

ARIANA DE BOSE PRESENTS EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD TO JUDITH LIGHT

**Ariana first surprised the room by singing part of 'Somewhere' from West Side Story with our host Peppermint*

ARIANA:

Judith Light. Names are no accidents. Judith shines light wherever she goes.

Judith embodies different archetypes: the artist, the activist, the advocate. I'm proud to call her my friend. Many of us feel connected to her for the mothers and mother figures she's played, on everything from Who's The Boss to The Ryan White Story to Transparent. But tonight, as we honor Judith, I'd like to reflect on her role as an LGBTQ ally, and the way she has helped define why allies can be critical for our community.

When Judith witnessed friend after friend losing their life to HIV/AIDS, she could not stand idly by. She pushed for change in the theater world, demanding more inclusive voices on stage and off. Decade after decade she has aligned herself with communities that needed allies with megaphones: women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. Judith brought her vulnerability to the stage and her strength to the streets, standing arm in arm with us and with GLAAD in the fight for recognition and truth. And she made us laugh, cry, and love harder with every role.

Take a look.

ARIANA WELCOMES JUDITH LIGHT

ARIANA:

GLAAD's Excellence in Media Award is presented to LGBTQ allies who use media to make a significant difference in promoting acceptance of LGBTQ people. Tonight I'm proud to present it to a friend and mentor who has been waiting three years to receive it: Judith Light.

JUDITH LIGHT REMARKS
GLAAD MEDIA AWARDS NEW YORK 2022
5/4/22 6 PM

Dearest Ariana I am humbled by your kind and generous words
And I am so grateful and honored that you would be here tonight with your glorious
openly queer Afro Latina Oscar and multiple award-winning wildly talented self. Your
support means the world to me and I adore you

Good evening to all of you I am so delighted to be here. As you know this event was to
happen two years ago and now we are finally together!!! I am comforted and warmed by
your support and your presence And of course by my dear friends at my table. Thank
YOU for being here

I have witnessed GLAAD's impact through the years and seen this organization evolve
into the magnificent force for good that it is today. Sarah Kate your leadership has been
vitally instrumental in the exponential expansion of GLAAD and I know everyone in this
room joins me and thanking you and your wonderful staff

It was the early 90s. The height of the AIDS pandemic. The way that people were
speaking of the LGBTQIA+ community was reprehensible, discounting and divisive
There was no one to speak out about this serious defamation... Until GLAAD
The need was immediate and great and this organization filled that need for this
community

My history with GLAAD goes back to those early days
One such event, at that time of the GLAAD media awards was in a small hotel room
with about 10 tables in Los Angeles, where I was privileged to present what was then
called the Visibility award, which was later renamed for my dear friend Steven Kolzack

Steven, as some of you know, was a major casting Director in Hollywood who had just
recently passed from AIDS

I gave the award to his lover, Paul Monette another dear friend, A writer of note; as
some of you may know, he was the first openly gay author to win the national book
award. Paul had been diagnosed with HIV. We lost him in 1995 just as new medications
were coming out to support people living with HIV and allowing them to lead long and
healthy lives

So my deep and emotional connection to this organization runs over three decades; literally from one pandemic to another

Flash forward to today and from that tiny hotel room with 10 tables to this glittering majestic room with almost a 1000 people that resonates with the glorious work that you have done. You have spoken out against injustice that was living just below the surface of this culture. I watched how you inspired and instructed the whole world of what it meant to speak up and speak out. GLAAD has been the way shower in that Renaissance

Sadly, today, we are living through another cycle of violence and sorrow particularly for marginalized communities.

There are deeply destructive bills in Florida Alabama and Texas. No one of any race, gender identity, sexual orientation or ability should have to face discrimination from their own government.

You have borne the brunt of a divisive culture, suffered under the wrath and prejudice of people who chose not to see the magnificence of who you are and through it all you have remained powerful and defiant; elevating and offering comfort to the community and being a demonstration to all of humanity

So I am uplifted by being here with you tonight; knowing from experience what we can accomplish together when we stand with each other in support of GLAAD and this dynamic community

Yours is a history of action that takes a stand for what is right and just in education, law politics, arts, culture and religion across this country and around the world.

Yours is a history of righteous protest that gave birth to the Mattachine society, The Daughters of Bilitis, the Stonewall rebellion, Act Up and so many more groups, leading to the legal rights, health protections and marriage equality we have today.

Yours is a history of inspired storytelling by artists such as Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, John Mara, Terrence McNally, HARVEY FIERSTEIN, Jon Robin Baitz, Richard Greenberg, Tony Kushner, Margaret Edson, Lisa Kronn, Jeremy O'Harris, Paula Vogel, MJ Kaufman, Michael R Jackson, Larry Kramer and on and on.

Brilliant Joey Soloway with Transparent
Pose by the amazing Steven Canals

And the extraordinary visionary Ryan Murphy with his myriad projects
And the multiple Tony award-winning producer Daryl Roth with plays like Indecent and
the Normal Heart
(GLAAD's unending support of these culture transforming projects is beyond measure)

Yours is a history that demonstrates the kind of ideal society we have the possibility to
create and the kind of compassionate and empathetic people we have the ability to be.
In the face of fear and ignorance this community personifies what it means to
relentlessly follow your heart to become authentic human beings and show the world
how to be brave and how to love. We have watched this entire community demonstrate
what it means to honor oneself by living lives of authenticity

(and most recently we see those in the community who are trans, nonbinary and gender
fluid, who inspire with powerful courage to live lives as their true selves)

Let me be clear with you I would not be the person I am if it were not for your
community and for GLAAD. I look to this community, to you, to see if I am being brave
enough, kind enough, aware enough, conscious enough, sensitive enough, speaking
truth to power enough. You are my guide post and my inspiration.

To be like you is to transmute violence, is to make a stand for selfhood, Is to take risks,
is to stand up, is to disturb the status quo, is to support GLAAD to protect all that we
have achieved and keep moving this community to new heights, is to stand together not
only with our words but also with our actions
Is to embrace love and give that love unselfishly and unconditionally

And speaking of your history, in closing, I would like to quote Paul Monette from a
speech he gave when he was receiving an honorary degree from Oswego state
And it goes...

"You can't avoid the world,
Or the lightning rod of history

No one will find the way out of hate and violence unless we do.

We must each of us become a kind of United Nations; a peacekeeping force, whose
only weapon is the hungering heart

There's only one kind of anger that's good for you and that's anger against injustice

And remember there's no such thing as false hope. We all have closets to come out if we are ever going to be free.

Truth is a full-time job and intimacy a lifelong struggle

I promise you, all that will matter when you come to the end is how much you've managed to love and how much you've given back

Go without hate
Heal the world"

You have given me so much.

I dedicate this award to you and GLAAD and to this community

I thank you with a very full heart for this and demonstrating how to live with fierce grace

YOU are "excellence in media"
Let the world take note