

Fashion designer Christian Siriano to be grand marshal of Annapolis Pride Parade in June



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Fashion designer Christian Siriano will be returning to his hometown of Annapolis in June to serve as the grand marshal of the fourth annual Annapolis Pride Parade.

The Parade and Festival take place June 1 at noon. The parade route this year will be different, starting at City Dock, moving up Main Street and ending where Amos Garrett Boulevard and West Street meet. Following the parade, a festival will be held outside Maryland Hall and the Bates Athletic Complex until 5 p.m.

Siriano, who graduated from Broadneck High School, is known for winning the fourth season of the Bravo television show “Project Runway” in 2007. He was 22 years old at the time of his victory, making him the youngest winner on the show. After his win on the show, Siriano launched his eponymous collection in 2008, and has since dressed celebrities such as [Ariana Grande](#) and [Michelle Obama](#).

Siriano, 38, will be giving the keynote speech at the festival at Maryland Hall at the end of the parade.

“This will probably be the biggest year yet,” said Joe Toolan, board chair for Annapolis Pride.

This year’s theme is “Anchored with Pride,” centering on the Chesapeake Bay and its importance to the area. The theme also represents “the feeling that you get when you can proudly stand in your pride, anchored by your community, your chosen family, and as unapologetically you,” Toolan said.



Christian Siriano, well-know fashion designer and Annapolis Native, is slated to be the Master of Ceremonies for 4th annual Annapolis Pride Parade in June. original caption: Anne Arundel County Christian Siriano poses for a

photo at showroom on W. 35th Street in New York on Friday, Jan. 12, 2018. He and friend David Hart have become big-name designers with bridal and formal wear lines.

L. Rodgers is headlining this year's musical entertainment. Rodgers, a Baltimore native, has performed at Annapolis Pride for the past two years, Toolan said. She is currently receiving national attention as a contestant on NBC's "The Voice." During her blind audition in March, Rodgers' cover of "Wild Horses" by the Rolling Stones caught the attention of country star Reba McEntire, who ultimately became Rodgers' coach for the season after hitting the "I Want You" button in the last few seconds of the performance.

Rodgers is also a former contestant on the ABC's "American Idol." She is an Americana/soul artist, according to a news release from Annapolis Pride, and performed in the second annual Songbird Festival at Maryland Hall in Annapolis on April 20.

"L. Rodgers has been an integral part of Annapolis Pride since we started," Toolan said in a statement. "She is a model in our community and has been open about her experience and coming out as a lesbian and navigating her journey with autism through music. We are so excited to have her back this year.

Rodgers is expected to perform in the show's playoff round on April 29 where the judges select 12 contestants to advance into the final round of live performances.

This year entertainment is also scheduled around the Annapolis area to kick off and close out the Pride celebration, including the launch of an Annapolis Pride beer at Forward Brewing on May 28.



The celebration closes on June 5 with a panel at Maryland Hall that will include Chris Haley, nephew of Alex Haley and director of the study of the legacy of slavery in Maryland for the Maryland Archives; Mihee Kim-Kort, an Annapolis Presbyterian minister; and Hess Love, a writer/poet from Annapolis.

The panel, which will be led by the Coalition for LGBTQ+ Students, a local LGBTQ+ advocacy group will discuss their history in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County and how LGBTQ+ and other marginalized identities can heal together, Toolan said.

For more information about Annapolis Pride and the Pride Parade celebration, visit annapolispride.org