



Drag queens Athena Kills (C) and Scalene Onixx arrive to waiting adults and children for Drag Queen Story Hour at Cellar Door Books in Riverside, California on June 22, 2019. (AFP / Frederic J. BROWN)

# Drag Queen Story Hour head not arrested for child porn

Daniel FUNKE, AFP USA



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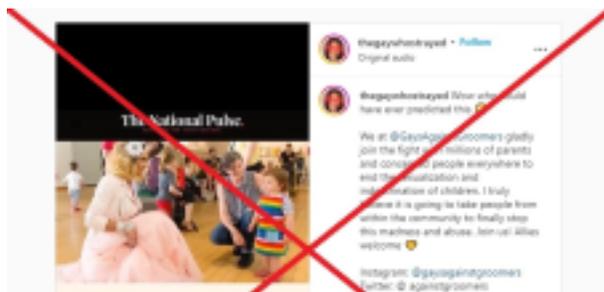
Updated on Thursday 23 June 2022 at 09:59

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**Social media posts on several platforms claim the head of Drag Queen Story Hour, a group that coordinates reading for children, was arrested on child pornography charges. This is false; a former Wisconsin judge who did not work at the national nonprofit was arrested in March 2021 for possessing illegal materials involving minors.**

"Head Of 'Drag Queen Story Hour' Org Arrested For Child Porn," says a headline pictured in a June 20, 2022 [video](#) on Instagram.

Jaimee Michell, the Instagram user who published the video and the founder of another account called "Gays Against Groomers," added in the caption: "Wow who could have ever predicted this."



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Screenshot of an Instagram post taken June 21, 2022

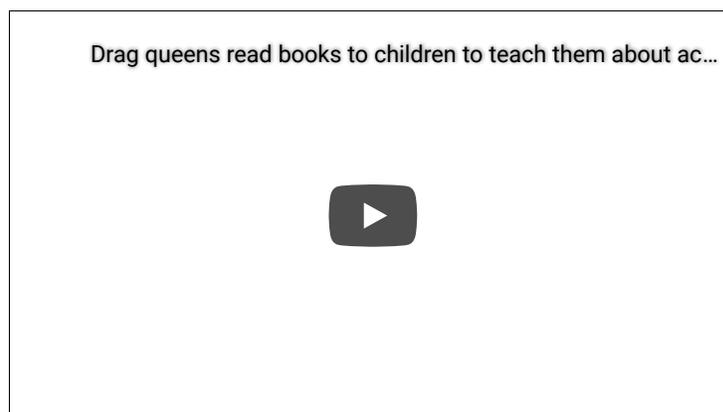
The video accumulated more than 17,000 likes. Similar claims have circulated on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) in both the US and Canada, according to CrowdTangle, a social media insights tool.

The posts come as threats against LGBTQ rights advocates and allies, [spurred in part](#) by a spike in far-right rhetoric online, have forced the cancellation of some [events](#) in the US -- including those in which drag queens [read books](#) to children. On June 11, police in Idaho [arrested](#) 31 members of a white supremacist group who planned to riot at a Pride celebration.

The posts shared on social media reference a March 2021 [article](#) from the National Pulse, a conservative media site, about Drag Queen Story Hour, a national [organization](#) with chapters around the country. Drag Queen Story Hour [says](#) on its website that its mission is to celebrate reading "through the glamorous art of drag" and to provide "diverse, accessible, and culturally-inclusive family programming where kids can express their authentic selves."

By itself, the National Pulse headline makes it seem like the executive director of Drag Queen Story Hour was arrested on child pornography charges. However, as media outlets [reported](#) at the [time](#), the full story indicates otherwise.

"Brett Blomme -- a former head of the Cream City LGBTQ+ Foundation which runs a Drag Queen Story Hour program -- was arrested on charges of possession of child pornography," the National Pulse article says.



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Blomme, a former Milwaukee County Children's Court judge, was [arrested](#) in March 2021 and charged with seven counts of possessing child pornography. In December of that year, he was [sentenced](#) to nine years in prison for distributing child porn.

Blomme previously [served](#) as CEO of the Cream City Foundation, a philanthropic organization [that aims to](#) "advance human rights and respond to the human needs of LGBTQ+ people in Southeastern Wisconsin." The foundation, whose name references [a nickname](#) for Milwaukee, issued a [statement](#) condemning Blomme on March 21, 2021.

In a separate [statement](#) published March 18, 2021 on Facebook, the Milwaukee chapter of Drag Queen Story Hour said it had "never been run by the Cream City Foundation nor Brett Blomme" and that neither had "participated in planning, organizing, hosting or performing at any of our events."

"Cream City Foundation has only ever been a fiscal sponsor that allows DQSH Milwaukee to give & receive funds as a non-profit," the statement says. "Aside from financials, they have had no part in DQSH Milwaukee & DQSH National."

A fiscal sponsorship is an arrangement that "offers a way for a cause to attract donors even when it is not yet recognized as tax-exempt," [according to](#) the National Council of Nonprofits.

"In essence the fiscal sponsor serves as the administrative 'home' of the cause," the group says on its website. "Charitable contributions are given to the fiscal sponsor,

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