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**EX-NBA PLAYER JOHN AMAECHI TO SERVE AS GRAND MARSHALL OF  
2007 LOS ANGELES LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION**



LOS ANGELES (April 4, 2007) – Christopher Street West is pleased to announce ex-NBA player John Amaechi will serve as Grand Marshall for The 2007 Los Angeles LGBT Pride Celebration, June 8-10, in West Hollywood, CA.

Amaechi's recently published *New York Times* Best Seller autobiography, entitled *Man in the Middle*, depicts the challenges he faced as a youth, as a NBA star, recognizing his sexuality, and announced he is a gay man. Amaechi is the first member of the NBA to openly identify himself as gay.

Following an illustrious basketball career, including a 2000 induction into the National Basketball Hall of Fame, Amaechi expanded his service in the international community working with multiple organizations, including his own ABC Foundation, to nurture and grow youth programs. Devoted to personal excellence, his groundbreaking efforts to empower youth and change public perception of LGBT community, John Amaechi exemplifies the core mission of Christopher Street West to advocate, outreach and celebrate our diverse community.



“We are inspired by Amaechi’s courage and convictions. Despite personal risk, he opened himself up to the world and showed his authentic self. He is a catalyst for improving the lives of youth and is a model for all of us. Amaechi encourages us to continue our quest for equality,” said Rodney Scott, President of Christopher Street West.

“I am honored to be the Grand Marshall at this year’s Pride Celebration celebrating equality for each of us,” Amaechi said. “Be it through our Pride celebrations, work, school or family, it is important for us all to use our individual and collective voices to reach equality for all people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.”

Christopher Street West openly invites the community to extend welcoming support to Amaechi for his courageous coming out and generous outreach work.

*The 2007 LA Pride Parade and Celebration will be June 8-10 in West Hollywood. Please visit the LA Pride website ([www.lapride.org](http://www.lapride.org)) for more information. Our Agenda: Love. Equality. Pride.*

*A non-profit organization, Christopher Street West, is a leading partner in the advancement of rights and equality of the LGBT community. Led by professionally driven, volunteer based board members, Christopher Street West produces one of the largest Pride Celebrations in the United States with an expanding global presence reaching millions of people every year.*

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