

# Romaine Patterson Biography

[www.readromaine.com](http://www.readromaine.com)



A Wyoming native, Romaine Patterson got started in activism when her close friend Matthew Shepard was killed in a brutal anti-gay hate crime in October of 1998. Immediately following his death, Romaine started speaking at vigils and community events across the country. Due to the massive media coverage Shepard's death garnered, Patterson quickly became a seasoned professional speaker. She has worked with media professionals from around the world and virtually every media format.

Patterson is best known for her work combating the anti-gay antics of the Rev. Fred Phelps, whose followers picketed Shepard's funeral and the murder trials. In April of 1999, she founded the Angel Action, an organization for peaceful demonstration.



Angel Action is now in use all over the world as a means of combating hate. Taking her activism to the next level Patterson went to work as the Regional Media Manager for The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in February of 2000. While there, she worked as a spokesperson of several national media campaigns.

Patterson returned to school at the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences in the fall of 2001 in order to further her knowledge of the media industry. As a top graduate of the Conservatory's Master Recording Program in May of 2001, she moved to New York City where she currently resides.



Patterson's love of the recording studio, soon lead her to the offices of Sirius Satellite Radio. Romaine took a position as Co-host and Producer of "Derek and Romaine" a popular talk show that features a wild array of uncensored topics and guests. "Derek and Romaine" hits the airwaves nation wide weekdays from 6-10pm EST. As a team, "Derek and Romaine" dedicate themselves to helping raise funds for a variety of charitable causes including the Matthew Shepard Foundation and the Sea Coast AIDS Walk. For more information about the radio show please visit [www.derekandromaine.com](http://www.derekandromaine.com).

# Romaine Patterson Projects and Awards

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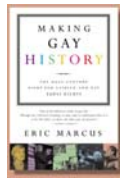
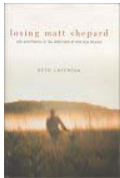
## Film/TV/Theater

- Anatomy of a Hate Crime (MTV)
- The Matthew Shepard Story (NBC)\*
- Journey to a Hate Free Millennium (New Light Media)
- The Laramie Project film and off-Broadway play (HBO)\*
- "Flipped" Episode (MTV)  
*\*Emmy nominated*



## Books

- Losing Matt Shepard, Beth Loffreda
- A Making of a Gay History, Eric Marcus
- A Face in the Crowd, John Petterson and Martin Bedogne



## Awards and Affiliations



- Concert of Hope Honoree, 1999 Anti-Defamation League, Washington, DC.
- Keynote Speaker and Honoree, 1999 Youth Pride, Washington, DC.
- Named one of "1999's Best and Brightest Activists" by The Advocate.
- Awarded 2001 PR Week award for Non-Profit Team of the Year.
- Co-Chair of Communications, 2001 Capital Pride, Washington, DC.
- Community Advisory Board, WRC-TV, NBC, Washington, DC.
- Co-Chair of Communications, 2001 Youth Pride, Washington, DC.
- Profile featured in The New York Times Magazine, December 2000.
- Guest Speaker, Fight For Your Rights, MTV 2000.
- Radio Person of the Day, Radio Daily News, 2001

# Romaine Patterson Speaking

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Romaine Patterson has spoken at the following schools among others.



-University of Wyoming



-University of Maryland

-Penn State University



-Colorado State University

-George Washington University



-Kent State University

-Murray State College



-Mesa State College

-Bates College



-State University of New York

-Clark University



-Georgetown

**“Romaine was able to provide all individuals with an environment where they felt comfortable sharing and asking questions that they may not be able to ask anywhere else. She opened the eyes of many students who later came to my office in tears when realizing the homophobia they had been harboring for years.” –Erin Byrne, Assistant Supervisor, Village for Families and Children former Area Coordinator, Clark University**

**“Romaine is a dynamic and energetic person, delivering her message with power. She engages audiences quickly and effortlessly, drawing them in with her coy charm and matter-of-fact humor. She makes them think and learn, explaining things in common sense terms without glossing over the complexities of an issue.” - Jim Osborn, Advisor, University of Wyoming LGBTQA**

# Romaine Patterson Media Coverage

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Following the death of her friend Matthew Shepard Romaine was featured in hundreds of articles and new specials including interviews in the following media outlets.

## **“The Laramie Project”**

**March 2005**

“Romaine Patterson has the same message for every audience. She reminds them that the play The Laramie Project is not about a town in Wyoming but their own hometown.”

**Murray Ledger & Times**

## **“Students Perform Play Based On Hate Crime” Article**

**February 2005**

“When you hear something that doesn't sit right with you, say something. That's what activism is,” said Romaine Patterson friend of murder victim Matthew Shepard.

**MSNBC.com**

## **“Actresses study to act like now-famous activist” article**

**October 2004**

“Be yourself, and don't forget the black leather jacket.”

**The Times Herald Spin (Weekend Magazine)**

## **“Small Town Girl” article**

**January 2004**

An article about Romaine Patterson for The Laramie Boomerang was syndicated widely throughout the Midwest including several papers in Wyoming, Colorado, and Texas.

## **Matthew Shepard Five-Year Anniversary**

**October 2003**

Romaine Patterson was featured in numerous articles for the Matthew Shepard five-year anniversary, including **ABCNews.com**, **The Advocate**, **The Daily Evergreen**, **GayIdaho.com**.

## **The Washington Post**

**July 2003**

Romaine Patterson is featured in an article about Judy Shepard and the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

## **The New York Times**

# *Derek & Romaine Media Coverage*

## **Wired.com**

**October 24, 2003**

Romaine Patterson waxed poetic about “The Slightest Touch.”

Columnist Mike Prevatt of The Las Vegas Mercury calls it a “**Loveline-esque homo/lesbian team**” that is “**goofy and titillating.**” The Windy City Times hails it as “**a searing, controversial yet highly entertaining gay talk-fest.**”

PlanetOut.com Entertainment calls it “**lively and humorous.**”

