

Joey
Gallagher

is a 35-year-old Philadelphia native who began his artistic journey at a very young age. He was a very soft spoken and mild mannered child who didn't seem to be like the other boys his age. He was timid, mild mannered, and as a result didn't make many male friends as a kid. He was, however, befriended occasionally by girls in the neighborhood who would let him tag along and play games. Even to this day, Joey isn't a very big fan of sports, though he respects the discipline it requires. Even when his mother attempted to get him into karate as a way to feel more confident he could defend himself against bullies, he was too uncomfortable with removing his socks and pristinely tied shoes for others to see.

His parents knew he was different , but didn't know until later in the day when he was approached by a nun at his first grade catholic school class, he auditioned to be a cantor for the church and his first holy communion. When his parents saw him sing, they wanted to encourage him in the things he enjoyed and only at the age of seven years old he went on his first professional tour in 1995 with the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale, a world renowned group under the direction of Robert Hamilton. Singing was a way to say the things he couldn't as a very young and very obviously gay kid in the city. With them he traveled to Europe , Australia singing solo in the Sydney Opera House and sang for Nelson Mandela in South Africa in his final tour in 1997.

The arts continued to be an important part of his life even when his family moved to Delaware while he was away on tour. His voice, however, began to change an mature, and under the direction of his previous coaches, he was instructed to be careful with singing as his vocal cords grew. He still sang from time to time by himself.

In 2002, Joey graduated from Cab Calloway School of the Arts as a musical theater major. His high school experience exposed him to a myriad of other art forms and coupled with his previous experience , became a vocal coach for a United Way organization in Delaware for children , the Christina Cultural Arts Center. His move to Delaware would expose him toThe jazz hub of Wilmington, gospel music, and has recorded as a background vocalist for a few who in morerecent years have seen their success in signing with Sony.

Joey's DRAG journey is a unique one that began in 2005 and served a different purpose in his life. Drag was something he originally supported his friends doing. Backup dancing , helping embellish costumes and gowns, and prepare and practice for pageants. After a personal trauma, he tried drag as an "escape" , but very briefly. He had to return to music. Music was his VOICE.

After completing his schooling and passed his examination for his Registered Nursing license, he returned to entertaining in the Northeast Tristate area , but a "new persona" was unnecessary. Finding that " Joey Gallagher" was good enough a name as any as an entertainer as he is... beard and all. Today, he views drag as an artistic extension of his REALITY, not a mere illusion.

Joey now performs as a Bearded queen in hopes to add to the definition of "excellence" and self acceptance. He is the winner of Songbird 8 All Stars, A recipient of the 2016 Philly drag awards

best alternative artist, 2017 best live vocalist, winner of Drags to Riches, Florida bearded queen 2017, captured the title of the very first National Bearded Queen winning all categories on May 2018 ,a judge on the panel for National EOY Femme and King in Louisville Kentucky, and the ruling National Bearded Empress Emeritus - La Voix.

He hopes to add to the amazing art form of Drag and bridge the gap between many of the genres of the art form while encouraging drag artists to present all of the talents they have. Joey would like to thank EVERY ARTIST that came before him that bravely paved the way AND MOST IMPORTANTLY those who have supported his craft and journey either through sponsorship, an applause, a critique, or word of appreciation.

Joey would like to one day write his own music, develop programs to keep the arts in schools, and in particular, support keeping the doors of performing arts school open so that children can find their voices the way he has.