

Wyoming (IN)Equality

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Abstract

What the heck is up with Wyoming Equality? From their front page: An equality group is promoting The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival? For those that don't know, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is a "womyn born womyn" event that specifically excludes transwomen. In recent years they've softened their "no transwomen" policy from "DO NOT ENTER," [...]

Article

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[Figure] wyequality.jpg

An equality group is promoting The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival? For those that don't know, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is a "womyn born womyn" event that specifically excludes transwomen. In recent years they've softened their "no transwomen" policy from "DO NOT ENTER," to "WE TOLD YOU NOT TO ENTER, BUT YOU CAN BUY A TICKET." If you don't believe the politics behind Michfest is transphobic, just take a look at one of the scheduled events, a screening of "The Gendercator"

Susan Stryker described the film this way:

"The ideas in the film echo the rhetoric of Janice Raymond's Transsexual Empire (1979), which goes so far as to claim that Nazis invented transsexual surgery, that transsexuals are agents of a patriarchal conspiracy to replace biologically female women, to accuse all transsexuals of being rapists (because they represent an "unwanted penetration" of women's space), and to argue in a eugenic fashion that transsexuals should be "morally mandated out of existence." Raymond's book, and the film, engage in the paranoid fantasy that what transsexuals do to their own bodies is somehow a threat to the bodies of nontranssexual women, that the very existence of transsexuals will somehow "force" a nontranssexual woman to have her body violated through some sort of compulsory and unwanted transformation-it's the same structure of fantasy that imagines that all black men want to rape white women, that gays are predatory pedophiles, that communists are secretly infiltrating our government, that terrorists are swarming across our borders, that drug pushers are constantly trying to hook our kids, and so on ad nauseum. The film projects fear onto an "alien other" and then condemns that other for reflecting back that fear to the person who has projected it there in the first place."

I can't understand how any group that espouses "equality for all" could support Michfest. Their anti-trans policy is nothing short of separate but equal.

Suggested citation

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