

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREAT



BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVÆUS'

MAMMA MIA!

THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®

'A BRILLIANT NIGHT OUT!'

CHRIS TARRANT

Dec. 27, 2005 – Jan. 1, 2006

KELLER AUDITORIUM - SW 3RD & CLAY

www.broadwayacrossamerica.com www.mamma-mia.com

503-790-ARTS or 503-241-1802
ticketmaster

Mon-Fri 9a-5p

GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE SAVE! 503-241-1407

Fred Meyer
BROADWAY
in
PORTLAND

Mamma Mia! original cast recording available on Decca Broadway
Tickets subject to agency convenience charges

K123

LEXUS

TheHiltonFamily

nwa

katu

national

Ford Tough?

Anti-gay groups target Ford, Wells Fargo Bank

by Sarah Dougher

In two developments that highlight the presence of politics within U.S. corporate culture, the Ford Motor Co. and Wells Fargo Bank became the latest companies to have their social policies scrutinized by groups both friendly and hostile to the queer cause.

The controversy erupted Dec. 1 when the American Family Association officially announced it was dropping its threat of a boycott, saying Ford "heard our concerns; they are acting on our concerns. We are pleased with where we are." The next day, Ford spokesman Mike Moran appeared to confirm an agreement by saying the company would stop advertising its Jaguar and Land Rover brands in gay publications.

"The decisions with regard to advertising was a business decision," he said. Moran added that Ford's Volvo brand would continue advertising in queer publications. Ford hasn't advertised its Ford, Lincoln and Mercury brands in those publications, he said.

Eighteen leading queer organizations issued a unity statement Dec. 5: "We are deeply dismayed by reports in the media and otherwise that the Ford Motor Co. has entered into a confidential agreement with the extremist American Family Association that requires Ford to stop advertising in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender media. If there is an agreement with AFA, we expect Ford to disavow it. We expect Ford to publicly reaffirm its historic support for our community. And, we expect Ford to meet with LGBT representatives this week to resolve these concerns."

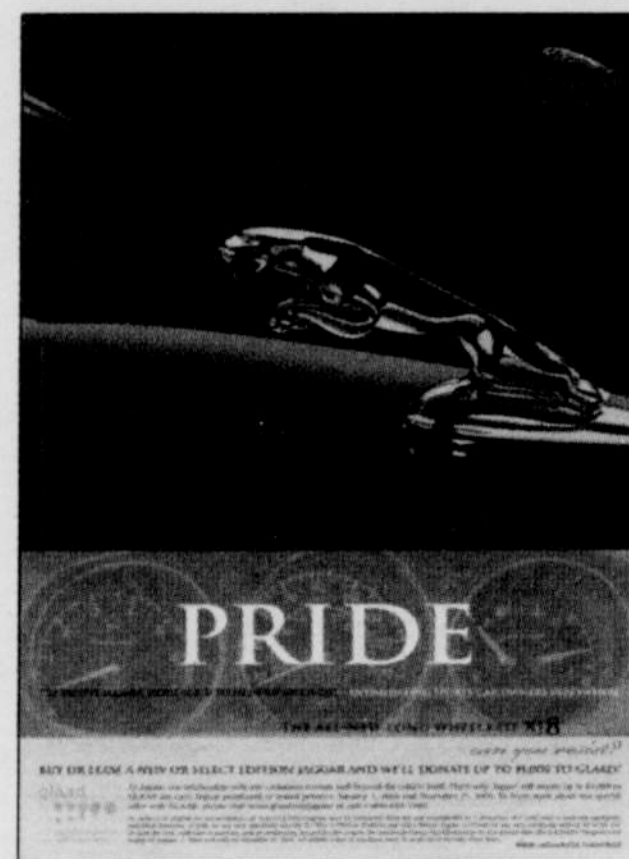
As a result of that statement, Ford executives met with queer representatives, including National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Matt Foreman, Dec. 12 in Washington, D.C.

In a statement released Dec. 14, Ford reaffirmed its commitment to its progressive workplace policies, said it would place corporate advertising in queer publications on behalf of all of its brands, including Jaguar and Land Rover, and would continue financial support for queer organizations and events consistent with its business condition. In response, the queer organizations issued a statement commending Ford for its actions.

"Ford did the right thing here, both for its brand and for its bottom line," said Neil G. Giuliano, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "Their message today signals a strong commitment by Ford to fairness, to inclusion and to a quality relationship with our community."

If Ford is being scrutinized for its gay-friendly policies, Wells Fargo is being punished for being too friendly. The Christian conservative group Focus on the Family is withdrawing funds from Wells Fargo because of its alleged involvement in pro-gay causes, *The Rocky Mountain News* reported Dec. 7.

"Focus on the Family has elected to end its banking relationship with Wells Fargo, motivated primarily by the bank's ongoing efforts to advance the radical homosexual agenda. These efforts are in direct opposition to the underlying principles and purpose of Focus, and thus a decision of conscience had to be made, and a stand taken," said a statement on the Focus Web site.



Ford has agreed to continue marketing cars to the sexual minorities community by advertising in queer publications.

The Rocky Mountain News reported that the Wells Fargo logo was used in an Internet fund-raising campaign for a "fight against the 'anti-gay industry,'" a group that pro-gay organizations have stated includes Focus on the Family.

In a statement, Wells Fargo spokeswoman Melissa Morey said, "Wells Fargo firmly believes it is our responsibility to serve every segment of our community, and we view our support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community as part of our broader commitment to diversity."

According to Focus, Wells Fargo's Web site says the bank has donated more than \$14 million to pro-gay organizations in the past two decades. A bank statement said, "We direct our giving to areas that we believe are important to the future of our nation's vitality and success: community development, education and human services."

Mark Elderkin, president of PlanetOut, which owns *The Advocate* and *Out*, said his company had not heard directly from Ford and declined to speculate on the reasons for the automaker's advertising decision.

"Advertisers come and go due to various economic reasons," Elderkin said. "Ford is saying that its decision to not renew its ad campaign is due to business issues, not gay issues. I can't assume otherwise."

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement, "Signs that Ford may have capitulated to right-wing extremist groups are deeply troubling." 10