



Michigan Human Rights Campaign

Press Release

Contact: Gregory Wright
Phone: (248) 246-1556

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2004

LAINIE KAZAN TO BE AT 2004 HRC DINNER

The Michigan Human Rights Campaign will be holding their 15th annual gala dinner, entitled "My Big Fab Gay Wedding," on October 30, 2004. The event will be held at the Atheneum Suite Hotel, The International Banquet & Conference Center at Greektown Casino, 400 Monroe Ave in Detroit starting at 6:00 PM. Tickets cost \$175 and are available on-line at <http://www.mybigfabgaywedding.net>. There will also be a silent auction held during the dinner, featuring items such as weekends at vacation homes, time shares, restaurant gift certificates, airline miles, and theater and entertainment tickets.

Special Performances By:

Lainie Kazan - Actress and Singer Extraordinaire. Hailed as the "Queen of Brooklyn," Kazan has starred in such big movies as "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "The Bit Hit," and "The Cemetery Club." Kazan's work has earned her a Tony nomination for her role in the musical "My Favorite Year," and made the Billboard Singles Chart in 1967 for "Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye." Kazan will serve as Master of Ceremonies in addition to performing a musical number.

Cheryl Jacques - President and Executive Director, Human Rights Campaign. Cheryl Jacques began as president and executive director of the Human Rights Campaign in January 2004. She has a passionate commitment to civil rights and equality based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Jacques took helm of HRC after serving nearly a dozen years in the Massachusetts State Senate. She was first elected to her seat at the relatively young age of 29 in a traditionally conservative district, proving her ability to speak to constituents across a spectrum of ideologies.

Billy Bean - Former Major League Baseball Player and Best Selling Author. Billy Bean played major league baseball from 1987 through 1995. He broke into the major leagues with the Detroit Tigers, and tied a major league record with 4 hits in his first major league game. He went on to play for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres. After years of living secretly, Billy came out publicly in 1999. His story was front-page news in the *New York Times*, and subsequently on a nationally televised story with Diane Sawyer as well. He is the only living former major league baseball player to acknowledge his homosexuality. Bean recently published his first book, "Going the Other Way," highlighting the challenges he faced in the MLB and throughout his life.

The HRC is the nation's largest gay and lesbian organization. They provide a national voice on gay and lesbian issues. The Human Rights Campaign effectively lobbies Congress; mobilizes grassroots action in diverse communities; invests strategically to elect a fair-minded Congress; and increases public understanding through innovative education and communication strategies.

For more information please visit: <http://www.mybigfabgaywedding.net>

-###-