

For Immediate Release
Contact: Robin Tyler,
Ex. Director of the Equality Campaign
Los Angeles
(818) 893-4075 (landline)
(818)259-3799 (cell)
robintyler@robintyler.com

SUPPORT CHAZ BONO ON DANCING WITH THE STARS VIEWING AND DANCE PARTIES TO BE HELD NATIONWIDE BECAUSE OF BACKLASH AGAINST HAVING A TRANSGENDER FEMALE TO MALE PARTICIPATE

Last week, Belinda Carroll, a lesbian from Portland, Oregon, posted a comment on my Facebook page, after I said how upset I was about the backlash against Chaz Bono, a transgender female to male, for appearing on Dancing with the Stars. Belinda said she wanted to have a viewing party at a local club, to support Chaz Bono. As both the cofounder of successful campaigns such as stopdlaura and don'tammend I suggested to Belinda that we take her idea of one party, and make it a National campaign. She agreed. So I contacted Gloria Allred to help us, as she has done so much legal work to support LGB and Transgender rights, and was also my attorney in the successful same-sex marriage case in California.

"For Dancing with the Stars to receive so many hateful posts on their site such as "Chaz Bono. How low can this show sink?" and "when I heard Chaz Bono was going to be on, I was sick", was shocking. Our community and fair minded people will not tolerate this kind of bullying and hate mail. It was OK for Chaz Bono to be seen on a National cable documentary explaining his life and why he transitioned from female to male, but it is not OK to have Chaz Bono on Dancing with the Stars, actually dancing with a woman?," says Robin Tyler

Belinda Carroll states, "I believe that everyone; gay, straight, or Transgender, should take a stand and support Chaz. He has shown incredible bravery and tenacity in coming out, being himself and showing others they can do the same. The backlash and misconceptions in the media regarding Chaz Bono and trans-people in general is absolutely reprehensible. By watching Dancing With The Stars and supporting Chaz in his efforts, you will be showing that we all have a right to live in this world as a human regardless of superficial designations like race, class, sexual orientation or gender."

Because of the enormous backlash and overt discrimination, we have decided to issue a National call for LGBT people and our allies to have Dancing with the Stars viewing and dance parties in support of Chaz Bono. There is a "Chaz Bono Dancing with the Stars" Facebook page which will be up right after this press conference, where people can sign up to do the parties. We Support Chaz Bono will also be on Twitter.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chaz-Bono-Dancing-With-The-Stars-Viewing-Parties/157053777712049>

Twitter: WeSupportChaz/twitter

Parties are already being planned for Los Angeles, Portland Oregon, Austin Texas and New York.

(Belinda Carroll may be reached at belindadcarroll@gmail.com (503)895-8893 or on Skype)

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TV News



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Chaz Bono

ABC receives complaints about Chaz Bono's addition to 'DWTS'

Aug. 30, 2011, 5:07 PM EST

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By [Tim Molloy](#)
[TheWrap](#)

"[Dancing With the Stars](#)" aims for provocative casts, and Chaz Bono's addition to the show has already yielded strong reaction - some of it ugly.

Bono, the only child of [Sonny Bono](#) and [Cher](#), was born a woman but legally changed his gender and name last year. The announcement Monday that he would join the highly rated ABC dance competition immediately made him one of the

highest-profile transgendered people in the world.

More on Bing: ['Dancing With the Stars' clips and full episodes](#)

It also brought to the surface prejudices about Bono and others who have changed their gender, judging from the "Dancing With the Stars" [message board](#). In hundreds of comments, Bono was the most common subject.

But for everyone who vented disgust - or questioned whether Bono would dance with a man or a woman - there were many who defended Bono and accused his critics of bigotry.

Bono's casting is only the latest to make a lighthearted reality show the impetus for deeper discussions about values, tolerance, bigotry and politics. Gay "[American Idol](#)" contestants have opted not to announce their sexuality, perhaps out of concern about alienating intolerant viewers. And [Bristol Palin](#)'s "Dancing" casting two seasons ago led many to vote for or against her based on her mother's politics.

If Americans quickly vote Bono off the show - or keep him on despite a middling performance, as they did with Palin - it could reveal plenty about attitudes toward transgendered people.

ABC had no immediate comment Tuesday on posts by "Dancing" fans on its message board. Among them:

"*HUGE HUGE fan of this show since season two and eagerly await each season to get my dancing/entertainment 'fix'!! But when I heard that Chaz Bono was going to be on, I was sick. Not that I have anything personally against her/him, I just don't want that lifestyle choice continually flaunted in the media esp ABC.*"

"*Chaz Bono How low can this show sink. Well you have certainly addressed the gay community. Guess this will not be a family show any longer!!!! Lost my family!*"

"*YOUR choice to bring Chaz Bono into the mix goes too far. I am not about to risk the potential for on screen dialogue about sex changes and gender confusion while my 7 and 9 year old are watching. If you want the "anything goes" hippy culture, then soon that is all you will get. You've lost us. In case any of you are wondering ... no, we are NOT tolerant. We are not tolerant to allow any and all influences to come unfiltered into our home and especially to our children. This is truly a sad farewell.*"

Some of the objections were flat-out confusing - one person seemed to suggest Bono had to be paired with a woman - because he was still a woman: "Chaz will have to dance with one of the girls because she/he says she/he is a man but chromosomes say different no matter how many surgeries you have."

The show has historically paired men and women regardless of sexuality. The openly gay Lance Bass was paired with Lacey Schwimmer.

Many criticisms of Bono had nothing to do with gender. Some complained that he is overweight and only famous

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