

Pay It No Mind

Landon Stanley

Senior Division

Individual Performance

Process Paper: 487 Words

My history day topic is the LGBTQ activist Marsha P. Johnson. Marsha P. Johnson could be considered among the most marginalized of people. She was a poor, black, drag queen, living in New York City during the civil rights and gay liberation movements. I immediately thought of Johnson upon hearing the theme, because of her efforts in opening one of the biggest and most relevant civil rights frontiers: LGBTQ rights. She is famously known for her presence at the Stonewall Riots and multiple Christopher Street Liberation Day Pride Parades. Johnson and close friend Sylvia Rivera also founded the first recorded transgender safehouse in America called S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries).

I started my research by browsing online sources for background information on Marsha P. Johnson herself and some of her accomplishments. I dug deeper online to find information on the atmosphere of New York in relation to civil rights and discovered bigotry towards gays and people of color was apparent across a large majority of America during the 60s and 70s. I used Iowa State University's Library databases to access a wide variety of resources. I then organized my acquired information and finally researched the smaller missing details. My most exciting source was an interview with Johnson's roommate of fifteen years.

It was challenging figuring out what persona to take on when performing: I finally decided I needed a narrator to give background information, Marsha P Johnson to portray her idiosyncratic personality, and side characters to show different perspectives of the LGBTQ movement. I swapped between hats and glasses for non-narrator characters. When portraying Johnson I wear a fur stole. I decided to use photos on a large tri-fold backdrop to aid the audience in following along. I created a flower headpiece to provide an example of what Johnson wore. I also chose to start and end the entire performance with the title of the presentation to provide a full-circle performance.

Living freely as yourself during a time of profound oppression can be difficult, and that is exactly what the severely marginalized Marsha P. Johnson did. Johnson was seen as a leader in the Gay Liberation movement during the 60s and 70s in New York. She lived happily as herself and joined protests despite being excluded from the mainstream gay rights movement. She opened frontiers for all types of marginalized people.

Marsha P. Johnson was significant in history because she indirectly helped many people with her activism. While she was alive people of color and LGBTQ people were not socially accepted. Sodomy was illegal in all 50 states until 1961 and segregation was still apparent in public spaces. She was a black transvestite activist who constantly advocated for the rights of LGBTQ people and had, as demonstrated by the STAR Manifesto, amazing beliefs for future LGBTQ freedoms. Despite Johnson's efforts, the legal rights and acceptance that she advocated for are still being debated today.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Change, Monét X. Interview. Conducted by Landon Lee Stanley, 19 Apr. 2023.

I interviewed RuPaul's Drag Race season 10 Miss Congeniality, All Stars 4 Winner, and All Stars 7 runner-up, Monét X Change who is an internationally known black drag queen originally from New York. She said, "Because of Marsha I am literally able to record this message right now." She would go on to describe Marsha as having a "brazen, tough, no-nonsense attitude" that solidified her as a "trailblazer for drag queens and trans people."

Childers, Lee Black. Marsha P. Johnson at the NYC Pride March. July 1982. *Faulkner Morgan Archive*, 15 Oct. 2020, www.faulknermorgan.org/blog. Accessed 4 Apr. 2023.

This image was retrieved from the Faulkner Morgan Archive, in a blog written by Josh Porter, and depicts Marsha P. Johnson in her prime. It shows her sparkly outfit and wide smile which reinforces information already known about her and that is that she is outgoing and mainly happy.

Davies, Diana. *A Photograph of the Intro 475 Demonstration at New York City, City Hall*. 1973.

Digital Transgender Archive, www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/kd17ct192.

Accessed 3 Apr. 2023.

This photograph depicts Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera standing in front of a barricade seemingly shouting alongside a group of lesbian protesters. It allowed

me to gain knowledge on "Intro 475" which was a bill that would have expanded gay rights that were being held back by politicians. They were protesting for it to pass.

The Death & Life of Marsha P. Johnson movie poster. *Black Girl Nerds*,

blackgirlnerds.com/marsha-p-johnson-documentary/. Accessed 8 Apr. 2023.

This is an image of the movie poster for the 2017 film "The Life and Death of Marsha P. Johnson." The movie poster has an image of Johnson in an extravagant outfit. The image allowed me to gain an understanding of what she could be seen casually wearing as well as proving she has had a movie made about her.

Dunlap, David W. 2002. "Sylvia Rivera, 50, Figure in Birth of the Gay Liberation Movement."

New York Times (1923-), Feb 20, 1.

<https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/sylvia-rivera-50-figure-birth-gay-liberation/docview/92202014/se-2>.

This newspaper clipping from the New York Times recognized the safe house that Sylvia Riveria and Marsha P. Johnson founded named "S.T.A.R. House" (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries). It revealed the significance S.T.A.R. had back then.

Fink, Leonard. *First Christopher Street Liberation Day March 1970*. 28 June 1970. *Digital*

Transgender Archive, www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/hx11xf40x. Accessed 3 Apr. 2023.

This image shows the front of the very first Christopher Street Liberation Day parades. It shows lots of people sprawled in the street behind a large sign. This gives insight into how significant the first event was.

Gay Flames. Pamphlets. Gay Flames. New York, NY: Gay Liberation Front, 1971.

<https://jstor.org/stable/community.28037179>.

These pamphlets put out by the gay liberation front allowed me to gain knowledge of other acts of activism during the gay liberation movement which helped paint a picture of the times Marsha P. Johnson lived through.

Kaufman, Michael T. 1995. "Still here: Sylvia, Who Survived Stonewall, Time and the River."

New York Times (1923-), May 24, 1.

<https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/still-here-sylvia-who-survived-stonewal-l-time/docview/109469891/se-2>.

This New York Times article, which features an interview with Sylvia Rivera, documents the impact of Marsha on her close friend Sylvia. She provides her experiences at Bellevue, an insane institution for the mentally disturbed, which at the time housed many gay and trans people. A lot of the public had considered them to be mentally disturbed.

"L002A Marsha P Johnson Segment, Intro 475 Protest 1973.04.27." *Vimeo*, 3 June 2019,

vimeo.com/user42160507. Accessed 10 Apr. 2023.

This video shows Johnson at a rally, expressing her opinions ("Darling I want my gay rights now" - used in the performance) in an interview-style manner. You can tell by her voice that she is truly passionate about gay liberation and given it seemed to be raining, she was also unphased by the weather.

"L006A Gay Pride March/Rally 1974 Unedited Tape1." *Vimeo*, vimeo.com/user42160507.

Accessed 10 Apr. 2023.

This almost thirty-minute video shows a gargantuan amount of people marching in a 1974 pride march. From this source, I understood how wide-scale the movement was. The fact that so many people were marching meant that the movement was locally, and potentially nationally, known by that time.

"L020A 1973 Gay Pride March and Rally Original Unedited 3 of 4, 1973.06.24." *Vimeo*, 15 Apr. 2019, vimeo.com/user42160507. Accessed 10 Apr. 2023.

This video shows various music and entertainment acts on an outdoor stage at the 1973 NYC Pride Celebration. The most focused act shows Sylvia Rivera (Johnson's close friend) receiving the mic and then yelling and screaming, things to the crowd discrediting their biased efforts toward gay liberation. By watching this video I got a sense of how poorly transvestites were viewed (she was booed upon coming on the stage) by people during their time.

"L020A Sylvia Rivera, 'Y'all Better Quiet Down' Original Authorized Video, 1973 Gay Pride Rally NYC." *YouTube*, 23 May 2019, youtu.be/Jb-JIOWUw1o. Accessed 4 Feb. 2023.

This is a video of Slyvia Riveria at a gay pride rally in New York City in 1973. She was yelling at a crowd of people who had been booing her for being what they considered a transvestite. She had been preaching about equality.

Marques, Natalia. "The unity of our movements terrifies them: Pride and right-wing backlash against LGBTQ people." *Peoples Dispatch*, 28 June 2022, peoplesdispatch.org/2022/06/28/the-unity-of-our-movements-terrifies-them-pride-and-right-wing-backlash-against-lgbtq-people/. Accessed 3 Apr. 2023.

This webpage contained an unedited photo of Sylvia Rivera next to a sign showing the words "Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries" which was the name of her and Johnson's organization. Upon later investigation, it was found they were yielding this while marching ahead of the parade. I created a replica of the sign and it is used within the performance.

Moran, J.C. "Beware the Judgment." Unknown, 31 July 1986. Newspapers.com Basic, basic.newspapers.com/image/788853597/?terms=aids%20sin%20gay&match=1. Accessed 11 Apr. 2023.

This newspaper scanning provided information on the thoughts of the public in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic amongst gay people. A quote that stuck out was from Dr. Paul Cameron who said, "What gays do sexually is...an abomination in his sight."

Morris, Larry. Crowds near the Stonewall Inn several days after the raid. 29 June 1969. *The New York Times*, 6 June 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/06/06/nyregion/stonewall-riots-nypd.html. Accessed 4 Apr. 2023.

This photo taken from a New York Times article shows crowds of people the day after the Stonewall riot had happened with police corralling them. I realized from this image that the Stonewall Inn was a popular site for news stations and people days after the riots.

Netflix. Marsha P. Johnson. *PinkNews*, 10 Mar. 2021, www.thepinknews.com/2021/03/10/marsha-p-johnson-state-park-mural-new-york-family-black-trans-community/. Accessed 4 Apr. 2023.

This photo of Marsha P. Johnson was taken from a PinkNews article. It shows Johnson smiling at the camera with an array of flowers in her hair which tells more about her bubbly nature. This was the original photo that was recreated in a 2022 Google Doodle.

New York City L.G.B.T. Pride parade in 1980. 1980. *New York Times*, 23 Dec. 2021, www.nytimes.com/2021/12/23/opinion/gay-history-hope.html. Accessed 6 Apr. 2023.

This photograph shows a group of protesters at the 11th-anniversary celebration of the Stonewall riots. It shows a person holding a sign that says "Lesbian and Gay Rights now" with lots of people holding up little signs with names of famous

cities within the U.S. They are advocating for gay rights across the country (not just New York). This shows how influential New York City was on gay rights.

Protesters in lower Manhattan in the summer of 1969. 1969. *Bill of Rights Institute*,

billofrightsinstitute.org/essays/the-gay-liberation-movement. Accessed 8 Apr. 2023.

The image shows a group of people holding a huge sign saying "Stonewall means fight back! Smash gay oppression!" This was taken in 1969 after Stonewall had taken place. From this, I now know that Stonewall was the true catalyst of the gay liberation movement. It had been what started the protesting.

"Thousands Join in March for Homosexuals' Rights." 1976. *New York Times* (1923-), Jun 28, 31.

<https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/thousands-join-march-homosexuals-rights/docview/122794785/se-2.i>

From this digitized newspaper article, I learned about an event that happened in a legal court case that involved gay discrimination. It helped me by providing context to what the years leading up to the peak of the gay liberation movement were like.

Wicker, Randolfe. E-mail interview with the author. February 8, 2023

I interviewed Randolfe Wicker, notable for his involvement in the early gay liberation movements, and Marsha P Johnson's roommate for quite some time, who provided me with information on how everyone from straight men to

lesbians didn't like drag queens. I used this information to support a claim about how excluded drag queens had been at the time.

Wu, Sirui. The statue of Marsha P. Johnson in Christopher Park. *Washington Square News*, 20 Sep. 2021,
 nyunews.com/news/2021/09/20/marsha-p-johnson-nyc-first-statue-of-a-trans-person/.
 Accessed 8 Apr. 2023.

This photo shows the statue that stands of Marsha P. Johnson to honor the gay liberation pioneer. This shows her modern-day impact based on the fact that the statue was created and set up to honor her. She is being recognized now more than then for her activism efforts.

Secondary Sources

Abelson, Miriam J. "Conclusion: CONTEMPORARY MASCULINITIES AND TRANSGENDER POLITICS." In *Men in Place: Trans Masculinity, Race, and Sexuality in America, 193–206*. The University of Minnesota Press, 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.5749/j.ctvc5pc1m.9>.

This journal article provided me with information about transgender rights activism both in the past, during the gay rights liberation movement, and today. It showed how back then transgender activists were frowned upon whereas today they are more widely accepted.

"About Marsha P. Johnson." *UCNJ*, ucnj.org/mpj/about-marsha-p-johnson/.

This journal article gives a summary of Marsha's life and reinforced popular claims I had heard from less reliable sources, thus adding credibility to the events I had learned of her life. It provided the quote "I was no one, nobody, from Nowheresville until I became a drag queen..." which I use in my performance.

Adkins, Judith. "'These People Are Frightened to Death' Congressional Investigations and the Lavender Scare." *Summer 2016*. Vol. 48 of *Prologue Magazine*. 2 vols. *National Archives*, www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2016/summer/lavender.html. Accessed 3 May 2023. Originally published in *Prologue*, 2016.

This magazine from the national archives describes the Lavender Scare. The Lavender Scare was a panic, around the same time as the red scare, about homosexuals working for the government. This helped me understand the homophobia surrounding gay people during the 40s-60s by providing information on the mass number of people who had been fired from their government jobs as a result of multiple laws and acts being passed such as President Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1953 Executive Order #10450, "Security Requirements for Government Employment."

Allen, Karma. "Transgender civil rights icon Marsha P. Johnson honored with a public monument in New Jersey hometown." *Transgender civil rights icon Marsha P. Johnson honored with a public monument in New Jersey hometown*, 27 Aug. 2020. *ABC News*, abcnews.go.com/US/transgender-civil-rights-icon-marsha-johnson-honored-public/story?id=72660568. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.

This article tells of Marsha P. Johnson having a monument put up of her in her hometown. It also talks about her death and some of her accomplishments before her death which led me to understand her legacy.

Austin, Vienna I. "The Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries Manifesto, 50 Years Later."

Out Front Magazine, 1 Mar. 2022,

www.outfrontmagazine.com/the-street-transvestite-action-revolutionaries-manifesto-50-years-later/. Accessed 24 Feb. 2023.

This magazine article provides the STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) manifesto, which gets quoted in my performance, filled with hopes and wishes for gay liberation. Many of these hopes help to support the idea of how Marsha P. Johnson was an amazing activist and visionary for the movement.

Chan, Sewell. "Overlooked." *The New York Times*,

www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/obituaries/overlooked-marsha-p-johnson.html.

Reading this obituary in the New York Times provided good quotes and summaries of who Marsha was as a person. The article also provided direct quotes that are used in my performance from Marsha expressing her future wishes regarding gay liberation.

Cohen, Stephan. *An Historical Investigation of School and Community-Based Gay Liberation Youth Groups, New York City, 1969-1975: "An Army of Lovers Cannot Fail."* 2004.

Harvard University, PhD dissertation.

This thesis provided loads of information about the formation, maintenance, and aftermath of the organization founded by Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson known as S.T.A.R. It contained many interviews, pictures, and unique information unknown about the organization. The bibliography provided me with sources from before 2004 which are particularly hard to find.

Devaney, Susan. "Marsha P Johnson's Activism Matters Now More Than Ever." *British Vogue*, 6 June 2020, www.vogue.co.uk/arts-and-lifestyle/article/who-was-marsha-p-johnson.

Accessed 6 Feb. 2023.

Information provided by this British Vogue article describes Marsha's life circumstances upon arriving in New York as well as the origin of the letter P in Marsha's name. This article also told about two pride marches that Marsha participated in.

Duberman, Martin, and Andrew Kopkind. "The Night They Raided Stonewall." *Grand Street*, no. 44 (1993): 120–47. <https://doi.org/10.2307/25007620>.

This book, in extreme detail, gave information about Stonewall before the famous raid happened. The authors provide lots of information regarding the treatment of people by law enforcement before and during the Stonewall Riot.

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Sylvia Rivera." *Britannica*, 15 Mar. 2023,
www.britannica.com/biography/Sylvia-Rivera. Accessed 17 Mar. 2023.

This Britannica web page gives a brief history of Sylvia's activism and participation in the gay liberation movement. It also talks of how Rivera handled herself after Marsha P. Johnson's death.

Franklin, Karen. "Inside the Mind of People Who Hate Gays." *Iowa PBS*,
www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/assault/roots/franklin.html. Accessed 17 Jan. 2023.

This source provided me with context about how people can simply be homophobic. It also talks about stereotypical gender norms: Many of them Marsha defied by being her authentic self.

Hearns, Elle. "Celebrating Marsha P. Johnson." *Google*, 30 June 2020,
www.google.com/doodles/celebrating-marsha-p-johnson. Accessed 4 Apr. 2023.

This webpage was published by Google and provided context to the Illustration by Rob Gilliam, of Johnson, which was presented on the daily Google Doodle. I was able to learn the intention behind why it was chosen for the day and the effects of Johnson through the eyes of Elle Hearns (the founder of the Marsha P. Johnson Institute).

Kratz, Jessie. "Immigrating While Queer: Part II, The Fight Ahead." *National Archives: Pieces of History*, 25 June 2021,

prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2021/06/25/immigrating-while-queer-part-ii-the-fight-ahead/
 . Accessed 2 Mar. 2023.

This blog showed in legal settings how gays had been labeled. “Psychopathic personality” and “sexual deviate” were two descriptive phrases to label incoming homosexual immigrants. It wasn’t until 1974 that the American Psychological Association officially removed homosexuality from the category of mental disorders.

Library of Congress. www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/. Accessed 5 Feb. 2023.

The purpose of reading this Library of Congress webpage was to be informed in-depth about the history of what we know today as Pride Month. The source told of the origins and annual traditions to come from the first few pride parades.

"Life Story: Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992)." *WAMS New-York Historical Society*,
wams.nyhistory.org/growth-and-turmoil/growing-tensions/marsha-p-johnson/. Accessed
 4 Feb. 2023.

This article gives information about Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson's past as well as their friendship during the activism in the gay liberation movement. It also gives multiple definitions for popular terms when talking about this topic such as "cross-dress, drag queen, LGBTQ, etc."

Mallory, Christy, Amira Hasenbush, and Brad Sears. "Discrimination and Harassment by Law Enforcement Officers in the LGBT Community." *The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law*, 2015. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep34909>.

This journal article gives insights into police discrimination against LGBTQ people. It also provides findings from a study relating to transgender harassment by law enforcement.

Mantilla, Karla. "Gender Rights, Transgender Rights, Women's Rights?" *Off Our Backs* 31, no. 7 (2001): 6–9. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20836903>.

This journal article contains a really good description of the spectrum of gender to help explain how Marsha's gender is best described as gender non-conforming. The source also explains various stereotypes and their origins and how they connect to how people saw Marsha.

"Marsha P. Johnson: About." *The Westport Library ...*, 15 Feb. 2023, westportlibrary.libguides.com/MarshaPJohnson#:~:text=Johnson%20spearheaded%20the%20Stonewall%20uprising,youth%20in%20New%20York%20City. Accessed 17 Mar. 2023.

This online library guide allowed me to understand more about how Marsha P. Johnson contributed to the Stonewall Riot and about her early life. It also provides links to many useful and credible sources.

"Marsha P. Johnson | History." *Youtube*, uploaded by HISTORY, 6 June 2020,
[youtube/T_RAuEWS14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAuEWS14). Accessed 26 Oct. 2022.

This short informational video about Marsha P. Johnson revealed that she wasn't entirely at Stonewall and had shown up late. It also revealed how now Marsha will have a park named after her in New York.

Marsha P. Johnson & Randy Wicker.

makinggayhistory.com/podcast/episode-11-johnson-wicker/.

This podcast provides a transcript of an interview between Randy Wicker and Marsha P. Johnson. This source also contains photos of Marsha and Sylvia Rivera which helped in providing context for the settings they were in.

"Marsha P. Johnson & Sylvia Rivera." *National Park Service*,

www.nps.gov/articles/000/marsha-p-johnson-sylvia-rivera.htm#:~:text=%22History%20isn't%20something%20you,Marsha%20P.

One of the web pages from the National Park Service website contained a quote from Marsha, "History isn't something you look back at and....," as well as some background information about her life. This quote shows Marsha's ideologies.

Maxouris, Christina. "Google Doodle of Marsha P. Johnson, beloved trans-rights activist, will close out Pride month." *CNN*, 30 June 2020,

www.cnn.com/style/article/marsha-p-johnson-google-doodle-june-style-trnd/index.html.
 Accessed 1 Mar. 2023.

CNN wrote an article about Marsha P. Johnson because she was featured on google doodle on the last day of pride month in 2020. I learned the date the illustration was released and about efforts being made to replace a statue of Christopher Columbus with her in her hometown.

Morris, Catherine, Zanele Muholi, Laurie Simmons, Johanna Fateman, Zackary Drucker, and A.

L. Steiner. "On Feminism." *Aperture*, no. 225 (2016): 22–29.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/44404706>.

This source provides a celebrity endorsement of Marsha P. Johnson. Zackary Drucker told of how Marsha P. Johnson should be an inspiration today. This tells me that she still has a lasting effect on people today.

Perry, Ana. "Sylvia Rivera: Activist and Trailblazer." *National Portrait Gallery*, Smithsonian, npg.si.edu/blog/welcome-collection-sylvia-rivera.

This blog, published by the Smithsonian, helped give information about Sylvia Rivera's past and her contribution to S.T.A.R. which was the first transgender safehouse founded by her and Marsha P. Johnson.

"Remembering 1969 Stonewall Rebellion participants Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson."

YouTube, 21 May 2019, www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8AnIBWEMEc. Accessed 21 Feb. 2023.

This video gives information on the death of Marsha P. Johnson and the reaction of the people as a result of it. It also speaks of how Sylvia had acted out against a

homeless shelter for not letting gay youth into it. This was a highlight act of activism for her.

Reyes, Raul A. "A Forgotten Latina Trailblazer: LGBT Activist Sylvia Rivera." *A Forgotten Latina Trailblazer: LGBT Activist Sylvia Rivera*, 6 Oct. 2015. *NBC News*, www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/forgotten-latina-trailblazer-lgbt-activist-sylvia-rivera-n438586. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.

This article gives a complete summary of Rivera's life and provides great celebrity endorsements of Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. It also contains an abundance of good quotes which I use in my performance. From it, I learned that Sylvia has had lots of tributes from LGBT community organizations since her passing in 2002.

Rothberg, Emma. "Sylvia Rivera." *National Women's History Museum*, www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/sylvia-rivera. Accessed 4 Feb. 2023.

The biography of Sylvia Rivera provides lots of information about her history. It gives personal details and tells of important life events that made her a monumental gay/trans rights activist.

"She Built NYC: Seven Trailblazers Selected for Monuments Around City." *Women.nyc*, women.nyc/she-built-nyc/. Accessed 2 Feb. 2023.

By reading this webpage, I learned more about Marsha's life leading up to her prime activism days, and about how she was one out of seven other women chosen for a monument for prominent display in New York.

Simon, Carolyn. "The Cold Case of an LGBTQ Pioneer Marsha P. Johnson." *The Cold Case of an LGBTQ Pioneer Marsha P. Johnson*, 2017. HRC, www.hrc.org/news/the-cold-case-of-an-lgbtq-pioneer-marsha-p-johnson. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.

This news story gives an in-depth description of the circumstances in which Marsha P. Johnson died. It was a murky situation and foul play was suspected despite it being ruled a suicide early on.

StandwithTrans7821. "Marsha P. Johnson (1945 - 1992)." *Stand With Trans*, 5 Feb. 2021, standwithtrans.org/2021/02/05/marsha-p-johnson-1945-1992/#:~:text=Johnson%20also%20was%20an%20AIDS,epidemic%20in%20New%20York%20City. Accessed 2 Feb. 2023.

An important part of understanding Marsha P. Johnsons' activist background was shared on this web page. It spoke about how she was an AIDS activist with ACT UP from 1987 to 1992.

"Sylvia Rivera." *Biography*, 7 Jan. 2020, www.biography.com/activists/sylvia-rivera. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.

This webpage provides quick facts about Sylvia Rivera such as her birth/death date, and what she is best known for. It also gives more information on events such as her 'Ya'll Better Quiet Down' Speech” and activism at the Stonewall Riots.

"2023 anti-trans bills tracker." Trans Legislation Tracker, translegislation.com/. Accessed 3 May 2023.

I was able to learn on this website that 54 anti-trans bills have already passed out of the 533 proposed across the country which is already more than the 26 bills passed out of the 174 bills proposed. This number is constantly being updated and the numbers may fluctuate on the day of the performance.

Women at the Center. "Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson: Listen to the Newly Unearthed Interview with Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries." *New-York Historical Society Museum and Library*, 26 June 2019, www.nyhistory.org/blogs/gay-power-is-trans-history-street-transvestite-action-revolutionaries. Accessed 17 Feb. 2023.

This source provided a gargantuan amount of information about S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) which was founded by Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. They also have five voice recordings of Sylvia and Marsha talking in various interviews that provide lots of information on Stonewall and activism.