Having a Ball to Raise HIV Awarenesss [VIDEO]

GMHC hosts its 27th Annual Latex Ball in New York City.

July 31, 2017 By POZ Staff

On Saturday, July 29, Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) held the 27th Annual Latex Ball at Terminal Five in New York City. The theme for this year's vogueing and costume competition, the largest in the world for the house and ball community, was "Unleash Your Muse." Throughout the night, decked-out contestants walked the runway in an array of over-the-top categories for trophies and cash prizes, while GMHC and other community-based organizations and the New York City and New York state departments of health provided free sexual health and HIV prevention materials as well as free HIV testing.

"For close to 30 years, the Latex Ball has played a critical role as a public health intervention. It also provides a strong sense of community for young black and Latino youth and adults," said Kelsey Louie, CEO, GMHC. "The ball highlights the creativity, resiliency and strength of the house and ball community, as well as encouraging members to support their community health. With the continued increase of hate crimes and murders of people of color, it is essential this event persists in letting youth and adults know that they do matter."

Check out videos and photos from this year's Latex Ball below and for more a little more history about the ball, read our feature story about last year's event here.

#TheLatexBall #LatexBall @natvogue

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