

## **Fantasia Fair Returns To Provincetown**

This year, Fantasia Fair will mark it's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Provincetown has graciously hosted Fantasia Fair over each of those 25 years. The acceptance and welcoming spirit of the Provincetown area residents and merchants have created an atmosphere where Fair attendees have always felt comfortable to express themselves freely. An annual autumn ritual in Provincetown for 25 years, Fantasia Fair has become a standard within the transgender community. It is the grandmother—so to speak—of all transgender events. And, so, most folks Provincetown are aware that Fantasia Fair is held each October in Provincetown. But not everyone is aware of how it has been evolving to meet the needs of today's transgender community.

Along with the exciting list of special events that one would expect as part of a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, organizers have designed this year's Fair to do more than celebrate the past. A serious effort is being exerted to extend the Fair's appeal to a broader range of participants and to make it more financially accessible. For the first time, participants are not being restricted to the "all or nothing at all" registration policy that was in place during past Fairs. This year, if they choose, attendees can register for individual days *and* they are free to make their own lodging arrangements to best suit their needs and their budget. This new flexibility in registration and housing is particularly appealing to those who, for whatever reasons, are not able to commit to an entire week's registration, but who are available for certain days.

These changes are set against a backdrop of an even greater shift in the make-up (pun fully intended) of Fantasia Fair. Over the past 25 years, members of the transgender community have come to an increasing awareness, understanding and acceptance of the wide-ranging diversity within it's own ranks. Recognizing that the transgendered community is made up of a very diverse mix of gender types—not just heterosexual crossdressers—the Fair is building bridges to all segments of the trans community, including transsexuals and FTM's. By offering seminars on topics of varying interests and embracing a spirit of inclusiveness toward all transgendered individuals, Fantasia Fair hopes to foster more interaction and mutual support within this richly diverse community.

This year, over 45 different daytime programs and seminars on a wide range of subjects are being offered to registered Fantasia Fair participants. Some are practical, some are fun and frivolous and still others are serious and thought provoking. Descriptions for all the dozens of seminars can be found on the Fantasia Fair website ([www.fantasiafair.org](http://www.fantasiafair.org))

Of course, no 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of an event as historically significant as Fantasia Fair would be complete without gala festivities. And this year's **Fantasia Fair's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silver Jubilee Celebration** has plenty of exciting events planned. A performance by the popular Provincetown artist, **Suede**, will begin the week for Fantasia Fair just as Women's Week in Provincetown is winding down. This event will be a great opportunity for the women's community and the transgender community to meet and mingle. In addition, as a joint fundraiser, proceeds from this evening will benefit the Provincetown charitable organization, "Helping Our Women" and the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies (OIGS), the non-profit organization which sponsors Fantasia Fair. One of the premier events of the Fair will be a concert by world-renowned transgendered pianist **Sara Davis Buechner**, whose talents have been applauded by critics and audiences alike—both before and since her transition. Also, professional writer, **Christine Howey**, and award-winning composer, **Katherine Harvey**, both returning Fantasia Fair veterans, will present—**The Sissy Show**—a funny and occasionally poignant transgender musical revue. Returning favorites will include the **Fantasia Fair Fashion Show** and the **Fantasia Fair Follies**—the later of which will, this year, be staged in spacious Provincetown Town Hall with a full complement of professional sound and lighting. And, because this *is* a benchmark year, the **Fantasia Fair Follies** will reprise some favorite performances of past years and will debut many exciting new acts. All of these performances will be open to the public—and they're all are expected to be sold out shows.

Other sparkling and fun festivities at this year's Fantasia Fair will include:

- A Gala Dinner/Dance featuring entertainment by The Three Marys and dancing to the Chris Luard Orchestra
- Drag Karaoke
- Drag Bingo
- A formal fundraising dinner to benefit the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies (OIGS)

Dates for **Fantasia Fair's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silver Jubilee Celebration** are October 17-24. This year's Fantasia Fair events should *not* be missed! Additional information concerning Fantasia Fair is available from its website at: [www.fantasiafair.org](http://www.fantasiafair.org) or from Provincetown Reservations System (PRS) at 800-648-0364 or 508-487-2400, who in addition to providing housing and registration for the Fair, is also handling ticket sales for performance events that are open to the public.