

# Gay Music Festival Takes Main Stage

The Pet Shop Boys and Creative Artists Agency recently announced the details for the new nationwide summer music festival called Wotapalava.

In addition to the Pet Shop Boys, the mainstage lineup includes Soft Cell, The Magnetic Fields and Rufus Wainwright. Wotapalava will feature the diverse and eclectic talent of artists – gay and straight – and celebrate the goal of equality for everyone, including gay and lesbian people.

Neil Tennant, Pet Shop Boy and producer for Wotapalava, has said: "The idea of the festival came about a couple of years ago during a conversation with Elton John. Wouldn't it be great to put together a bill of out gay performers? Who would agree to do it? Would the performers have anything in common apart from their sexuality in this sort of Lollaploozza-with-a-difference?"

The festival evolved from this idea. It will feature the diverse talents of artists, many of them gay, and celebrate the dream of basic fairness and equality for all people. More important than the sexuality of the performers is their individuality, the way each of them has followed their own instincts to achieve their artistic goals. In this respect, Wotapalava is a celebration of the freedom to be what you want to be and about having the power to live as you want without fear or discrimination. I think one really important thing about Wotapalava is the way the diversity of the artists contradicts any stereotyping: we are not defined solely by our sexuality. Being homosexual is an important part of life but not the whole point.

We are delighted to

have the support of the Human Rights Campaign. Last year we played at the huge anti-hate crime concert in Washington and were very impressed and moved by the way the message of anti-hate and anti-discrimination was put across. Wotapalava aims to carry the same message. And members of the Human Rights Campaign will be on hand at each venue with information about the discrimination gay Americans continue to suffer under the law and in their everyday lives. Also a dollar from each ticket will benefit the work of the campaign."

Wotapalava will play 18 North American markets beginning July 13th in Miami and wind up in Houston, TX on August 11th. Presale tickets for Wotapalava, presented by leading gay and lesbian online communities PlanetOut.com and Gay.com (www.wotapalava.planetout.com and www.wotaplava.gay.com) went on sale May 22<sup>nd</sup> for the first six dates of the tour, with the remaining going on presale June 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition to the main stage, Wotapalava will include a stage featuring continuous dance music from Junior Vasquez, Danny Tenaglia, Peter Rauhofer, Tracy Young, Abel, Tom Stephan, Tasty Tim, Susan Morabito, Phil B, James Anderson, Lydia Prim, Manny Lehman, Mark Anthony, DJ Bone, Alex Lauterstein, Sylvain Girard, Ralphie Rosario, Kostas, Dawna Montell, Frank Abraham, Paulo, Chris Sills and Jimpy, as well as many Broadway and cabaret performers.

Tickets are already on sale. Check out www.wotapalava.com for more information.



Magnetic Fields

# THE REBEL PRINCE

*Poses*, Rufus Wainwright's second album released by Dreamworks, begins where his first album left off. There was a lot of expectation for this recording, especially since his debut was unanimously acclaimed by critics and was eventually voted best new artist by Rolling Stone magazine.

This second album is more accessible than his first primarily because his voice is, well, not so annoying. It is an acquired taste. At times, though, it seems that he's sucked down too many cigarettes and has started a wrestling match with his tongue.

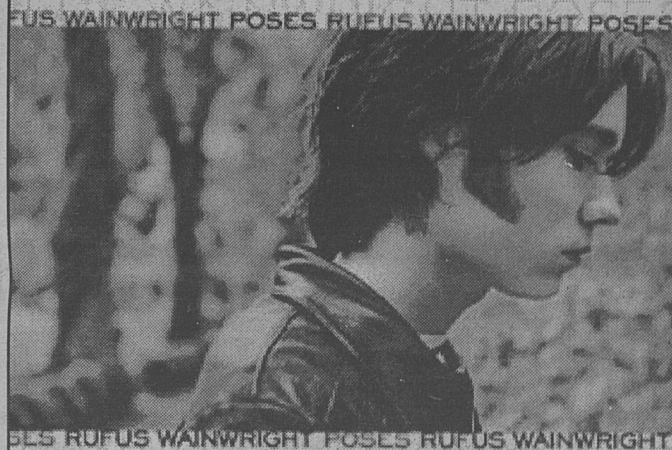
Unlike his first album, *Poses* does not take repeated listens to appreciate. His incredible songwriting abilities are center stage this time around, barely distracted by his singing voice.

It is not until midway through the 12 track album that we get the already classic chill-inducing moment he has the talent to induce, as he sings: "All the sights of Paris/Pale inside your iris/Tip the Eiffel Tower." This line, from the song, "The Tower of Learning", reveals his impressive songwriting skills, his

operatic voice, and his power of creating unique musical moments that are missing from pop music these days, all at once. Pierre Marchand, best-known for his production work for Sarah McLachlan and Ashley MacIsaac, produces much of this work. Marchand produced the gorgeous yet flawed "In Your Arms" from Rufus's debut album. Though *Poses* uses three different producers, the cohesive quality of the album, a defining trait of major musicians, is not sacrificed due to the strength of Rufus's compositions alone.

Wainwright, son of cult favorite Loudon Wainwright III, covers one of his father's songs "One May Guy" in an uncharacteristically guitar-led tune. His father intended the composition to be a Whitmanesque celebration of self. Being one of the headliners for this summer's first all-gay music festival, Rufus puts an appropriate twist on the song.

Rufus Wainwright's music requires patience, but like any good work of art, it reveals its depths over time.



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# Gay Spirit Camp

4th of July Celebration • June 29 - July 6

Soulfully Gay • John Stasio • July 6-8

Rainbow Sangha • July 8-13

Orgasmic Mindfulness • Joseph Kramer • July 13-15

Awakening Body Wisdom • Kramer/ Miron • July 15-20

A Weekend With Our Brothers • July 20-22

Nice Jewish Boys • Andrew Ramer • July 22-27

Naturist Gathering • July 27 - August 3

Gay Spirit Warrior • John Stowe • August 3-10

Massage & Bodywork Training • John Stasio • August 10-12

Tribal Tantra • Sequoia Thom Lundy • August 12-17

Exploring Chakra Energy • Sunfire • August 17-19

Gay Catholic Clergy & Religious • August 19-24

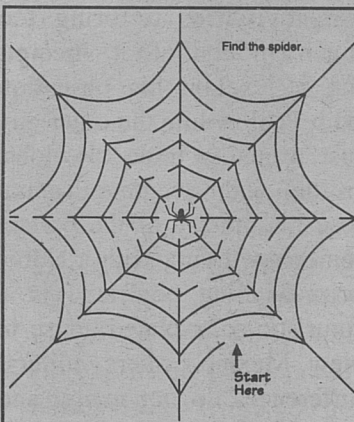
Coming Out Vocally • Jamie McHugh • August 24-26

Coming Home To Our Body • Jamie McHugh • August 26-31

Labor Day Celebration • August 31 - September 3

[www.gayspiritcamp.com](http://www.gayspiritcamp.com)

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