

Various Voices

London sings out! 2009

Remember Justin

Stop homophobia in sport

Marking Justin Fashanu Day on May 2nd "Tackling homophobia in sport by singing

Sing along with Jonathan Hellyer. Various Voices will mark Justin Fashanu Day, to highlight the issue of homophobia in sport. This free open special event will see international choirs, sports people and the public singing the football anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone' on the banks of the Thames in a flash-mob style performance.

The event will kick off with a forum debate on tackling homophobia in sport, including speeches from The Football Association, gay sports groups and leaders of The Justin Campaign, the group fighting for the eradication of homophobia in sport. The focus will be on strategies around solutions.

The event, which starts at 1.30pm in the Clore Ballroom in The Royal Festival Hall, will see 'competitive singing' between teams, to echo the

singing of opposing fans on the terraces. Speakers include:

Dave Raval, Football referee and Ambassador for The Football Association.

Jason Hall, organiser of The Justin Campaign, whose aim is to get the football authorities to observe Saturday 2nd May 2009 as Justin Fashanu Day. Their long-term aim is to get 2nd May as the annual international day of protest against homophobia in sport.

A representative of EACH (Educational Action Challenging Homophobia).

The crowd are expected to be singing 'You'll Never Walk Alone' outside on the Southbank waterfront at 2.15pm.

Lesley Garrett who stars in *Carousel* in at the Savoy will be singing this song at Fridays Opening Ceremony 'London Sings Out' at Midday

Sat , 2 May 2009
13:30 – 14:15
Clore Ballroom
Royal Festival Hall
Southbank Centre

Free Event

Open to all

Just turn up in your team shirt.



Justin Fashanu



Jonathan Hellyer a unique cabaret performer and glorious vocalist, (applauded for his hilarious Dame Edna Experience)

Various Voices London's' Vision

Celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) identity through song and to showcase on an international stage the achievements and diversity of LGBT choirs of Europe and around the world.

Interaction between choirs and singers, both in singing activities and socially, to develop new synergy between delegate singers and ensembles in London; with interaction between choirs of all kinds and at all levels.

Facilitate growth of all those ensembles and individual singers involved, through motivating their leaders, inspiring singers and through the development of new skills and ideas.

Who will be there

Other organisations represented include The Metropolitan Police; The Kings Cross Steelers, the gay rugby team and runners-up in the 2008 Gay Rugby

World Cup, and Stonewall FC, current holders of the Gay Football World Cup. Lesbian friendly womens teams have been invited from

Hackney, the World WFC Champions and Alexandra Park, Brentwood and Clapham Orient. Plus singers, supporters and people who want to stop bullying, as well as YOU!



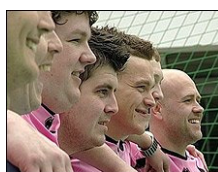
The Justin Campaign and Justin all-stars Team

Justin Fashanu Day on 2nd May this year marks the 11th anniversary of the death of Justin Fashanu, still the only openly gay professional footballer. Fashanu killed himself after enduring years of taunts and bullying from the terraces, from team mates and from the football establishment, despite huge acclaim

for his football skills. The Justin Fashanu All-stars created by the Justin Campaign, supported by the FA, promotes the inclusion of openly gay players in football. Jason Hall, from the Justin Campaign, said: "We decided that the best thing to do was to have a campaigning football team so the football does the talking.

"Hopefully [we'll] change people's opinions of gay people on the pitch."

More information about Justin Fashanu and the campaign against homophobia in sport can be found at: www.thejustincampaign.com



"Fashanu had appeared to triumph over prejudice about his colour and his homosexuality but the pressures, coupled with the alleged incident had overwhelmed him."

The Coroner at his inquest

What the Police and the Football Association are doing

The Metropolitan Police Services LGBT Liaison Team and Hate Crime Coordinators work with the LGBT population and key service providers, voluntary and community organisations and the local community in order

to make London a safer place for LGBT people, improve service provision to victims/witnesses of hate crime and generally, improve the wellbeing of the LGBT population. The FA, says: "We are trying to do more to

reduce homophobic chants and things. On a local level, unfortunately, we still do get cases of homophobic abuse to players and players are reported, booked and sent off for it and they are duly fined and suspended"



EACH – educational action challenging homophobia

EACH is the award-winning charity for young people and adults affected by homophobia. A not-for-profit training agency for employers and organisations committed to realising

an equal and safe working environment for all regardless of age, sex, ability, ethnicity, faith, gender identity or sexuality. Nationally, EACH delivers consultancy and training to a wide variety of

organisations. The national, freephone Action line for young people affected by homophobic bullying is available 10am to 4pm weekdays. Freephone **0808 1000 143** www.eachaction.org.uk/



You'll never walk alone

When you walk through a storm hold your
head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of a storm is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark.
Walk on through the wind,
Walk on through the rain,
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown.

Walk on, walk on with hope in
your heart
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone.
(reprise) Walk on, walk on with
hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone



Stop Homophobia Now!

Various Voices is keen to support initiatives to stop homophobic bullying and as part of its legacy commitment will be

working with some of the teams to develop team songs with workshops later in the year.



Want to know more or join in?

Media enquiries

Steve Bustin
07803 729208 or
steve@vadamedia.co.uk

To join in

Just turn up on the day
– song sheets will be
provided

General enquiries

info@variousvoiceslondon.org.uk

About Us

Various Voices London is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no: 06241703 and a registered charity no: 1124175.

VVL Office: LGMC,
Hampstead Town Hall Centre,
213 Haverstock Hill, London.
NW3 4AP. UK

**96 hours of enjoyment,
4 days of fun,
4,000 like minded people.**

Various Voices London 2009 is a festival of song and singing that will enable participants and audiences to grow through celebration and interaction.

Performance, workshops, meetings, social activities and parties support a holistic approach to well-being; helping to overcome prejudices and preconceptions by bringing communities together in a welcoming atmosphere of fun and friendliness.

To find out how you can be involved to support Various Voices London we invite you to contact us and continue to spread the vision.



<http://www.variousvoiceslondon.org.uk>

info@variousvoiceslondon.org.uk

Various Voices London 2009

Growth through singing, celebration and interaction

Southbank Centre 1st May - 4th May 2009

We are most grateful for the invaluable financial support of: Southbank Centre, our artistic partner, the three lead choirs: Diversity, London Gay Men's Chorus, Pink Singers, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Foyle Foundation

We also acknowledge the support and endorsement of: Design for Diversity, GALA Choruses, Hotelopia, Legato, Markson Pianos, Mayor of London, Visit London.