



# PRIDE

SEROTONIN SAYS MONTHLY:  
JUNE EDITION

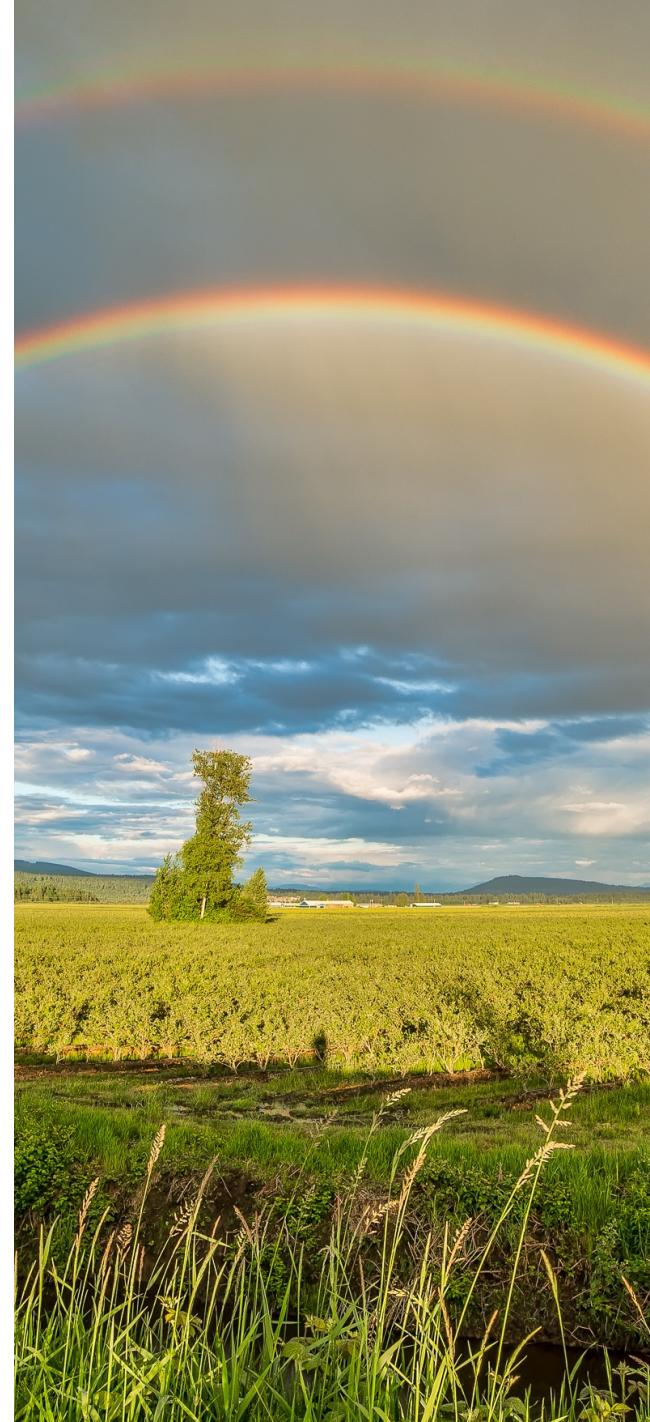
# HISTORY BEHIND PRIDE FLAGS

WRITTEN  
BY D.I.  
SMITH

June is commonly known as Pride Month, and one of the most popular icons in the LGBTQIA+ Community is the very colorful rainbow flag. Many people immediately know what this flag stands for, and it is often used to represent gay pride. There are other well-known flags such as the bisexual flag, striped with blue, pink, and purple. The blue represents attraction to the opposite gender, the pink represents attraction to the same gender, and the purple is the attraction to more than one gender. There is also a flag representing the transgender community. The two blue stripes are associated with the male gender, the two pink stripes are for the female gender, and the white stripe in the middle represents people who are transitioning. In 2014, a flag was created for nonbinary people, with yellow, white, purple, and black stripes, representing people with many/different genders, people without a gender, those who fall between male and female/are a mix of both, and those who do not fall within the term 'binary gender.' There are many more flags, and they are relatively new in comparison to other flags. However, do you know the history behind them? Let's take a small delve into the history behind the Pride flag:

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, in 1978, Gilbert Baker, a gay man, decided to create this pride flag because he found that a flag was the best way to show pride. The flag is striped with the colors hot pink, red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, indigo, and violet. These hues represent sexuality, life, healing, sunlight, nature, art, serenity, and spirit.

That is just a bit of insight into the history of one of the pride flags. Whenever you see a pride flag now, remember what they truly represent in the community, and be proud of it. Show your pride this month!



# BIOGRAPHY ON JOJO SIWA

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WRITTEN BY MADELINE GOLD  
EDITED BY WAVERLY NAKASHIMA

Joelle Joanie “JoJo” Siwa is an 18-year old American social media personality, dancer, singer, and more. Longtime fans of hers know her from her *Dance Moms* days, whereas newer fans might recognize her from her social media platforms, where she has a following of millions, her hit singles “Boomerang” and “Kid in a Candy Store”, or her iconic line of hair bows featured at Claire’s.

So why write a piece about her? Well, in January of 2021, Siwa came out as a part of the LGBTQ+ community, sparking mass support and love from her fanbase. She later revealed her relationship with best friend Kylie Prew, and told interviewers that she is comfortable using the terms “gay”, “pansexual”, and “queer” in reference to her sexuality.

While certainly a shock for most fans, JoJo Siwa has received massive amounts of support from those surrounding her. But more than that, she is now one of the biggest faces LGBTQ+ American youth can look to when searching for a celebrity who represents them and their sexuality.

The love and congratulations Siwa has been showered with are a bright source of hope for many across the nation. Acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community continues to be an issue today, but Siwa has shown that there is a lot to look forward to.

# BIOGRAPHY ON TODRICK HALL

Rapper. Singer. Songwriter. LGBTQ+ icon. Todrick Hall came from humbler beginnings, but has since grown into a very distinct and recognizable persona known by many.

Hall realized he was gay when he was in high school; he came out to his family at 15. According to past interviews, he recalls that it took a couple years for them to fully accept him for who he was.

At 16, Hall first entered the performing industry. Since then, he has appeared on YouTube, Broadway, and most notably, American Idol. He has also written and produced his own music, a large amount of which details his experience as a black gay man in society.

In November of 2016, Hall took on the role of Lola in Broadway's *Kinky Boots*. He was offered the lead "without auditioning" due to his similarity to the character and past work in the music industry and on the show *RuPaul's Drag Race*.

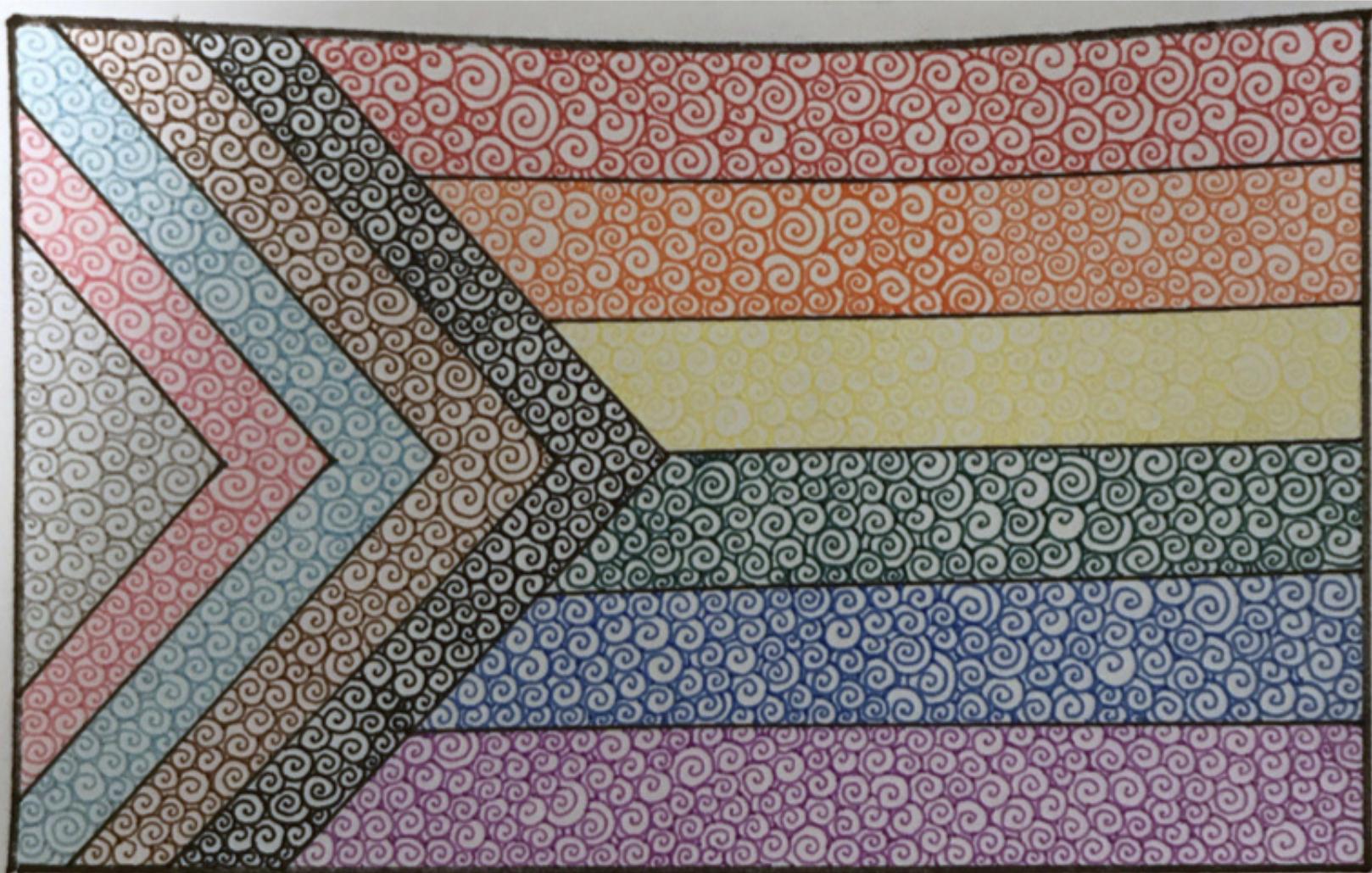
In May of 2021, Hall publicly announced a relationship with model David Boris, further cementing his self-confidence and impact on the black gay community. He has inspired so many already, and with projects up ahead, is sure to remain an LGBTQ+ icon for years ahead.



WRITTEN BY ETHAN BULL  
EDITED BY EMMA YUAN

# JUNE ZENTANGLE

BY MAYA SIEGAL



PRIDE IS FOR EVERYONE

# PRIDE: A POEM

BY WAVERLY NAKASHIMA

Screams Internally  
What isn't truth?  
Happiness and peace  
Society through echos lie  
Angels powerful  
Creating rules  
Beaten, punished, harassed,  
and tried  
Rainbows of streaks  
Bleed out  
Pride in sense  
~Despair~  
Sense in pride,  
Out bleed  
Streaks of rainbows  
Tried and Harassed,  
Punished, Beaten  
Rules creating  
Powerful angels  
Lie echos through society  
Peace and happiness  
Truth isn't what  
Internally screams

## Quote of the Month

“Gender and sexuality are so fluid. It's OK to change your mind a million times and figure out what works for you. It's OK to take your time.”

-Amandla Stenberg

## Song of the Month

### GIRLS LIKE GIRLS BY HAYLEY KIYOKO

# CHECK IN NEXT MONTH

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SEROTONIN SAYS MENTAL  
HEALTH CHALLENGE OF  
THE MONTH: REFLECT ON  
WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED  
THIS PRIDE MONTH AND  
MAKE A PLAN TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT PRIDE/ PRIDE  
MONTH IN THE MONTHS  
AND YEARS TO COME!

FOR MORE  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
CONTENT

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