



MONA ELYAFI

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
Publicist, Founder & CEO of ILDK Media

After years working for top entertainment PR agencies, Mona launched her own PR firm in 2004, named after her late grandmother. Her main objective is to act as a catalyst for change, empower her clients, and give their unique voices a platform to become inspirational and trailblazing voices in the LGBTQ community. Mona's many clients and projects focus on LGBTQ diversity and equality, often making front-page news in Forbes, LA Times, NBC.com, NY Times, CNN, to name a few.



MEREDITH BENNETT-SMITH

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
Editor, Quartz

Meredith is a graduate of Cornell and NYU, getting her start in journalism with PBS Frontline, The New York Daily News, The Christian Science Monitor, The Huffington Post, and graduating to editor with Mic, where she produced stories on the intersection of socioeconomic, race, LGBT identity, gender and feminism. Currently at Quartz, Meredith steers powerful stories on geopolitics, socioeconomic, identity and tech, and she also teaches at the CUNY School of Journalism.



JULIE R. ENSZER

DOVER, FLORIDA
Intellectual Entrepreneur

Julie is a Ph.D. and poet who uses the written word to empower lesbian communities. Author of four poetry collections, editor of Milk & Honey: A Celebration of Jewish Lesbian Poetry, and The Complete Works of Pat Parker, a finalist for the Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry, she also publishes landmark lesbian journal Sinister Wisdom, which celebrated 40 years in 2016. Her scholarly work has appeared in Southern Cultures, Journal of Lesbian Studies, American Periodicals, WSQ, and Frontiers.



DANA PICCOLI

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
Editor at Bella Books, Vice President of Upstate Pride

An entertainment writer and pop culture critic with deep roots in queer fandom, Dana was a staff editor at AfterEllen, host of the popular podcast, Let's Process, which had over 250k downloads, and managing editor of the Blog at Bella Books, a vertical of the popular lesbian publishing company. Dana moderated panels at Clexacon, and is the Vice President of Upstate Pride, an organization that serves local queer and trans communities.



DONNA ACETO

GREENWICH, NEW YORK
Freelance News and Event Photographer

Donna began photographing the LGBTQ community during the height of the AIDS crisis in New York, as photographer for the widely-circulated Gay Men's Health Crisis' newsletter. She went from being a closeted lesbian on Wall Street to coming out and moving into photojournalism and activism, working with the Lesbian AIDS Project, and showing how women too were affected by HIV/AIDS. She joined Gay City News and went on to cover countless LGBTQ events.



EBONÉ F. BELL

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Editor-in-Chief/Owner Tagg Magazine

Eboné started Tagg Magazine and website to tell queer women's stories, provide resources, and create events. Tagg was named one of the Top 25 LGBTQ-owned companies by the Washington Business Journal and last year, Eboné founded the Tagg Scholarship Fund for young queer women of color unable to afford school. Eboné also volunteers in Washington, D.C. for the HRC, the Capital Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber, and The Point Foundation.

SUSAN PORTNOY (ACETO), STEFFAN DECLUE (ENSZER)