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36th Annual Black Tie Dinner Unveils 2017 Theme – “Together”
Black Tie Dinner Also Announces First Ever Black Tie Brunch

March 31, 2017 (DALLAS) – On Thursday, Black Tie Dinner – the nation’s largest LGBT fundraising dinner – officially unveiled the theme of its 36th annual dinner – “Together.” The announcement was made at the organization’s BTD: Kickoff 2017.

“This year’s ‘Together’ theme is meant to be a reminder that the success of Black Tie Dinner, and the progress of the overall equality movement, relies heavily on communities standing together in a united front,” said Nathan Robbins, 2017 Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair. “Now, more than ever, it’s crucial for all of us to combine our energy and efforts to continue making positive strides for the LGBT community.”

During the Kick Off event, Black Tie Dinner also announced its first ever Black Tie Brunch, scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. The brunch is another sign of the recently rebranded Black Tie Dinner’s evolution as it looks to engage current and potential supporters via new ways and touchpoints.

“Our Marketing team took a fresh look at the lead up events Black Tie Dinner typically presents. The diversity of our guests and beneficiaries continue to expand, and our committee felt it was important that our events reflect those changes” said David Gifford-Robinson, 2017 Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair. “Our 2017 events will continue to be more experiential and engaging for our guests.”

First-Year Beneficiary Program
This marks the first year that Black Tie Dinner has offered a “First-Year Beneficiary” program, which allows new organizations to participate with fewer requirements in their first year (i.e., fewer tables, raffles tickets, auction items to contribute and volunteer hours). In accordance with these decreased requirements, the organization’s share of the financial distribution will be proportionally less. This new initiative gives newer organizations an opportunity to get acquainted with the Black Tie family through a one-time designation as a First-Year Beneficiary. After the first year, they will have to apply as a Full Beneficiary. First-Year Beneficiaries will not be in competition with Full Beneficiaries when selection takes place in April. While returning beneficiaries will not be eligible as First-Year Beneficiaries, they will still enjoy all of the benefits they have had in the past with Black Tie Dinner, including a proportionally larger distribution amount in comparison to organizations that apply as First-Year. Black Tie Dinner will announce the 2017 Beneficiaries on Monday, April 24th.

Black Tie Dinner will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017. For additional information about the Dinner, visit blacktie.org.
About Black Tie Dinner

Black Tie Dinner is a non-profit organization that raises funds for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) supportive organizations serving North Texas through a premier event of empowerment, education and entertainment that has grown into the nation's largest LGBT fundraising dinner since its inception in 1982. The first dinner produced a $6,000 donation to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and has since raised over $21 million for national and local beneficiaries. Black Tie Dinner continues to be the most successful dinner in the country supporting the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and has the distinction of being the only dinner also benefiting local beneficiaries.

The event has headlined local and national celebrities and leaders such as Maya Angelou, Geena Davis, Lily Tomlin, Martin Sheen, Connie Britton and Dustin Lance Black. In addition to live entertainment, Black Tie Dinner honors outstanding service to the LGBT community with the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award, the Black Tie Dinner Media Award and the Kuchling Humanitarian Award. Recipients have included Debra Messing, Greg Louganis, Elizabeth Birch, Sharon Stone, Judy Shepard, Alan Cumming, Showtime Networks/Robert Greenblatt, Bishop V. Gene Robinson, Cyndi Lauper, Logo Network/Brian Graden, Chely Wright, American Airlines, Chaz Bono, JCPenney and Scouting For All founder Zach Wahl.

For more information about Black Tie Dinner or this year's event, visit blacktie.org.

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