# David Hockney, Wes Streeting and Tom Daly make The Independent’s 2025 Pride List. But who's number one?



Some of the country's best-loved LGBTQs are featured on the 2025 Independent Pride List but you have probably never heard of the person at number one.

Among the top honourees are acclaimed actress Cynthia Erivo and the late drag performer The Vivienne. Erivo, known for her powerful role as Elphaba in the 2024 film adaptation of Wicked, is ranked fourth on the list. The Vivienne, a trailblazer in the UK drag scene and winner of RuPaul’s Drag Race UK, holds the seventh position, an honour bestowed posthumously following her untimely death in January at the age of 32.

But topping the list is Victoria McCloud, a transgender lawyer and former judge, who is making waves by challenging the UK Government's stance on gender definitions at the European Court of Human Rights. McCloud received the recognition with gratitude, saying, 'I’m delighted and honoured… In 2025, more than ever before, amidst increasing oppression and segregation at home, with court and state against us, people from the trans community yearn to be bathed in rainbow light.' Her comments are particularly powerful in the context of the UK Supreme Court's recent ruling that the terms 'woman' and 'sex' in the Equality Act refer only to biological definitions.

Cynthia Erivo’s inclusion in the list comes on the heels of her receiving the Stephen F. Kolzak Award during the 36th GLAAD Media Awards, where she spoke about the importance of embracing one's true self. Erivo, who has a Tony Award for her role in The Color Purple, took the opportunity to discuss the complexities faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly around the use of pronouns and the need for compassion and patience in understanding varied identities. In her speech, she highlighted the resilience of the community: 'These are uniquely dark times but we will challenge those who wish to marginalise us... We have been here for centuries; we will be here for centuries to come.'

Chloe Hubbard, UK editor of The Independent, emphasised the importance of visibility and pride within the queer community, stating, 'We are proud to champion our most influential LGBT+ changemakers once again on our annual Pride List, in a year where the community has been further marginalised on both sides of the Atlantic.' This year’s list also includes notable figures such as actor Bella Ramsey, positioned third, and Juno Dawson, the acclaimed author placed second. Health Minister, Wes Streeting [pictured] was at five, artist David Hockney at six, comedian Joe Lycett at eight and Olympic diving champion Tom Daley at nine.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/cynthia-erivo-and-the-vivienne-among-lgbt-changemakers-in-2025-pride-list-2DLHI3GIGVJRJIW3M5UMJAQQJA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/singer-cynthia-erivo-honored-with-glaad-award-lgbtq-advocacy-2025-03-28/> - Cynthia Erivo, renowned for her role as Elphaba in the 2024 film 'Wicked', received the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 36th GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles. This award honours LGBTQ+ media professionals who promote visibility and acceptance. During her acceptance speech, Erivo emphasised the importance of embracing one's true self and acknowledged the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals. The GLAAD Media Awards, focusing on LGBTQ+ advocacy, were streamed on Hulu on April 12. Erivo, an Emmy, Grammy, and Tony award winner, is also set to host the 2025 Tony Awards. The Stephen F. Kolzak Award is named after a casting director dedicated to combating homophobia and HIV stigma in the entertainment industry. Previous recipients include Niecy Nash-Betts, Jeremy Pope, and Laverne Cox. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/singer-cynthia-erivo-honored-with-glaad-award-lgbtq-advocacy-2025-03-28/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://glaad.org/releases/glaad-announces-cynthia-erivo-to-be-honored-at-36th-glaad-media-awards-in-los-angeles-on-march-27th/> - GLAAD, the world's largest LGBTQ+ media advocacy organisation, announced that Cynthia Erivo will be honoured with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 36th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles on March 27th. This award is presented to an LGBTQ+ media professional who has made a significant difference in raising visibility and promoting acceptance of LGBTQ+ people and issues. Previous recipients include Niecy Nash-Betts, Jeremy Pope, Laverne Cox, Wanda Sykes, Jim Parsons, Ruby Rose, Chaz Bono, Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres, Michaela Jae Rodriguez, and more. Cynthia Erivo is a multi-talented artist whose work transcends boundaries in theatre, television, and film. As a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), Erivo's career took off with her 2015 Tony Award-winning portrayal of Celie in 'The Color Purple' on Broadway, where she broke barriers playing as Celie Harris, one of the few leading Black queer characters in musical theatre. In 2016, she won the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical, delivering one of the most powerful performances in Broadway history, particularly in the iconic number, 'I'm Here.' Erivo continued to impress with her portrayal of abolitionist Harriet Tubman in the 2019 film 'Harriet', earning Academy Award, Golden Globe, and BAFTA nominations. Erivo's contributions to LGBTQ+ visibility extend from screen to stage, with her bold commitment to representing the complexities of queer and Black identities – both in her work and her personal advocacy – positioning her as a trailblazer and a true champion for future generations of LGBTQ+ creatives, especially those from communities of colour. Today, Erivo remains a powerhouse talent and force for equity and inclusion. Starring as Elphaba in the 36th Annual GLAAD Media Award-nominated film adaptation of 'Wicked', and the forthcoming 'Wicked: For Good', Erivo brought to life a role that resonated with themes that mirrored her own journey as a queer, Black woman navigating a world that often marginalises both identities. As the cover star for the 2024 Out100 list, Erivo recalled the responsibility set on her to tell Elphaba's story to the masses: 'It's hard to talk about Elphaba as an 'other' without having it intrinsically linked to being a woman who walks through the world as a queer, Black woman. Immediately, I understood what it meant for people to look at you and see you as not beautiful, not acceptable, not any of those things, because I walked through the world like this ... And having to find a way to not necessarily be okay with it but be okay with yourself enough, so that when other people put that on you, you can still move through it.' From an outspoken ally to a trailblazing member of the community, Cynthia Erivo's one-of-a-kind voice has been an integral part of accelerating acceptance for LGBTQ+ people since she came on the scene over a decade ago. Her legacy is defined not by her numerous accolades and honours but by how with each new platform and milestone, she continues to show up for Black, queer, and other marginalised peoples amid her well-deserved success. ([glaad.org](https://glaad.org/releases/glaad-announces-cynthia-erivo-to-be-honored-at-36th-glaad-media-awards-in-los-angeles-on-march-27th/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/03/28/cynthia-erivo-pronouns-glaad-awards/> - At the 36th GLAAD Media Awards, Cynthia Erivo delivered a powerful speech addressing the challenges of embracing one's true self as a queer individual. She highlighted the difficulties of asserting one's identity in a world that often marginalises LGBTQ+ people. Erivo also discussed the complexities of using they/them pronouns, emphasising the importance of patience and understanding in this process. She expressed pride in those who have the courage to be open about their sexuality and urged the community to consider those who may not feel seen. ([thepinknews.com](https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/03/28/cynthia-erivo-pronouns-glaad-awards/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.nbcwashington.com/entertainment/the-scene/cynthia-erivo-to-headline-worldpride-dcs-free-festival/3859409/> - Cynthia Erivo is set to headline the free WorldPride DC Festival on Pennsylvania Avenue on Saturday, June 7, 2025. This performance will take place hours after the District's LGBTQIA+ pride parade. Erivo publicly came out as queer in 2022 on the cover of 'British Vogue'. She was honoured last year at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's annual Center Gala. ([nbcwashington.com](https://www.nbcwashington.com/entertainment/the-scene/cynthia-erivo-to-headline-worldpride-dcs-free-festival/3859409/?utm_source=openai))