
Marsha P Johnson, and the influence of the Stonewall Riots



By Sol and Zivia



What were the Stonewall Riots?

The Stonewall riots were a reaction to oppression by the police. LGBTQ+ spaces were being invaded and criminalised by the police, and on June 28th 1969 they decided they had had enough.



Who was Marsha P Johnson?

Marsha P Johnson was a drag queen, gay liberation activist, and one of the most prominent leaders of the Stonewall Riots. She was also popular in New York City's gay and art scene- modeling for Andy Warhol and performing onstage with Hot Peaches are only some of the achievements she has under her belt.



When did the Stonewall Riots take place?

The Stonewall Riots took place in 1969, during a time when very few establishments welcomed gay people. Bars like the Stonewall Inn were one of the few gay bars, and unfortunately were one of the few bars that were raided regularly by police.



What caused the riots?

Police were regularly raiding bars such as the Stonewall Inn, and this eventually was the tipping point for many members of the bar and the LGBTQ community. Many residents of the town started to riot, protesting that there should be places where anyone is comfortable about being open about their sexual orientation without being arrested for it.



What was Marsha P Johnson's involvement?

It is hard to say what role Johnson had in the riots as accounts differ. What is certain is she was there, and went on to help found The Gay Liberation Front, one of the first organizations created as part of the modern fight for LGBTQ+ rights.



How was it significant?

After the Stonewall Riots, two gay activist organizations were formed in New York, and three different magazines were made to promote gay rights. The first gay pride parade also took place a year after the Stonewall Riots, in honor of it.

