



MEDIA ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release
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FIERCE Celebrates 10 Years of LGBTQ Youth of Color Organizing in New York City

Gay-la Extravaganza to feature performances by Grammy-nominated artist Meshell Ndegeocello, Toshi Reagon & BIGLovely, Staceyann Chin, and House of LaDosh

WHAT: FIERCE, a membership-based organization dedicated to building the leadership and power of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth of color, will celebrate its 10th Anniversary at the **Highline Ballroom on May 13, 2010** with a legendary **Gay-la Extravaganza**. The event will bring together over 500 people and include a Pink Carpet Celebration, FIERCE Night Out! concert and after party!

Walk the **Pink Carpet Celebration** with DJ Tikka Masala, FIERCE founders, youth members, alumni, allies, and supporters. Pink Carpet will feature LGBTQ youth member performances, interactive art projects, free hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar.

FIERCE's annual **FIERCE Night Out! concert** will immediately follow with performances by Grammy-nominated Meshell Ndegeocello, Toshi Reagon & BIGLovely, Staceyann Chin, and House of LaDosh. The Gay-la will be hosted by D'lo and Micia Mosely. Party after the show with legendary DJ Bill Coleman and UBIQUITA DJ's Rimarkable & shErOck.

WHEN: **Thursday, May 13, 2010**
6pm Pink Carpet Celebration
8pm FIERCE Night Out! Concert; doors at 7:30pm
11pm After Party

WHERE: **Highline Ballroom**
431 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

ADMISSION

- Full event tickets: \$100 (*Access to the Pink Carpet, VIP Concert Seating & After Party*)
- FIERCE Night Out! Concert: \$40 (*After Party included*)
- After Party: \$10 (*At the door*)

Purchase Full Event tickets at <http://www.fiercenyc.org>.
FIERCE Night Out! Concert tickets: <http://www.highlineballroom.com>.

WHY: FIERCE was established in 2000 to respond to the urgent needs of LGBTQ youth in New York City. At that time, there was no other organization poised to directly engage LGBTQ youth in creating solutions to their problems. To this day, FIERCE continues to serve as one of the nation's few whose mission is to engage LGBTQ youth in community organizing by focusing on collective action through leadership development and base-building with some of the most marginalized youth in NYC: primarily low-income and homeless LGBTQ youth of color.

Over the past decade, FIERCE has grown from an emerging youth group to an established organization with local and national recognition for its work to build the power of LGBTQ youth of color. FIERCE's youth-led campaigns fight to preserve the West Village as safe space for LGBTQ youth and ensure that more City resources are allocated to address the needs of LGBTQ youth. FIERCE youth members have organized to successfully secure free programming on the pier for LGBTQ youth, eliminate a \$25,000 fee charged to mobile service vans providing services near the pier, and stop a proposal to shut down the pier at 10pm. Through leadership development programs, FIERCE has trained hundreds of LGBTQ youth of color in political education, organizing skills and grassroots fundraising. In 2009, FIERCE members expanded the organization's reach locally *and* nationally with the launch of a national program and the first-ever National LGBTQ Youth of Color Organizing Summit in Dallas, TX.

FIERCE would like to thank all of our Gay-la event sponsors and supporters. For a complete list of sponsors, please visit www.fiercenyc.org.

THE ARTISTS:

Meshell N'degeocello

<http://www.meshell.com/>



Toshi Reagon & BIGLovely

<http://www.toshireagon.com/>



Staceyann Chin

<http://www.staceyannchin.com/>



House of LaDosha

<http://www.myspace.com/houseofladosha>

