual Pride party in Memphis and the Mid-South. [Big Gay Dance Party 2023: Hate is a Drag](#) focused on honoring local drag performers fighting for LGBTQ+ rights during political turmoil. The event reached its maximum attendance of 1,150 people at New Daisy Theater on Memphis' famous Beale Street. Friends also got several attendees tested and introduced to care services through staff from its locations at [The Haven](#) and [The Corner](#).

"Last year's event showed that there is a need for positive community gathering for our LGBTQ+ people living in the Mid-South," said Friends For All Chief Programs Officer Mia Cotton. "This year, we are prepared to have an even bigger event with more fun, more people getting tested, and brand-new programs to connect our community to."

Big Gay Dance Party attendees can look forward to enjoying an action-packed night of music, dancing, drinks, and a safe, inclusive environment to be their true selves. Friends For All will also provide free HIV and STI testing at the party. This year, Friends For All will be conducting testing through the debut of its brand-new mobile care unit and providing treatment and prevention medication options through its newly opened pharmacy.

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Friends For All has been on the front line in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Memphis and the Mid-South since 1985. Through planned growth and innovation, Friends For All is now one of the largest and most comprehensive HIV/AIDS organizations in the United States. Today, the organization has expanded its scope to include factors that influence health outcomes in Memphis and the Mid-South. Programs include housing assistance, behavioral health services, and nutrition treatment services available through both pick-up and delivery. This is in addition to the primary health services Friends For All offers at its location [The Corner](#), and sexual health outreach and testing through its location [The Haven](#).

Big Gay Dance Party Volume 12: Red, White, and You will kick off at 8 PM at Memphis' Crosstown Theater. Attendees are encouraged to visit Friends' [Big Gay Dance Party webpage](#) to stay updated on ticket availability, party details, and more. A recap and photo album from Big Gay Dance Party 2023 can be found [here](#).

For any questions regarding Big Gay Dance Party, please contact Friends For All Donor Engagement Manager B. Scott Duke at bscott.duke@friendsforall.org.

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