

# Northampton Pride '09 Entertainment Line-up



Photo by Amber Hobbs

**Sister Funk** the nation's hottest all-female band brings a high energy, entertaining stage show to a growing national following. For the past 6 years, Sister Funk has been headlining concert arenas, clubs and music festivals. Sister Funk's music is best described as commercial pop/rock, similar in sound & style to artists like Pink & Maroon Five. Their latest CD release *Gossip*, has been featured on Sirius Out Qs Hot Top 20 Charts for 15 consecutive weeks, reaching #2. Sister Funk's music is also featured in many independent films and on television: "A Word From Our Sponsor", "Becoming Donna", Montville Fair commercial and "Bringing Golfing Back To Dinah Shore" which features a cameo appearance of SISTER FUNK alongside Michelle Balan of Last Comic Standing and Poppy Chaplin, incredible female comedian. Sister Funk's long list of credits and accolades include: 1st Place Winners in the 2007 Emergenza Music Festival, in 2006 became a featured artist on the Olivia Cruise roster, winners of the 2005 Hartford Advocates Best Pop Band, Best Bassist, Best Guitarist, Best Horn Player & Best Drummer, in 2004 voted Favorite Out Band by National Stonewall Society, in 2003 Crucify was nomination for Best OUT Song by Out Music NYC and in 2003 listed as One of the Top 12 Artists on the Rise by GONYC Magazine.

Website: [www.sisterfunk.com](http://www.sisterfunk.com)



Courtesy of R/D Artist Relations & Management

**Jonathan Mendelsohn** stepped onstage for talent night at "Showtime at the Apollo," and he didn't allow the notoriously picky Apollo audience to see just how freaked out he was. Performing his soulful self-penned urban tinged pop song "Over," he ended up winning the competition not only that night but every night thereafter for the entire season. Not bad for a young white boy singing a homemade song that was otherwise unknown to the unruly urban crowd.

Jonathan went on to join forces with producer Chris Brann, known for his successful dance act Ananda Project. They wrote what would become the rebirth of Brann's other brainchild (Wamdue Project) that gave rise to the #1 hit song "King of My Castle," selling over 2 million copies worldwide. This collaboration led to the song "Forgiveness," Wamdue's first single in a decade, which was an irresistible and timeless track that stood out, was always well received and left the listener stunned by its brilliance. The song landed Jonathan a record deal with Sony's BMG's label "Music with a Twist," and has been recently licensed exclusively to the euro compilation giant "Fierce Angels" set for worldwide release with remixes by Eric Kupper and Rasmus Faber.

Jonathan is also working on his brand new solo album to be released in 2009/2010. Website[s]: [www.jonathanmendelsohn.com](http://www.jonathanmendelsohn.com) & [www.myspace.com/jonathanmendelsohn](http://www.myspace.com/jonathanmendelsohn)



Photo by Girl Gang

**Girl Gang** is proof that women can rock on in their fifties. They will rock your socks off with their high-energy, tight performance of songs ranging from "Love Shack", "Shame", "Cinnamon Girl", "I Kissed A Girl", to "Shoop" and "One Way or Another".

Girl Gang's members are four professional female musicians who came together to play the music they love and to have fun that translates to their audience, and leaves the crowd asking for more! Beth Caurant guitarist and founder of Lilith, one of the first nationally known all-women's bands who Bonnie Raitt went to see and booked as her warm-up act and said "I haven't been this blown away by a band in a long time." Karen Koehler, a producer, studio engineer and bass player from NYC who played with members of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band and South Side Johnny. Susan Lyons, on lead vocals played in the Washington D.C., VA, and MD area for many years. She was a solo artist and also sang with and for a variety of well known Metro Washington Groups. Laurel Blanchard who played drums for Lilith, Lou Miami and the Cosmetics, Caught in the Act and other Boston based bands.

Website: [www.myspace.com/girlgangbandrocks](http://www.myspace.com/girlgangbandrocks)



Photo by Arjuna Greist

**Arjuna Greist** is an artist for the people. Her music has a folksy tone but a punk sensibility, blending progressive politics with witty observations on life. Combining spoken word poetry with songs both poignant and droll, her energetic performances leave audiences inspired, moved, and uplifted. In her acceptance speech for the 2004 Just Plain Folks International Songwriting Award in the spoken word category, arjuna enthused, "I am so honored, and so joyous... the fact that my queer-happy, anti-establishment, freakazoid, punk-ass manifesta passed the muster of my peers to win an award lets me know, in an official way, that messages of peace, and change, and hope, and non-violent revolution are both wanted and needed in this world... we just need to keep getting louder."

'Odd numbers,' Arjuna's latest release, has garnered accolades from fans and media alike, as well as airplay on college, community, AAA and internet radio in the U.S. and abroad. In December of 2007, odd numbers was ranked as the #2 top-selling local album at Night Owl Records in Easthampton, MA. A longtime Northampton resident, Arjuna is delighted to be performing at her home(o)town Pride.

Website: [www.myspace.com/arjunagreist](http://www.myspace.com/arjunagreist)



# ... Entertainment Line-up continued



Photo by Gina Gale

**Nedra Johnson** is a singer/songwriter multi-instrumentalist born & living in New York City. Her unique style of guitar playing is unmistakably informed by her many years as a professional bassist and keeps her live solo acoustic performances more on an R&B tip than what one might expect of a "girl with a guitar." Nedra's self-titled sophomore release is a joyful mix of R&B, funk, rock and gospel. Featuring lush background vocals and danceable grooves, Nedra makes the personal political and the erotic downright spiritual.

Nedra has performed internationally at jazz, blues, pride & women's music festivals as a solo artist and a tuba player/vocalist with her father Howard Johnson & his group, Gravity. She surprised and impressed jazz audiences in Paris, Nime, Berlin, Vienna, Kassel, Macedonia, Muchen, Leverkusen, Los Angeles, New York & New Orleans when she put down her tuba and sang original songs with Gravity garnering such praises as from The Orange County Register, "A little thing [an original from the CD Testify] called Working Hard for the Joneses had the crowd on its feet and whooping." As a soloist, she has performed in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, Cleveland, Madison, Chicago, New Caledonia and more!

Website: [www.nedrajohnson.com](http://www.nedrajohnson.com)

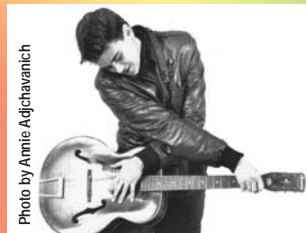


Photo by Annie Adchavanich

**Jesse Molina** started playing the guitar and writing songs at an early age. She began performing under the name "Jesse X" in Washington, D.C., and has since performed at Pride Festivals and Women's Music Festivals on the West Coast and Hawaii. She has also played regularly at local venues such as the Iron Horse Music Hall, PACE, the Yellow Sofa, and Sam's on Main Street Northampton. Her songs are an eclectic mix of politics and passion dedicated to the thousands of young men and women who have lost their lives and their voice because of ignorance and homophobia over the years. Her band this year consists of her friends ... "Johnny Orbit" on lead guitar, Becky Dimino on drums and Kris Coia on electric bass.

Website: [www.jessexmolina.com](http://www.jessexmolina.com)  
Music: [www.myspace/jedimusique.com](http://www.myspace/jedimusique.com)



Photo by Lynn Berry

**Emily Nyman** developed her musical talents performing in her hometown of Wareham, Massachusetts. She attended UMASS Amherst and Bridgewater State College, obtaining a Master's degree in Psychology and then moving to Vermont in 1990. While interning as a Guidance Counselor, Emily met Lynn Berry, Guidance Counselor, Artist, and published poet. When Lynn shared her poems and Emily shared her music, more than a songwriting team was born.

Emily has entertained audiences from the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont to the Jersey shore, including New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Quebec. She has appeared on the CBS/WCAX TV Morning Music Showcase and Tim Kavanaugh's Late Night Saturday show. Her music has been aired on Vermont public radio, WOMR Provincetown, 365 Internet radio, Rainbow World Radio and Sirius Out Q radio, earning top 40 and finalist status for favorite lesbian musician in the Pride in the Arts Award.

Website: [www.cdbaby.com/cd/nymann](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/nymann)



Photo by Tomas

**Tomas** Singer, producer, actor, choreographer, few titles escape this socially conscious entertainer who is equally as comfortable on stage singing, dancing or acting as he is behind the scenes making it all happen. By combing powerful pop vocals, with thoughtful lyrics and non-stop grooves, Tomas' music not only moves your behind, but also your mind. His talents and commitment to equality for exceeds the dance floor, however. Tomas is also a powerful diversity trainer/presenter who presents at corporations and colleges across the US. Website: [www.allabouttomas.com/](http://www.allabouttomas.com/)

**Pioneer Valley Gay Men's Chorus** is a casual group of gay men living in or near the Pioneer Valley who enjoy singing. The Chorus welcomes those who identify as gay, bisexual, or transgendered, or any man who wishes to sing in a proudly gay-identified group. Members' experience range from extensive to just beginning. New members are always welcome. The chorus sings barbershop style (4-part) harmony of all kinds of music, with a fondness for show tunes. There are weekly rehearsals in Northampton or Amherst where a good time and camaraderie are shared by all attending. Website: [launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/pvgmc/](http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/pvgmc/)

