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CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST ANNOUNCES LUPE ONTIVEROS WILL BE THE 2006 GRAND MARSHALL

Marissa Jaret Winokur selected as Celebrity Grand Marshall

LOS ANGELES (June 2, 2006) – Christopher Street West is pleased to announce that Lupe Ontiveros, a well-known stage, television and screen actress, as well as a Community Activist, will be the 2006 LA Pride Grand Marshall. Tony award-winning actress Marissa Jaret Winokur will be the 2006 Celebrity Grand Marshall.

Christopher Street West president Rodney Scott stated “Christopher Street West is excited to have Lupe Ontiveros join us as Grand Marshall and Marissa Jaret Winokur as Celebrity Grand Marshall for 2006 LA Pride in West Hollywood. Marissa has seen success not only on Broadway but also in numerous television and film roles and Lupe is a visionary who has sought to affect change while maintaining her dignity as a woman. CSW continues to forge relationships with individuals beyond the LGBT community who share a passion for equality and who are willing to help bring visibility to the inequalities that exist.”

The 15 years that Lupe spent as a social worker helped her become more involved as an activist, which has gained the respect of her community through recognition awards for her efforts. As a founding member of the Latino Theatre Company in Los Angeles, Lupe has dedicated her life towards affecting change in the negative image of Latinos in the entertainment industry. By creating award winning, original theatrical projects that enhance our existing cultural values and educate theatre audiences to the Latino/Chicano experience, the Latino Theatre Company has been able to address past and present social/political issues from the historical events of the Chicano Movement to the present social/sexual evolution of the Latino Community.

Lupe's film credits include "*Picking Up the Pieces*" with Woody Allen, "*As Good as it Gets*" with Jack Nicholson, "*The Brave, Mi Familia/Selena*". She also starred in the HBO feature "*Real Women Have Curves*." Her countless television credits include "*Dudley*" with Dudley Moore, "*Veronica's Closet*" and "*Desperate Housewives*," as Carlos' mother, Juanita Solis.

Marissa started her career on the stage in the Broadway production of "*Grease*," but is probably best known for her Tony Award-winning role as Tracy Turnblad in the hit Broadway musical "*Hairspray*." Winokur's film credits include "*Fever Pitch*," "*Scary Movie*" and "*American Beauty*."

Marissa's television credits include roles in "*Dharma and Greg*," "*Moesha*," "*Curb Your Enthusiasm*," "*Jack and Bobby*," "*Just Shoot Me*," "*Felicity*," and "*Get Real*."

About LA Pride

2006 LA Pride will be the weekend of June 9-11 in West Hollywood. This year's theme is "Our Agenda: Love. Equality. Pride." The festival will take place Saturday, June 10 (noon – 11 p.m.) and Sunday, June 11 (11 a.m. - 10 p.m.). Pre-sale tickets will be available for \$15 and tickets at the gate will be \$20. For information on pre-sale tickets, or to purchase tickets online, please visit the LA Pride website (www.lapride.org). The Parade is free to attend and will travel along Santa Monica Blvd. between Crescent Heights Blvd. and Robertson Blvd. on Sunday, June 11 starting at 11 a.m.

About CSW

Christopher Street West Association, Inc. (www.lapride.org) is a non-profit organization within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Greater Los Angeles, committed to supporting human rights, education, outreach and better understanding within the LGBT community and the heterosexual community. CSW produces the annual LA Pride celebration, which draws several hundred thousand attendees to West Hollywood, CA.

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