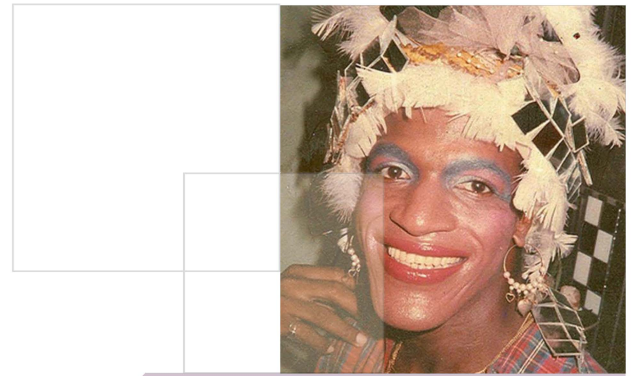


MARSHA P. JOHNSON



Marsha P. Johnson was a transgender pioneer and activist, 1945 – 1992. She operated as a central figure in the gay liberation movement, which was spurred on by the 1969 police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a known homosexual gathering spot. Marsha resisted arrest and sparked the Stonewall protests/riots demanding rights for gay people. As a gender non-conforming Black woman, Marsha and the other queens in Greenwich Village in the 60's were among the most visible of an otherwise hidden LGBTQI population and, because of their non-conforming and visibility, also among the most victimised, harassed and harmed.

She battled severe mental illness and spent most of her life destitute, but it didn't stop her fighting for the equality of all. She spoke out for social and economic justice; for those who had been forced to the streets by family due to their sexual identity and as an advocate on behalf of people struggling with AIDS. Along with close friend Sylvia Rivera, she co-founded STAR, the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries - an organisation to support gay and trans individuals who had been left homeless. Her life was tragically short, but the impact she had can still be felt today.

vital

advocate

intersectional

LGBTQI

pioneer

NOMINATED BY: CAROL KILGANNON

"For me, Marsha represents one of the most marginalised, victimised, vulnerable and harmed members of the Black or any other community. She fought for the rights of her community with a strong sense of identity, pride and not a little flair. It is now 51 years since the Stonewall riots and shockingly, in the UK police recorded that transgender hate crime rose by 81% in 2019 to 1,944 crimes. We need to remember that Marsha's work must continue."