

***Pride* 02.03.15 CONCA VERDE – talk by Peter Anderson (from Wikipedia)**

Pride is a 2014 British [LGBT-related historical comedy-drama](#) film written by [Stephen Beresford](#) and directed by [Matthew Warchus](#). It was screened as part of the [Directors' Fortnight](#) section of the [2014 Cannes Film Festival](#), where it won the [Queer Palm](#) award. Writer Stephen Beresford said a stage musical adaptation involving director Matthew Warchus was being planned.

The film had its world premiere in New York City on December 15, 2014.^[4] It was released theatrically on December 25, 2014, in the United States by [The Weinstein Company](#).^[5] The film was met with positive reviews and was nominated for three [Golden Globe Awards](#), with Adams winning [Best Actress](#). Adams was also nominated for a [BAFTA Award](#) for [Best Actress](#) for her performance in the film.

Reception

Pride has been met with very positive reviews. The review aggregator [Rotten Tomatoes](#) scored the film a 93% rating sampled from 120 reviews, with an average score of 7.6/10. The site's consensus reads: "Earnest without being didactic and uplifting without stooping to sentimentality, *Pride* is a joyous crowd-pleaser that genuinely works."^[27] [Metacritic](#) gave the film an aggregate score of 79/100 based on 36 reviews, indicating "generally favorable reviews."^[28]

Geoffrey Macnab, of [The Independent](#), noted how *Pride* followed on from other British films such as [The Full Monty](#), [Brassed Off](#) and [Billy Elliot](#) as "a story set in a Britain whose industrial base is being shattered".^[29] Macnab, who gave the film a five-star review, praised the screenplay for combining "broad comedy with subtle observation" and noted that director [Matthew Warchus](#) "relishes visual contrasts and jarring juxtapositions" throughout the film.^[29] Macnab's review stated that *Pride* retained its humour and accessibility without trivialising the issues addressed in the film.

[Peter Bradshaw](#), reviewing for [The Guardian](#), described the film as "impassioned and lovable".^[30] Bradshaw praised performances of the cast, including [Bill Nighy](#)'s "taciturn shyness" in his portrayal as Cliff and the "dignified and intelligent performance" from [Paddy Considine](#) as Dai.^[30] [Imelda Staunton](#)'s performance as Hefina Headon, who died in October 2013,^[31] was met with positive reviews by critics. Geoffrey Macnab said Staunton's performance as the matriarchal Hefina was "part [Mother Courage](#) and part [Hilda Ogden](#)".^[29] [Ben Schnetzer](#)'s performance as [Mark Ashton](#) drew positive reviews. Charlotte O'Sullivan, writing for the [London Evening Standard](#), said: "Schnetzer is a New Yorker with an unpromising CV (he was one of the few good things about [The Book Thief](#)) and he's fantastic here".^[32]

Paul Byrnes in [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) described the film as "dry, surprising, compassionate, politically savvy, emotionally rewarding and stacked to the gills with great actors doing solid work"^[33]

[Nigel Andrews](#), writing for the [Financial Times](#), gave the film one star out of five, describing it as "a parade of tricks, tropes and tritenesses, designed to keep its balance for two hours atop a political correctness unicycle".^[34]

Gareth Kingston of *essentialmoviereviews.com* gave *Pride* 4.5 stars out of five, and said of the film "As Billy Bragg's 'There Is Power In A Union' plays at the end of the movie, you realise that you have seen a special movie about a special coming together of communities. "

Plot

Based on a true story, the film depicts a group of [lesbian](#) and [gay](#) activists who raised money to help families affected by the [British miners' strike](#) in 1984, at the outset of what would become the [Lesbians](#)

[and Gays Support the Miners](#) campaign.^[7] The [National Union of Mineworkers](#) was reluctant to accept the group's support due to the union's public relations' worries about being openly associated with a gay group, so the activists instead decided to take their donations directly to [Onllwyn](#), a small mining village in [Wales](#), resulting in an alliance between the two communities. The alliance was unlike any seen before but was successful.

The Miners' Strike

The **UK miners' strike** of 1984–85 was a major [industrial action](#) affecting the British [coal industry](#). The strike was led by the [National Union of Mineworkers](#), led by [Arthur Scargill](#), although some NUM members considered the strike to be unconstitutional and did not observe it. The BBC has referred to the strike as "the most bitter industrial dispute in British history."^[1]

Coal mining, though nationalized in Britain by [Clement Attlee's Labour](#) government in 1947, was encouraged to gear itself toward reduced subsidies^[2] in the 1980s following the 1979 election of Prime Minister [Margaret Thatcher](#). Tensions between the Thatcher government and the public unions mounted as the administration considered the NUM to interfere with the market, risking public inflation. Two million manufacturing jobs were lost between 1979 and 1981, which some ascribe to Thatcherian policies, and others see as the inevitable result of decades of nationalization of unproductive industries in the face of rising competition from lower cost producers. Following a narrowly averted strike in 1981, the government announced on 6 March 1984 its intention to close 20 coal mines, revealing as well the plan in the long-term to close over 70 pits. Mass walk-outs and strikes began following this revelation in March, including the widely reported [Battle of Orgreave](#) between 5,000 miners and 5,000 police officers.

The strike ended on 3 March 1985 following a NUM vote to return to work. It was a defining moment in British [industrial relations](#), and its defeat significantly weakened the [British trade union movement](#). It was also seen as a major political victory for [Margaret Thatcher](#) and the [Conservative Party](#). The strike became a symbolic struggle, as the NUM was one of the strongest unions in the country, viewed by many, including Conservatives in power, as having brought down the [Heath government](#) in the union's [1974 strike](#). Unlike the strikes in the 1970s, the later strike ended with the miners' defeat and the Thatcher government was able to consolidate its [fiscally conservative](#) programme. The political power of the NUM and of most British trade unions was severely reduced. Three deaths resulted from events around the strike: two pickets and a taxi driver taking a non-striking miner to work. The remaining, much reduced, coal industry was privatized in December 1994, ultimately becoming a firm which is now known as [UK Coal](#).

Thatcher and Scargill

The [Conservative](#) government under [Margaret Thatcher](#) enforced a recent law that required unions to ballot members on strike action. On 19 July 1984, Thatcher said in the [House of Commons](#) that giving in to the miners would be surrendering the rule of [parliamentary democracy](#) to the [rule of the mob](#); she referred to the striking miners as "the enemy within" and claimed they did not share the values of other British people.

"We had to fight the enemy without in the [Falklands](#). We always have to be aware of the enemy within, which is much more difficult to fight and more dangerous to liberty". On the day after the [Orgreave picket](#) of 29 May, which saw five thousand pickets clash violently with police, Thatcher said in a speech:

I must tell you... that what we have got is an attempt to substitute the rule of the mob for the rule of law, and *it must not succeed*. [*cheering*] It must not succeed. There are those who are using violence and intimidation to impose their will on others who do not want it.... The rule of law must prevail over the rule of the mob.^[79]

[Neil Kinnock](#) also supported the call for a national ballot in April 1984.^[80] [Arthur Scargill](#)'s response to the incident was:

We've had riot shields, we've had riot gear, we've had police on horseback charging into our people, we've had people hit with truncheons and people kicked to the ground.... The intimidation and the brutality that has been displayed are something reminiscent of a Latin American state.^[81]

Pits and Perverts

The [Thatcher](#) government had sequestered the funds of the [National Union of Mineworkers](#) (NUM) which meant that it was pointless for supporters to send donations to the national union. Instead support groups throughout the UK were encouraged to "twin" directly with the various mining communities in England, Scotland or Wales. The Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners organisation was formed by [Mark Ashton](#) and his friend Michael (Mike) Jackson, after the two men collected donations for the miners at the 1984 [Lesbian and Gay Pride](#) march in London.^[2] The London LGSM group, which met and fund-raised in numerous locations including the [Gay's the Word](#) bookshop (the shop served as London group headquarters and hosted their regular meetings),^[2] twinned with the [Neath](#), [Dulais](#)^[3] and [Swansea Valleys](#) Miners Support Group.

The group prioritised aid to pits in [South Wales](#), as they believed that NUM President [Arthur Scargill](#) was unfairly distributing donations to the more militant pits in [Kent](#) and [Yorkshire](#).^[4]

As well as raising approximately £20,000 for the families who were on strike, there were reciprocal visits. The largest single fundraising event was the "Pits and Perverts"^{[5][6]} benefit concert that the group held at the [Electric Ballroom](#) in [Camden Town](#), London on 10 December 1984, headlined by [Bronski Beat](#) whose lead singer was [Jimmy Somerville](#).^[7] The title of the benefit is claimed by many^{[7][4]} to have been originally used as a headline in the tabloid [The Sun](#).

The alliances which the campaign forged between [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender](#) (LGBT) and [labour groups](#) also proved to be an important turning point in the progression of LGBT issues in the United Kingdom.^[2] Miners' labour groups began to support and endorse and participate in various [gay pride](#) events throughout the UK;^[2] at the 1985 [Labour Party](#) conference in [Bournemouth](#), a resolution committing the party to support LGBT equality rights passed for the first time due to block voting support from the National Union of Mineworkers; and miners' groups were among the most outspoken allies of the LGBT community in the 1988 campaign against [Section 28](#).^[2]

An archive of the London group's work is kept at the [People's History Museum](#) in [Manchester](#), England. It includes the minutes of the weekly meetings, correspondence, press cuttings, publicity material, enamel badges, photographs and the banner.^[1]

The London group's alliance with a Welsh mining village is dramatised in the 2014 film [Pride](#), directed by [Matthew Warchus](#).^{[4][8][9]}

LGBT

LGBT is an [initialism](#) that stands for [lesbian, gay, bisexual](#), and [transgender](#). In use since the 1990s, the term is an adaptation of the initialism **LGB**, which itself started replacing the term *gay* when in reference to the [LGBT community](#) beginning in the mid-to-late 1980s,^[1] as many felt the term *gay community* did not accurately represent all those to whom it referred.^[2] The initialism has become mainstream as a self-designation and has been adopted by the majority of [sexuality and gender identity-based](#) community

centers and media in the [United States](#) and some other [English-speaking countries](#).^{[3][4]} It is also used in some other countries in whose languages the initialism is meaningful, such as France and Argentina.

The initialism LGBT is intended to emphasize a diversity of sexuality and gender identity-based cultures and is sometimes used to refer to anyone who is [non-heterosexual](#) or non-[cisgender](#) instead of exclusively to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.^{[2][5]} To recognize this inclusion, a popular variant adds the letter Q for those who identify as [queer](#) or are [questioning](#) their sexual identity as LGBTQ, recorded since 1996.^[6]

Some [intersex](#) people who want to be included in LGBT groups suggest an extended initialism *LGBTI* (recorded since 1999).^{[7][8]} This initialism "LGBTI" is used in all parts of "The Activist's Guide" of the [Yogyakarta Principles in Action](#).^[9] Furthermore, the initialism LGBTIH has seen use in [India](#) to encompass the [hijra third gender](#) identity and the related subculture.^{[10][11]} More recently, the catch-all terms **GSM** ("Gender & Sexual Minorities"), **GSRM** ("Gender, Sexual, & Romantic Minorities"),^[12] and **GSD** ("Gender & Sexual Diversity")^[13] have been proposed.

Whether or not LGBT people openly identify themselves may depend on whether they live in a discriminatory environment, as well as on the status of [LGBT rights](#) where they live.^[14]