

# straight drag queens in history

**\*\*Straight Drag Queens in History: Challenging Norms and Defying Expectations\*\***

**Straight drag queens in history** have played a fascinating and often underappreciated role in the evolution of drag culture and LGBTQ+ visibility. While drag is frequently associated with gay men, the reality is much more diverse. Straight men who perform in drag have contributed significantly to the art form, breaking stereotypes and expanding the boundaries of gender expression. In this article, we'll explore the history of straight drag queens, their impact on drag culture, and the unique ways they challenge traditional notions of sexuality and performance.

## The Origins of Drag and Its Diverse Performers

Drag has a rich and complex history that traces back centuries, with performers of various sexual orientations taking part. Traditionally, drag was not always linked directly to sexual identity but rather to theatrical expression and entertainment. Straight men have been involved in drag for a long time, though their stories often get overshadowed by the more visible queer narratives.

## Early Drag Performances and Straight Participants

In theatrical history, men playing female roles was a common practice, especially when women were prohibited from performing. Shakespearean times, for instance, saw straight male actors donning female costumes to portray women on stage. Although this wasn't drag in the modern sense, it laid early groundwork for men performing femininity publicly.

Moving into the 19th and early 20th centuries, vaudeville and burlesque shows featured straight men performing in drag for comedic effect. These performers weren't necessarily queer but used drag as a tool to entertain audiences by subverting gender expectations. The humor often stemmed from the contrast between the performer's masculine identity and their exaggerated feminine presentation.

## Straight Drag Queens in the 20th Century

The 20th century marked a turning point for drag culture, with the rise of underground drag balls, cabaret shows, and eventually, mainstream recognition. Straight men continued to be part of this evolution, using drag not only for entertainment but also as a form of self-expression.

## Notable Straight Drag Performers

One prominent example is Julian Eltinge, an early 20th-century stage and film actor known for his convincing female impersonations. Eltinge was publicly known as a straight man, and his drag performances were celebrated for their glamour and sophistication rather than camp or comedy. His

success challenged the idea that drag was exclusive to gay men and showed that gender performance could be a versatile art form.

Another fascinating figure is RuPaul Charles, often considered the most famous drag queen today. While RuPaul's sexuality is often discussed, it's important to note that RuPaul identifies as gay; however, the drag community includes many straight performers who have contributed to its growth and diversity.

## **Drag Balls and the Inclusion of Straight Men**

Drag balls, especially those in Harlem during the 1920s and onwards, were predominantly spaces for LGBTQ+ people of color, but they were also inclusive of performers regardless of sexual orientation. Straight drag queens participated in these vibrant events, blending artistry with social commentary. These balls were crucial for the development of drag culture as an expressive, inclusive community.

## **The Role of Straight Drag Queens in Modern Drag Culture**

Today, the drag scene is more diverse than ever, and the presence of straight drag queens continues to grow. This inclusion helps dismantle the stereotype that drag is solely a queer experience and highlights its nature as a performative art form open to all genders and sexualities.

## **Why Straight Men Choose Drag**

For many straight men, drag offers an opportunity to explore and express facets of themselves that society typically suppresses. Some see it as a creative outlet, a way to challenge rigid masculinity, or simply a fun performance genre. The freedom to experiment with gender presentation without the constraints of sexual identity fosters a broader understanding of gender fluidity.

## **Challenges Faced by Straight Drag Queens**

Despite growing acceptance, straight drag queens sometimes face skepticism from both inside and outside the drag community. Some question their authenticity or accuse them of appropriating queer culture. However, many straight performers emphasize respect, allyship, and the shared love of drag as a unifying force rather than a dividing one.

## **Impact and Influence of Straight Drag Queens in Popular Culture**

The visibility of straight drag queens has increased through media, social platforms, and mainstream

entertainment. Their participation helps broaden public perception of drag, making it more accessible and relatable to diverse audiences.

## Media Representation and Breaking Stereotypes

Television shows, documentaries, and social media have spotlighted straight drag performers, showcasing their talents and personal stories. This representation challenges the assumption that drag is inherently linked to queer identity and opens dialogue about gender expression as a spectrum.

## Advice for Aspiring Straight Drag Performers

For straight men interested in drag, the key is to approach it with sincerity, respect, and a willingness to learn from the queer communities that have shaped drag culture. Here are some tips:

- **Understand the history:** Learn about drag's roots and the struggles of LGBTQ+ individuals to appreciate the culture deeply.
- **Embrace creativity:** Drag is about self-expression, so develop a unique persona that resonates with you.
- **Build community:** Engage with other performers and audiences to foster support and camaraderie.
- **Respect boundaries:** Be mindful of cultural sensitivities and avoid appropriating experiences that aren't your own.

## The Future of Straight Drag Queens in the Drag World

As society becomes more open to diverse expressions of gender and sexuality, straight drag queens will likely continue to carve out their space within the drag ecosystem. Their participation enriches the art form, encouraging inclusivity and challenging outdated norms.

Drag, after all, is about transformation, performance, and pushing boundaries. Whether the performer is straight, gay, bisexual, or otherwise, drag is a celebration of identity and creativity that transcends labels.

In exploring the history and contributions of straight drag queens, we gain a fuller appreciation of drag's complexity—not merely as a gay male phenomenon but as a vibrant, multifaceted culture. Understanding this helps us appreciate the courage and artistry involved in every performance, regardless of who is behind the makeup.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who are some notable straight drag queens in history?

Notable straight drag queens in history include Julian Eltinge, a famous early 20th-century performer known for his convincing female impersonations, and Tyler Perry, who has occasionally performed in drag roles and identifies as straight.

## How have straight men contributed to the art of drag historically?

Straight men have contributed significantly to drag by bringing unique perspectives and talents to performances, helping to popularize drag in mainstream culture, and challenging traditional gender norms through their artistry and theatrical presentations.

## Was Julian Eltinge a straight drag queen?

Yes, Julian Eltinge was a straight man known for his exceptional female impersonation skills in the early 1900s. He maintained a heterosexual public persona while excelling in drag performance.

## How did society view straight men performing in drag historically?

Historically, society often viewed straight men performing in drag with a mix of fascination and suspicion, sometimes appreciating the entertainment value while also enforcing strict gender norms that could stigmatize or marginalize performers.

## Did straight drag queens face discrimination in the drag community?

Straight drag queens sometimes faced skepticism or criticism within the predominantly LGBTQ+ drag community, as drag has deep roots in queer culture. However, many were accepted for their talent and contributions to the art form.

## What impact did straight drag queens have on breaking gender stereotypes?

Straight drag queens have played a role in breaking gender stereotypes by demonstrating that gender expression is fluid and performative, encouraging broader acceptance of diverse identities and challenging rigid gender roles in society.

## Are straight drag queens common in modern drag culture?

While most drag performers identify as LGBTQ+, there are straight drag queens in modern drag culture who participate and contribute to the art form, reflecting the inclusive and diverse nature of contemporary drag.

# How has the representation of straight drag queens evolved over time?

Representation of straight drag queens has evolved from rare and often hidden performers to more visible and accepted artists in the drag community, highlighting the expanding understanding of drag as an art form beyond sexual orientation.

## Additional Resources

Straight Drag Queens in History: Exploring a Unique Phenomenon in Performance Art

**Straight drag queens in history** represent a fascinating and often overlooked aspect of the drag performance world. While drag is commonly associated with LGBTQ+ identities, particularly gay men, the tradition has also included straight men who have embraced the art of drag as a form of expression, entertainment, and cultural commentary. This article delves into the historical presence of straight drag queens, examining their contributions, challenges, and the nuanced role they have played in shaping the drag landscape.

## Understanding Straight Drag Queens in Historical Context

Drag performance, characterized by the exaggerated portrayal of gender through costume, makeup, and mannerisms, has long been a space for subversion and creativity. Historically, drag was not exclusively tied to one sexual orientation; rather, it was a theatrical practice rooted in storytelling and performance traditions. Straight drag queens in history often emerged in times and places where gender roles were rigid, using drag as a medium to challenge or entertain within those confines.

In early 20th-century vaudeville and theater, for example, straight men frequently participated in drag roles. This was partly due to the theatrical convention where women were sometimes barred from the stage, requiring men to perform female parts. These performers were not necessarily part of the LGBTQ+ community but were professionals whose careers depended on their ability to embody a female persona convincingly.

## The Vaudeville and Theater Origins

Vaudeville, a popular form of variety entertainment in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, featured numerous acts that included men performing in drag. Notable figures such as Julian Eltinge, a straight man, became one of the highest-paid and most famous female impersonators of his time. Eltinge's success highlighted how straight drag queens could captivate audiences without necessarily challenging their own sexual identities publicly.

Eltinge's performances were marked by a meticulous attention to detail in feminine presentation, combining charm, elegance, and often humor. His stardom illustrated that straight men could thrive in drag roles, gaining mainstream acceptance and commercial success during an era when

homosexuality was largely stigmatized.

## Drag in Mid-20th Century Culture

Moving into the mid-20th century, drag culture became more closely intertwined with LGBTQ+ activism and identity, particularly in urban centers such as New York City and San Francisco. However, straight drag performers continued to exist within this evolving context. For instance, some entertainers participated in drag as part of nightclub acts or television performances, where the focus was entertainment rather than identity politics.

The 1950s and 1960s saw the rise of drag as a form of queer resistance, but it also remained a venue for straight men to explore performative femininity. The distinction between professional entertainers and community-based drag queens sometimes blurred, but straight performers often navigated these spaces differently, sometimes maintaining a clear boundary between their stage persona and personal life.

## Challenges and Perceptions of Straight Drag Queens

The presence of straight drag queens in history raises important questions about the intersection of gender performance and sexual orientation. One significant challenge they faced was skepticism or misunderstanding from both the LGBTQ+ community and mainstream society. Straight men performing in drag sometimes encountered assumptions about their sexuality, which could be socially or professionally complicated.

Furthermore, the motivations behind straight drag performers' participation were often scrutinized. Were they merely entertainers, or did their performances carry deeper social commentary? In many cases, straight drag queens used their art to challenge conventional gender norms without necessarily engaging with the political aspects of queer identity.

## Pros and Cons of Being a Straight Drag Queen

- **Pros:** Straight drag queens often had access to broader audiences, especially in mainstream entertainment, due to less stigma around their sexual orientation. Their performances could serve as bridges between different cultural groups, introducing drag to wider publics.
- **Cons:** They sometimes faced alienation from LGBTQ+ communities, who might view their involvement as appropriative or lacking authenticity. Additionally, straight drag queens risked personal misunderstandings and stereotypes about masculinity and sexuality.

These dynamics illustrate the complex social terrain straight drag queens navigated throughout history, balancing artistic expression with societal expectations.

# Contemporary Perspectives and Legacy

Today, the drag world continues to evolve, embracing diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. The historical presence of straight drag queens enriches this narrative, reminding us that drag is fundamentally about performance and transformation rather than a fixed identity.

Modern drag culture, amplified by shows like "RuPaul's Drag Race," often highlights queer identities but also celebrates drag as an inclusive art form. Straight drag queens now find more explicit spaces where their contributions are recognized and valued without controversy. Performers such as BenDeLaCreme and others, while not necessarily straight, exemplify the fluidity of drag performance beyond rigid labels.

The legacy of straight drag queens in history is a testament to the enduring power of gender performance as a tool for creativity, entertainment, and social reflection. Their stories invite ongoing discussion about the intersections between gender, sexuality, and artistic expression.

## Key Figures and Moments

1. **Julian Eltinge (1881-1941):** One of the earliest and most famous straight drag performers, Eltinge's success in vaudeville and film helped pave the way for drag in mainstream entertainment.
2. **Arthur Blake (1914-1985):** A straight man known for his drag performances in nightclubs and television during the mid-20th century.
3. **Charles Pierce (1926-1999):** Celebrated for his female impersonations on stage and television, Pierce was known for his comedic timing and ability to capture feminine mannerisms.

Each of these individuals contributed uniquely to the visibility and acceptance of drag as a performance art.

Exploring the history of straight drag queens reveals a multifaceted tradition that transcends simple categorizations. It highlights how performance spaces have long been sites of both conformity and rebellion, shaped by evolving societal attitudes toward gender and sexuality. As drag continues to gain prominence worldwide, revisiting these historical narratives enriches our understanding of the art form's diverse roots.

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**straight drag queens in history: A Short History of Trans Misogyny** Jules Gill-Peterson, 2025-06-24 The trans panic has not always been with us: it was invented Award-winning historian Jules Gill-Peterson's richly detailed narrative takes us from New York, London, and Paris to the colonial districts of the British Raj, the Philippines, and Hawai'i to tell a richly detailed story of the emergence of trans misogyny.

**straight drag queens in history: The History of Trans Representation in American Television and Film Genres** Traci B. Abbott, 2022-05-02 Due to the increase in transgender characters in scripted television and film in the 2010s, trans visibility has been presented as a relatively new phenomenon that has positively shifted the cis society's acceptance of the trans community. This book counters this claim to assert that such representations actually present limited and harmful characterizations, as they have for decades. To do so, this book analyzes transgender narratives in scripted visual media from the 1960s to 2010s across a variety of genres, including independent and mainstream films and television dramatic series and sitcoms, judging not the veracity of such representations per se but dissecting their transphobia as a constant despite relevant shifts that have improved their veracity and variety. Already ingrained with their own ideological expectations, genres shift the framing of the trans character, particularly the relevance of their gender difference for cisgender characters and society. The popularity of trans characters within certain genres also provides a historical lineage that is examined against the progression of transgender rights activism and corresponding transphobic falsehoods, concluding that this popular medium continues to offer a limited and narrow conception of gender, the variability of the transgender experience, and the range of transgender identities.

**straight drag queens in history: History of Milwaukee Drag, A: Seven Generations of Glamor** Michail Takach & B.J. Daniels, 2022 p>The queens that made Milwaukee famous For over a century, drag has been an unstoppable force in Milwaukee nightlife. On June 7, 1884, The Only Leon brought the fine art of female impersonation to the Grand Opera Hall, launching a proud local legacy that continues today at This Is It, La Cage, Hamburger Mary's, D.I.X. and innumerable other venues. Historians Michail Takach and BJ Daniels recognize that today's LGBTQ liberties were born from the strength, resilience, and resistance of yesterday's gender non-conforming pioneers. This is a long overdue celebration of those stories, including high-rolling hustler of the Fourth Ward Badlands Frank Blunt, over-the-top dinner theater drag superstar of the 1950s Adrian Ames, and It Kid Jamie Gays, first-ever Miss Gay Milwaukee and Latin community hero. And many, many more.

**straight drag queens in history: Drag Queens and Beauty Queens** Laurie Greene, 2020-12-18 Pageants and pageantry -- Atlantic City, drag culture, and a community of practice -- New York avenue: where the party began -- Camp and the queering of Miss America -- Show us your shoes, not your midriffs.

**straight drag queens in history: Rhyming Hope and History** David Croteau, William Hoynes, Charlotte Ryan, 2005 Rhyming Hope and History exposes the frayed relations between activism and social movement scholarship and examines the causes and consequences of this disconnect between theory and practice. Both scholars and activists explore solutions, weighing the promise and perils of engaged theory and the barriers to meaningful collaboration. This volume asserts that partnerships among scholars and activists benefit both academic inquiry and social change efforts. Contributors: Kevin M. Carragee, Suffolk U; Catherine Corrigall-Brown, U of California, Irvine; Myra Marx Ferree, U of Wisconsin, Madison; Richard Flacks, U of California, Santa Barbara; Adria D. Goodson; Richard Healy and Sandra Hinson, Grassroots Policy Project; David Meyer, U of California, Irvine; Cynthia Peters, Worker Education Program of the Service Employees International Union, Local 2020; Barbara Risman, North Carolina State U; Robert J. S. Ross, Clark U; Leila J. Rupp, U of California, Santa Barbara; Cassie Schwerner, Schott Foundation; Valerie Sperling, Clark U; David A. Snow, U of California, Irvine; Verta Taylor, U of California, Santa Barbara. David Croteau is formerly associate professor of sociology and anthropology at Virginia Commonwealth University. William Hoynes is professor of sociology and director of media studies at



Vassar College. Charlotte Ryan is codirector of the Media Research and Action Project at Boston College. William A. Gamson is professor of sociology at Boston College.

**straight drag queens in history: Drag Queens at the 801 Cabaret** Leila J. Rupp, Verta Taylor, 2015-10-02 It's Saturday night in Key West and the Girlie Show is about to begin at the 801 Cabaret. The girls have been outside on the sidewalk all evening, seducing passersby into coming in for the show. The club itself is packed tonight and smoke has filled the room. When the lights finally go down, statuesque blonds and stunning brunettes sporting black leather miniskirts, stiletto heels, and see-through lingerie take the stage. En Vogue's Free Your Mind blares on the house stereo. The crowd roars in approval. In this lively book, Leila J. Rupp and Verta Taylor take us on an entertaining tour through one of America's most overlooked subcultures: the world of the drag queen. They offer a penetrating glimpse into the lives of the 801 Girls, the troupe of queens who perform nightly at the 801 Cabaret for tourists and locals. Weaving together their fascinating life stories, their lavish costumes and eclectic music, their flamboyance and bitchiness, and their bawdy exchanges with one another and their audiences, the authors explore how drag queens smash the boundaries between gay and straight, man and woman, to make people think more deeply and realistically about sex and gender in America today. They also consider how the queens create a space that encourages camaraderie and acceptance among everyday people, no matter what their sexual preferences might be. Based on countless interviews with more than a dozen drag queens, more than three years of attendance at their outrageous performances, and even the authors' participation in the shows themselves, *Drag Queens at the 801 Cabaret* is a witty and poignant portrait of gay life and culture. When they said life is a cabaret, they clearly meant the 801.

**straight drag queens in history: The Heart's History** Lewis DeSimone, 2012 This is Edward: architect, friend, lover, mystery. Everyone has their own Edward, a kaleidoscope of images struggling to define a man who has never let anyone get too close. But now, Edward is dying, and all of his loved ones are desperate to understand him, to connect fully with him, before it's too late. In this beautiful and haunting novel, Lewis DeSimone, author of the acclaimed *Chemistry*, explores the hidden depths of love, the struggle to maintain a balance between connection and individuality. Edward's illness is set against the backdrop of a sea change in gay culture, a time when AIDS is assumed to be simply a manageable condition, and when the drive for assimilation through marriage, or the military has begun to trump the distinct characteristics that were once a source of pride. Deftly shifting perspectives to paint a compelling portrait of a man and a community on the cusp of a critical transition, *The Heart's History* gives hope that, despite the impossibility of ever achieving true oneness with another person, it is the attempt itself that gives life its greatest joy.

**straight drag queens in history: A Drag Queen's Guide to Life** Bimini Bon Boulash, 2022-06-09 The perfect gift for Bimini and Drag Race fans! 'MAGIC! A fun, fierce, honest origin story of how to drag yourself up out of trouble and become an icon' Katherine Ryan 'A triumph for UK queer culture' Travis Alabanza 'Eye-opening, intelligent, thoughtful as well as sassy and surprising - a must read' Lorraine Kelly \_\_\_\_\_ A witty and inspiring guide to transforming your life through lessons from drag, by the UK's favourite drag queen and star of RuPaul's Drag Race UK, Bimini Bon Boulash. From being told she couldn't have dance lessons as a kid in Great Yarmouth to having to conform to the stereotypes of the gay scene in London's East End, people have always been trying to put Bimini Bon Boulash in a box. It was only through discovering the art of drag that she began to fight back against those preconceptions, and understand that she had the power to define herself. In *A Drag Queen's Guide to Life*, Bimini tells the story of how drag took her from the brink of self-destruction to become a gag-inducing, death-dropping, plant-based superstar. Drawing on her own experience as a nonbinary person in a binary world, as well as inspirational stories from history, politics, pop culture and fashion, she uses all her wit, charm and kindness to show us how to lead the lives we wish we could lead, through the life-changing magic of dragging up. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Radical, life-affirming, and utterly important for this time' Riyadh Khalaf 'A very important read' Gottmik 'She's a superstar' Kathy Burke 'You will always be our winner' Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London 'A force of nature' James

Acaster Sunday Times Bestseller, October 2021

**straight drag queens in history:** *Diary of a Drag Queen* Crystal Rasmussen, Tom Rasmussen, 2020-04-14 "This book changed my life. Tom Rasmussen's honesty, vulnerability, and fearlessness jump out of every page and every word. It is the queer bible I've always needed." —Sam Smith, singer and songwriter Tom covers the nuance, doubt, and uncertainty of being a drag queen. Crystal covers the transcendence . . . Charisma and quick intelligence—two qualities that have long been prerequisites for drag . . . Diary puts on technicolor display. —Katy Waldman, *The New Yorker* In these pages, find glamour and gaffes on and off the stage, clarifying snippets of queer theory, terrifyingly selfish bosses, sex, quick sex, KFC binges, group sex, the kind of honesty that banishes shame, glimmers of hope, blazes of ambition, tender sex, mad dashes in last night's heels plus a full face of make-up, and a rom-com love story for the ages. This is where the unspeakable becomes the celebrated. This is the diary of a drag queen—one dazzling, hilarious, true performance of a real, flawed, extraordinary life. I hope people like me will read this and feel seen and loved by it. I hope people who aren't like me will enjoy it, laugh with it, learn from it. And I hope people who don't like me will file lawsuits just so I can wear my brand-new leopard-print skirt suit and bust their asses in court. —Crystal Rasmussen, in *Refinery29*

**straight drag queens in history:** *Living Queer History* G. Samantha Rosenthal, 2021-10-28 Queer history is a living practice. Talk to any group of LGBTQ people today, and they will not agree on what story should be told. Many people desire to celebrate the past by erecting plaques and painting rainbow crosswalks, but queer and trans people in the twenty-first century need more than just symbols—they need access to power, justice for marginalized people, spaces of belonging. Approaching the past through a lens of queer and trans survival and world-building transforms history itself into a tool for imagining and realizing a better future. *Living Queer History* tells the story of an LGBTQ community in Roanoke, Virginia, a small city on the edge of Appalachia. Interweaving historical analysis, theory, and memoir, Gregory Samantha Rosenthal tells the story of their own journey—coming out and transitioning as a transgender woman—in the midst of working on a community-based history project that documented a multigenerational southern LGBTQ community. Based on over forty interviews with LGBTQ elders, *Living Queer History* explores how queer people today think about the past and how history lives on in the present.

**straight drag queens in history:** *Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History* Leila J. Rupp, Susan K. Freeman, 2014-12-17 *Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History* is the first book designed for teachers of U.S. history at all levels who want to integrate queer history into the standard curriculum. Bringing together inspiring narratives from teachers in high schools and universities, informative topical chapters about significant historical moments and themes, and innovative essays about sources and interpretive strategies well-suited to the history classroom, this volume is a valuable resource for anyone who thinks history should be an inclusive story.

**straight drag queens in history:** *A Renegade History of the United States* Thaddeus Russell, 2011-07-05 From the Publisher: In this groundbreaking book, noted historian Thaddeus Russell tells a new and surprising story about the origins of American freedom. Rather than crediting the standard textbook icons, Russell demonstrates that it was those on the fringes of society whose subversive lifestyles helped legitimize the taboo and made America the land of the free. In vivid portraits of renegades and their respectable adversaries, Russell shows that the nation's history has been driven by clashes between those interested in preserving social order and those more interested in pursuing their own desires - insiders versus outsiders, good citizens versus bad. The more these accidental revolutionaries existed, resisted, and persevered, the more receptive society became to change. Russell brilliantly and vibrantly argues that it was history's iconoclasts who established many of our most cherished liberties. Russell finds these pioneers of personal freedom in the places that usually go unexamined - saloons and speakeasies, brothels and gambling halls, and even behind the Iron Curtain. He introduces a fascinating array of antiheroes: drunken workers who created the weekend; prostitutes who set the precedent for women's liberation, including Diamond

Jessie Hayman, a madam who owned her own land, used her own guns, provided her employees with clothes on the cutting-edge of fashion, and gave food and shelter to the thousands left homeless by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake; there are also the criminals who pioneered racial integration, unassimilated immigrants who gave us birth control, and brazen homosexuals who broke open America's sexual culture. Among Russell's most controversial points is his argument that the enemies of the renegade freedoms we now hold dear are the very heroes of our history books - he not only takes on traditional idols like John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Carnegie, John Rockefeller, Thomas Edison, Franklin Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy, but he also shows that some of the most famous and revered abolitionists, progressive activists, and leaders of the feminist, civil rights, and gay rights movements worked to suppress the vibrant energies of working-class women, immigrants, African Americans, and the drag queens who founded Gay Liberation. This is not history that can be found in textbooks - it is a highly original and provocative portrayal of the American past as it has never been written before.

**straight drag queens in history:** *American Film History* Cynthia Lucia, Roy Grundmann, Art Simon, 2015-09-08 From the American underground film to the blockbuster superhero, this authoritative collection of introductory and specialized readings explores the core issues and developments in American cinematic history during the second half of the twentieth-century through the present day. Considers essential subjects that have shaped the American film industry—from the impact of television and CGI to the rise of independent and underground film; from the impact of the civil rights, feminist and LGBT movements to that of 9/11. Features a student-friendly structure dividing coverage into the periods 1960-1975, 1976-1990, and 1991 to the present day, each of which opens with an historical overview Brings together a rich and varied selection of contributions by established film scholars, combining broad historical, social, and political contexts with detailed analysis of individual films, including *Midnight Cowboy*, *Nashville*, *Cat Ballou*, *Chicago*, *Back to the Future*, *Killer of Sheep*, *Daughters of the Dust*, *Nothing But a Man*, *Ali*, *Easy Rider*, *The Conversation*, *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*, *Longtime Companion*, *The Matrix*, *The War Tapes*, the *Batman* films, and selected avant-garde and documentary films, among many others. Additional online resources, such as sample syllabi, which include suggested readings and filmographies, for both general and specialized courses, will be available online. May be used alongside *American Film History: Selected Readings, Origins to 1960* to provide an authoritative study of American cinema from its earliest days through the new millennium

**straight drag queens in history:** *Gender and American History Since 1890* Barbara Melosh, 2012-08-06 These essays chart major contributions to recent historiography. Carefully selected for their accessibility and accompanied by headnotes and study questions, the essays offer a clear and engaging introduction for the non-specialist. The introduction describes the emergence of gender as a subject of historical investigation and in ten essays, historians explore the meanings and significance of gender in American history since 1890. The volume shows how the interpretation of gender expands and revises our understanding of significant issues in twentieth-century history, such as work, labour protest, sexuality, consumption and social welfare. It offers new perspectives on visual representations and explores the politics of historical subjects and the politics of our own historical revisions.

**straight drag queens in history:** *A History of Latinx Performing Arts in the U.S.* Beatriz J. Rizk, 2023-10-10 *A History of Latinx Performing Arts in the U.S.* provides a comprehensive overview of the development of the Latinx performing arts in what is now the U.S. since the sixteenth century. This book combines theories and philosophical thought developed in a wide spectrum of disciplines—such as anthropology, sociology, gender studies, feminism, and linguistics, among others—and productions' reviews, historical context, and political implications. Split into two volumes, these books offer interpretations and representations of a wide range of Latinxs' lived experiences in the U.S. Volume I provides a chronological overview of the evolution of the Latinx community within the U.S., spanning from the 1500s to today, with an emphasis on the Chicano artistic renaissance initiated by Luis Valdez and the Teatro Campesino in the 1960s. Volume II

continues, looking more in depth at the experiences of Latinx individuals on theatre and performance, including Miguel Piñero, Lin-Manuel Miranda, María Irene Fornés, Nilo Cruz, and John Leguizamo, as well as the important role of transnational migration in Latinx communities and identities across the U.S. *A History of Latinx Performing Arts in the U.S.* offers an accessible and comprehensive understanding of the field and is ideal for students, researchers, and instructors of theatre studies with an interest in the diverse and complex history of Latinx theatre and performance.

**straight drag queens in history:** *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* Jodi O'Brien, 2009 Provides timely comparative analysis from internationally known contributors.

**straight drag queens in history:** *Telling Stories* Mary Jo Maynes, Jennifer L. Pierce, Barbara Laslett, 2012-09-15 In *Telling Stories*, Mary Jo Maynes, Jennifer L. Pierce, and Barbara Laslett argue that personal narratives—autobiographies, oral histories, life history interviews, and memoirs—are an important research tool for understanding the relationship between people and their societies. Gathering examples from throughout the world and from premodern as well as contemporary cultures, they draw from labor history and class analysis, feminist sociology, race relations, and anthropology to demonstrate the value of personal narratives for scholars and students alike. *Telling Stories* explores why and how personal narratives should be used as evidence, and the methods and pitfalls of their use. The authors stress the importance of recognizing that stories that people tell about their lives are never simply individual. Rather, they are told in historically specific times and settings and call on rules, models, and social experiences that govern how story elements link together in the process of self-narration. Stories show how individuals' motivations, emotions, and imaginations have been shaped by their cumulative life experiences. In turn, *Telling Stories* demonstrates how the knowledge produced by personal narrative analysis is not simply contained in the stories told; the understanding that takes place between narrator and analyst and between analyst and audience enriches the results immeasurably.

**straight drag queens in history:** *Drag Vistas and Visions* Mark Edward, Stephen Farrier, 2025-07-24 This third and final volume in Edward and Farrier's groundbreaking trilogy spotlights the vibrant spectrum of drag as an art form, identity category and political force. Drawing on practice, research, and interdisciplinary approaches, the volume captures drag's continual capacity to challenge, critique and create. Drawing from a range of academic disciplines, including critical disability studies, media, philosophy, linguistics, the book celebrates the many faces - and possibilities - of drag as a cultural and performance form. The contributions include chapters that are assertively activist, deeply reflective, and thought provoking. This third volume goes in search of new conversations through the exploration of critical drag studies. The frameworks that formulate these conversations advocate for a broader, inclusive vision of drag, while not shying away from some of its problematic components. The chapters peek behind the glamorous veneer of drag, exposing the grit and sweat that underpin the performance, while winking at the theory that we may use to understand. *Drag Vistas and Visions* sees drag through a transformative lens that pushes boundaries and transcends the ordinary.

**straight drag queens in history:** *History of Homosexuality in Europe and America* Wayne R. Dynes, Stephen Donaldson, 1992 This book re-prints various essays on gay history from around Europe and America. Includes one essay in German and one in Italian.

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