

## HUFFPOST GAY VOICES



Of course, that performance will draw the inevitable comparisons to Garland; although her own work speaks for itself, Luft insists she remains indebted to the Hollywood trail blazed by her mother.

"The responsibility I feel to my mom's legacy is always making sure it is held in high regard, with respect and with honor, and that it is held for her work and what she gave to all of us as an actress, a singer and an entertainer," Luft says. As for her mother's somewhat mythical [connection to her gay male fanbase](#) and, more specifically, the [1969 Stonewall riots](#), Luft notes, "The gay community had lost their legend and their icon, but I had just lost a parent, so I didn't know about that for many years."

Still, she adds, "I think it's a remarkable moment in history that is attached to my family, and I carry that with pride. I know that my mother would've said that everybody at Stonewall did the right thing: they stood up for themselves."

True to her showbiz pedigree, however, Luft is fully focused on making "Lorna's Pink Party" not only a memorable night of entertainment but also an inspirational one, calling it a heartfelt thank you to the fans who expressed their support during her treatment. She advises anyone with loved ones battling the disease to remain a source of empowerment, much as those close to her have continued to do.

"If you have a family member, a friend or a spouse, who is going through breast cancer, realize that they're still there," Luft, who says she "takes her hat off" to [Angelina Jolie](#) for going public about her decision to undergo a double mastectomy earlier this year, notes. "Don't let that person go through this alone. Bother them, annoy them, and do anything you can to let them know they're still them."

*Lorna Luft and Liza Minnelli will perform in "Lorna's Pink Party" at New York's Birdland on Oct. 14 and 21. For more information, [click here](#).*