

Host Cheyenne Jackson's Impromptu Performance Highlights a Glamorous Celebration of Advocacy for LGBT Rights Honoring Scandal's Dan Bucatinsky, The Fosters' Peter Paige, Brad Bredeweg, Congressman Waxman and Bamby Salcedo at 2014 Lambda Legal West Coast Liberty Awards

(LOS ANGELES) June 17, 2014 - Cheyenne Jackson hosted Lambda Legal's West Coast Liberty Awards annual fundraising gala, which honored Emmy-winner Dan Bucatinsky (*Scandal*), ABC Family's *The Fosters* executive producers/showrunners Peter Paige, Bradley Bredeweg and Joanna Johnson, retiring Congressman Henry A. Waxman and Latina transgender activist Bamby Salcedo. On behalf of Lambda Legal Live!, Bravo TV's *Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles* star, Madison Hildebrand, led the star-studded red carpet, which included presenters Mary McCormack (*In Plain Sight*), *The Fosters* stars Sherri Saum and Teen Choice Award Nominee, Maia Mitchell, Candis Cayne (*Elementary*; *Dirty Sexy Money*), and first openly gay NBA player Jason Collins, who co-presented with his twin brother Jarron Collins, as well as special celebrity guests like Renee Olstead (*The Secret Life of the American Teenager*), Joyce Giraud (*Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*), *E! Fashion Police* host George Kotsiopoulos, Amanda Leighton (*The Fosters*), *Longmire's* Cooper Huckabee, Blair Late (Bravo TV's *Newlyweds*), and Jamie Gray Hyder (*Graceland*; *True Blood*).

Held at the upscale Beverly Wilshire Hotel, the sold out celebration recognized and thanked individuals and organizations whose public advocacy and work has furthered the cause of Lambda Legal's vision of equality on Friday, June 13. Jackson kicked off the dinner and awards presentation with a witty yet heartfelt speech about Lambda Legal's importance in the fight for equality. Sharing touching personal memories, McCormack presented the Celebrity in the Spotlight Liberty Award to longtime friend Bucatinsky, who was being honored for the voice he has given to LGBT characters and families through his Emmy-winning portrayal of James Novak on ABC's hit series, *Scandal*.

"When you live openly and honestly and share the truth about who you are and the family you've created – you help shape the agenda," said Bucatinsky. "I was proud to play a character who wasn't afraid to fight – to the death, sadly – to advocate for a gay man's rights. And to be a gay man, husband, father, playing that role ... made it all the sweeter."

Following Bucatinsky's acceptance, in which he also thanked husband Don Roos and their children, Jackson introduced Saum and Mitchell to co-present the Liberty Award to *The Fosters* executive producers/showrunners/producers Peter Paige and Brad Bredeweg and producer Joanna Johnson. Accepting the award for the work they have done to give a voice to LGBT families through the creation of their show and for the impact they've had in creating an environment of increasing tolerance and acceptance were the show's creators Paige and Bredeweg.

During their co-presentation, both Jason and Jarron Collins talked about the impact that Jason's coming out as the first openly gay NBA Player.

"As scary as it was to come out in my private life and the sports world, it was worse to not be my full self," said Jason Collins. "Our family has become more involved in advancing equality for all," added Jarron Collins.

Cayne, the ground-breaking transgender actress currently starring on *Elementary*, presented the award to Bamby Salcedo, a Latina Transgender activist and filmmaker of the highly acclaimed documentary about her own life, *TransVisible*, which delves into her fight for what's right, in hope of uniting people behind her vision for what the trans community needs.

Lambda Legal Executive Director, Kevin Cathcart, presented to Rep. Henry A. Waxman, who has represented California's 33rd Congressional District for almost 40 years, and was recognized for his decades-long commitment to helping those who live with HIV and AIDS, including his role as lead author of the Ryan White CARE and Affordable Care Acts.

GBK's Gavin B. Keilly led a successful live auction, featuring luxury packages including a stay and tickets to watch the Brooklyn Nets and Jason Collins play in Los Angeles, and a trip to San Francisco with tickets to see Cheyenne perform with the San Francisco Symphony in July. To encourage bidding, Jackson treated and entertained delighted guests with an impromptu performance of the Sam Cooke classic, 'A Change is Gonna Come.' The meaningful anthem also draws important parallels to Lambda Legal's fight for equality and was a fitting choice by Jackson.

Event highlights included a silent auction and red carpet cocktail reception and display of a Lexus CT F Sport hybrid, courtesy of Premier Sponsor Toyota. Irell & Manella also returned as a Premier Sponsor and other notable guests included Jason Landau, recording artist Meredith O'Connor looking stunning in a red gown, Michael Ohoven (*Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*), Screenwriter and director Don Roos, Jeff Pederson (*Bravo TV's Newlyweds*), Director Michael Morris, Senator Ted W. Lieu (D) from California's 28th District, LA City Controller Ron Galperin and Attorney Sandra Fluke (Candidate for California State Senate District 26). Jackson invited guests to join the dessert social immediately following the program. Social Media was buzzing with guest celebrities tweeting, posting and sharing photos with hashtags like #EqualityUnitesUs.

A selection of images attached. Higher Resolution Images and Broll and Aroll interviews available upon request. Additional Images may also be seen at Wire Image/Getty Images galleries.

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