



## Malcolm Michaels, 46

By Curtis Rist  
STAFF WRITER

Malcolm Michaels, a legendary Christopher Street transvestite who called himself Marsha P. Johnson, was found dead floating in the Hudson River on Monday, and was believed to have drowned accidentally a few days earlier, friends said yesterday.

Michaels, 46 — who preferred both the name Marsha and the use of the feminine pronoun "she" — led a roller coaster ride through three decades of gay liberation. He participated in the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969, worked as a model for Andy Warhol's "Drag Queens" series, and spent most of his life as a prostitute and panbar-fier on Christopher Street.

At the core of a life that could redefine the word "turbulent," a longtime friend, Richard Skinner, found a "wonderful, warm and open person" who befriended an astonishing variety of people.

In the 1970s, Michaels was occasionally at odds with the mainstream gay liberation organizations, which did not necessarily accept his image as "a frumpy housefrau one day, all glittery and in heels the next."

But in the end, he was honored during Gay Pride Day two years ago with a ride in the limousine that leads the annual parade. Michaels wore a suit and tie.

**JOHNSON**—Marsha P. (aka Malcolm Michaels Jr.). We deeply mourn the loss of our beloved and respected member, a survivor of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion. As organizers of annual Lesbian/Gay -Pride events, Marsha was an inspiration for all of us. Marsha was an internationally acclaimed entertainer with Hot Peaches Review, Andy Warhol model, Anvil icon, and a legendary lady of the evening on Christopher Street and the West Side Highway. The lesbian and gay community, habitues of the Village, and nightclub aficionados will all miss her dazzling smile and unflagging good cheer. Memorial service Sunday, July 26, 3pm, Metropolitan Duane Church, 13th Street and 7th Avenue.

Heritage of Pride, Inc.

**DEMAND  
JUSTICE!!**

**THE POLICE HAVE SAID THAT MARSHA'S DEATH WAS A SUICIDE. THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE IT WAS A MURDER. JOIN US TO DEMAND A FULL INVESTIGATION WHERE CHRISTOPHER ST. MEETS THE RIVER ON SUN. JULY 19, AT 3:00 P.M.**