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## national

### NATIONAL Courage and Inspiration Awards Announced

The Point Foundation, the nation's largest scholarship-granting organization for queer students of merit, announced Oct. 26 the recipients of its inaugural Courage and Inspiration Awards.

Adam Shankman, director of such hit films as *Hairspray*, *The Pacifier* and *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*, will receive the Point Courage Award, and ABC Television Network will receive the Point Inspiration Award. Both awards will be presented at Point's second annual Los Angeles gala, Point Foundation Honors the Arts, which will be held Nov. 3.

The Point Courage Award recognizes a person who has selflessly advocated for the future of the sexual minorities community and lives with the vision that investing in today's potential will produce a brighter tomorrow. The Point Inspiration Award recognizes a corporation or organization that champions respect and inclusion of the queer community and operates with the vision that investing in today's potential will produce a brighter tomorrow.

"Not only does Adam Shankman lead a phenomenally successful career as a filmmaker, he also conducts his life with an unambiguous openness regarding his sexual orientation, and it is with great pleasure that we will present him with the inaugural Point Courage Award," said Jorge Valencia, executive director and chief executive officer of Point Foundation.

Students who are awarded the organization's prestigious scholarships, known as Point Scholars, are selected through a rigorous and highly competitive process that requires a record of demonstrated academic excellence, leadership skills and financial need. This year's gala celebrates the arts and recognizes Point Scholars who are pursuing education in a variety of artistic endeavors, including music, interior design, architecture, film and the vocal and visual performing arts. A number of these Point Scholars will attend the benefit.

"ABC has demonstrated bold leadership in the way in which a major media company invested with the public trust can and should respect and include members of the LGBT community, and we are thrilled to honor the network with the inaugural Point Inspiration Award," said Valencia.



Gay director Adam Shankman was awarded the Point Courage Award on Nov. 3.

### Giuliani Said to Support Same-Sex Marriage Ban

Tony Perkins, head of the Family Research Council, told daily congressional paper *The Hill* Oct. 20 that former Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani would support a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Perkins reportedly told *The Hill* that Giuliani told him in a private meeting that if the Defense of Marriage Act appeared to be failing or if multiple states began to legalize same-sex marriages, then he would support the constitutional amendment.

Giuliani, however, did not discuss issues pertaining to same-sex marriage during his address to the Values Voters Summit, held in Washington, D.C., which could have won him favor with conservative voters. Former presidential candidate and conservative leader Gary Bauer told *The Hill*, "To come into a crowd like this and not mention marriage was, I think, a colossal mistake."

### COLORADO Shepard Site Launches

The Matthew Shepard Foundation announced Oct. 12 the launch of *MatthewsPlace.com*, a comprehensive online resource for sexual minority youth in the United States.

The Web site launched on the ninth anniversary of Shepard's murder, with a series of events throughout the country and an online video stream featuring Judy Shepard, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

"MatthewsPlace.com is a dream come true for the Matthew Shepard Foundation and hopefully for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allied youth all over the country," said Shepard. "It is a safe online place full of critical resources and information, a place where LGBTQ youth can see themselves reflected in our society, feel affirmation and gain insights to help them lead healthy, productive, hate-free lives."

Designed with a great deal of youth involvement, *MatthewsPlace.com* features up-to-date national and queer news, advice columns from notable voices, affirming resources on issues affecting queer youth and an information hub for youth to access critical resources such as safe and inclusive direct-service providers, homeless shelters and youth-serving organizations. This is the first of



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