# DRAG

A Study
of the
Life Style
of the
Drag@en







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### CHAPTER I: DEFINITION

- 1) Drag Essentially, it is dressing in the clothing of the opposite sex, not for the purposes of sexual pleasure, but for the purpose of fully acting out the part of a female. It is almost always used in reference with homosexuals.
  - Queen This is a term used by homosex uals, to describe the person or persons who dress as females, for the purposes of having a sexual relationship with a person of the same gender.
- 2) There are three main catagories of Perversions; The Drag Queen, the Transvestite, and the Female Impersonator. I have already given the meaning of the Drag Queen. I will then give the purpose of the Drag Queen, also the definition and purpose of the Transvestite and Female Impersonator.
  - a) Transvestism This is the first and most important part in the making of a Drag Queen. Transvestism is a sexual pleasure derived from dressing or masquerading in the clothes of the opposite sex. The child at an early age, derives a liking for clothing or cosmetics of the opposite sex. He usually indulges in secretly taking clothing from his mother, or favorite aunt or an older sister. This is a psychological identification with the mother. (similar to the dressing-up of a little girl in mother's dress or high-heeled shoes)

In some cases, homosexuality can be the cause of Transvestism. The boy will identify himself as a female. He will shy away from social or sexual contact with females and in turn will make close contact with members of his

own sex. Feeling he is a female, he will fancy having a heterosexual act with a male. He grows to like this relationship, but will dislike the thought of it being a homosexual act. He will then, not only dress as a female, but will act and feel as a female. This will satisfy his one need to dress femininely and it will also satisfy his need for a mental, sexual relationship.

The true transvestite, dresses in the clothes of the opposite sex for sensuous purposes only, and does usually not have homosexual tendencies.

b) Drag Queen - As mentioned earlier, the Drag Queen is a homosexual who uses the art of "Drag" or dressing as a female, for sexual purposes.

The Drag Queen, not being in show business, where his talents of dressing and acting as a female could be profitable, and not only dressing in the clothes to calm his sensual desires, will turn to --- prostitution. This is not only a profitable type of work, but it also satisfies their need for a sexual and mental relationship with a person or persons of the same sex. Since they are experts in the art of "Drag", they will do quite well in prostitution as a type of "work".

c) Female Impersonator - This is a male who dresses as a female for the purposes of social entertainment. It is possible however, that most impersonators are homosexuals. The Female Impersonator might have followed the same path as the Transvestite, but would have gone one step further.

As in the case of the Transvestite, the Impersonator probably started dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex at a very early age. He also could have become a homosexual before these acts could have taken place. In some cases, a child might have grown up in a show business family. He too, could have the desire to be on stage. His talents as dressing as a female and other skills, such as dancing or singing, could have propelled him to the stage as a female Impersonator. The Impersonator uses his talents to make his daily living, and does not use prostitution as a form of income or sexual release, as does the Drag Queen.

3) The Drag Queen is a male. But this is where it stops. Although he dresses as a female to the best of his ability, he can be detected as a male when compared to a real female. The Drag Queen, as a prostitute, must look his best in order to attract a male customer. This is where it is quite easy to tell the difference between a Drag Queen and a real female. In various cases below, I will make comparisons between the real and the false females.

a) The Drag Queen will choose a certain area to walk the streets, in order for him to be picked-up by a passing car or pedestrian. They make themselves very noticeable. Their walk is slow and non-chalant. When they notice a passing vehicle going quite slowly, they will either stop and look or slowly approach the vehicle in mention. Whenever stopped and questioned by a passing stranger, either in a car or on the street, they will talk and bargain for a price.

Whereas the real female is not usually seen in the same area, at the same time every night. The female walk, compared to the Drag Queen's walk, is rather a steady pace, and not as slow

as the Queen's! They will not slow down or turn their heads when a passing car stops or slows down. Most females are quite shy, and will walk on, trying not to be noticeable to the public.

b) Clothing is an essential part of the

Drag Queen, in prostitution. The more attractive looking, the more times he will be approached and picked-up. They dress in the most stylish of clothing, with an array of different colors to attract the eyes of the onlooker.

In the case of the female, she will also wear styled clothing, but not to the great excess as does the Drag Queen.

c) The Drag Queen, in order to be more feminine, will exaggerate the real female movements..such as, limp wrist and a "swishy" walk.

The female, on the other hand, does not show these movements as intricately as the Drag Queen. She is born to exaggerate her true femininity.

d) The cosmetics used by the Drag Queen are rather heavily put on. A pretty face attracts a man any time. Most Queens must wear heavy make-up in order to cover up various male characteristics. Such characteristics are a heavy beard or wrinkles around the eyes and perhaps scars or moles on the face. They must cover the imperfections in order to have the feminine face which they need to "sell the merchandise".

The real female does not use these tricks. She does not have to use heavy make-up, as she has no beard and her skin is already smooth and feminine. Most females use very little or no make-up at all, either on the street or off.

4) The question is raised, "How long have these people been Drag Queens?" The answer to this question lies in how long they have been homosexuals.

Homosexuality starts at a very early age. All Children develop interests in the bodies of others from the ages of four to six. From the ages of six or seven to twelve, there are many episodes where boys play with their sexual organs or exhibit them to each other.

In young homosexuals, between the ages of twelve to sixteen, a persistent preference for female clothes has been observed, including the use of such things as perfumes, female underclothing, cosmetics, etc. Usually to obtain these articles, they are taken from a female relative or friend.

Many homosexual men show certain characteristics, such as deficient hair on the body, high-pitched voice, fat pads on buttocks and stomach, feminine pubic hair, etc. They could be poorly developed from birth, and have poor muscular coordination, such as "throwing a ball like a sissy", or talking with a "lisp".

These physical defects play an important part in the make-up of the Drag Queen. Although not all homosexuals that are effeminate, are Drag Queens. Some turn their talents of Femininity towards show business and become Female Impersonators. The impersonator who is usually homosexual, dresses as a female for entertainment purposes only and not for prostitution, as does the Drag Oueen.

5) There are two categories in the case of the Drag Queen.

First, there are those Drag Queens who work the areas of least prosperity, such as the cities, Skid Row, or Red Light District. These areas are usually populated by

the least reputable persons-such as, alcoholics, drug addicts and of course, female prostitutes. The Drag Queens of these areas are not of the best quality. They do not dress, use make-up and act as well as the higher or upper class "Queen".

The Drag Queens of these areas, do not usually live in this part of town. They will take residence almost anywhere other than the "Skid Row" area. This type of Queen, although not the best in "Drag", as the higher class Drag Queen, will have relatively the same amount of business.

The second type of Drag Queen, work the areas of most wealth and prosperity. Such places as high rent districts, large hotels well lite, largely populated streets are some of the common spots this type of "Queen" is seen. The "Queens" in this area, are the best one will find in the city. They are the best dressed, and are excellent in make-up and other feminine ways.

They tend to live in the areas they work. They are financially capable of owning or renting a nice home or apartment. Sometimes their residence is used as a headquarters or meeting place for other Drag Queens. Living in the same area where they work, would be a bit more profitable. There would be little or no transportation problems and their social life might be more enjoyable living so close to each other.



1) Face structure and make-up are very important in the case of a Drag Queen. To be able to impersonate a female is not an easy task. The male face naturally is rougher than that of a female, and he must soften his skin to play the feminine cole. He must use the cosmetics which feminize and adorn the female.

On the average, most Drag Queens tend to use these cosmetics quite heavily. This does not mean that a fetish for cosmetics presides. The bone structure and skin of the face, hands, and legs is something that must be taken in consideration in the application of make-up.

Listed below are the various "Tricks of the Trade", used in the transformation or cover up of the face, hands, and legs.

a) The face and surrounding areas.

i. - Hair on the face is a problem before the application of make-up can take place. The male beard is coarse and is usually quite dark. The hair color of the subject does not always correspond with the beard color. Most Drag Queens remove the beard by shaving with a straight or an electric razor. Although they play the part of a female most of the time, they are still masculine and must pass as males. Shaving does not remove the beard permanently as does electrolysis, where the hair roots are deadened by electric shocks and the hairs are removed by tweezers. Tweezing the hairs out, one by one is sometimes used but is very painful.

ii. -The eyebrows are usually plucked by tweezer or shaven off completely to be only replaced by artificial or drawn in eyebrows. iii. - Skin color is usually no problem. There are many skin make-ups, such as liquid and pancake cosmetics. This, used on the face, is like a paint job, it covers the old with the new. The shaven beard, with dark areas of heavy concentration of hairs is easily covered to give a soft to the touch, look.

iv. - Beautiful eyes attract attention. This is where the heaviest amount of make-up is used. Most women have long natural, dark eyelashes. Where as men do not. To achieve this feminine goal, an artificial eyelash is used. (I have noticed on almost every occasion where I have seen a Drag Queen, that they tend over-emphasize their eyes by using longer eyelashes than are normally seen on a female.) After the appropriate eyeshadow and mascara, one would not be able to tell that they were once masculine eyes.

v. - Of course, the final step to any make-up is the lip coloring. Lipstick as usually used, but not in every case. The fashion for the past few years has been the no make-up look, therefore, the lipstick is either very light in color or there is no lipstick used at all.

b) Hands and arms.

i. - Masculine hand can very rarely be compared to the feminine counterpart. It is noticeable that females tend to have longer and more delicate fingers than males. To give a more feminine appearance to the masculine hands, the false fingernails are used. It not only give a fresher look to the fingers, but

gives the hands a sense of lengthness.

To compliment the hands, jewelry is used on both, hands and arms.

- c) Legs
  - i. Long, slim legs add greatly to the feminine appearance. The male can equally compete with a female along these lines. Although the male is not gifted with the soft clean look of the feminine leg, they can be altered by the use of cosmetics. The leg, after being shaved, is then coated with the same make-up base as is used on the face. (In some cases, the Drag Queen has better looking legs than a real female.)
- 2) In some cases the Drag Queen's body structure will be altered to fit the female requirements. Plastic surgery is sometimes used to feminize the parts of the male body For example:
- i. -If eyebrows were normally straight, plastic surgery could tighten the skin in the forehead, which would automatically raise the eyebrows to the given level. Hair trnasplants could move parts or the entire eyebrow up or down on the face.
- ii. Where scars or other facial features are distorting the face, surgery will remove, and sometimes replace needed flesh to an area. The flesh needed will be removed from some other part of the body.

Female Hormones are often taken to enlarge the breasts and to distribute body hair. Hormone injections are usually quicker and more potent than the hormone pill which is taken orally. Results of hormones often take many months and sometimes years to develop the breast and other female characteristics not given the male originally

by birth.

Silicone will be used to speed up the transformation from the male chest to the female breast. This substance is administered through injections. The results occur much faster, but the breasts are very hard and not normally shaped.

Both female hormones and Silicone injections do not alter the voice pitch and sex-drive. Often, castration may be used as a means of stopping the libido. (Not all Drag Queens are fully homosexual, but will be bi-sexual and will want to keep their masculine sex-drive in-tact.)

3) Wigs are often used by the Drag Queen to compliment their clothing or their desired mood for that evening. About 90% of the "Drag" set use wigs or hairpieces. Often a male is more attracted to a female with long hair. He thinks that there is something sexy or mystical about a woman with long soft hair. The Drag Queen is in business to attract the male, and a proper female wardrobe is not complete without a set of different styled wigs and hairpieces.

Wigs are often bought when the Drag Queen is dressed as a female. He can very easily "pass" on the street as well as in a wig salon or boutique. Sometimes they might have a "gay" friend in the wig business, where they would be welcomed, either in "Drag" or "Straight".

Their own hair is sometimes used when he feels it is long enough to be set in a female style. Sometimes wigs are bought just for the purpose of letting their own hair grow out, while still playing the female role.

The price of human hair is very expensive. The effect a Drag Queen must give to his customer is that of his own hair. Therefore, a real human hair wigs are

bought and are usually very expensive. The average expense on wigs is anywhere between \$60 - \$200. The cost of these hair pieces does not phase the Drag Queen, as he can easily afford to have such an expensive item.

### 4) Voice Pitch

The feminine voice pitch of the Drag Queen is sometimes determined at birth, or through the use of drugs. The latter is not always capable of changing the masculine voice to a purely feminine one. There are, I suppose, a few drugs which might cause a slight rise in voice pitch, but will not fully be extended to a female tone.

Castration at early age of the child, will definitely cause a drastic change in the lowering or most often raising the voice to a higher and softer pitch. The act of castration at a later date in life will not cause such a definite change as when younger.

The hormone pill will not change the voice to any great extent, but will however change the body. Breasts will form and hair will be distributed over the body.

The voice may be trained to sound feminine. Words and gestures with the mouth, can be used in such a way, to avoid them sounding masculine. Higher notes can be reached through careful, everyday voice training.

The Drag Queen most commonly attains his feminine voice through birth. The balance of chromosomes play a vital part at birth, the child is taken to a Genecologyst where scrapings from the inside of the mouth are studied under microscope to determine whether the child is male or female, or black or white.) If the child is born with more female chromosomes than male he will undoubtedly be slightly or greatly

more feminine than masculine. The voice is affected by this unbalance, and will not usually change as the child grows older. Other effects of such an unbalance are, hair dispersement on the body and on the face. A finer more tender skin is sometimes related to chromosonal unbalance.

5) An important step in enacting the part of the female's clothing. Most often a Drag Queen is seen in the latest, most modern of styles. He will choose his clothing to express his personality, the same as you or I buy our clothes to express our personal selves.

How is his clothing bought? Does he buy his clothing while he is a male, or does he

buy them when he is in "Drag"?

Most often, the true Drag Queen, will buy his clothing, dressed as a female. In this way, they are able to try on the said garment. Whereas, if he bought female clothing as a male, he would not be able to do this. Since the Queen is excellent in the impersonation of the female, the buying of clothing is easy. They know their sizes, and what they can afford.

For that Drag Queen, who's voice and feminine movements are not so perfect, he will buy his clothing as a male, either through personal shopping or ordering

through a catalogue.

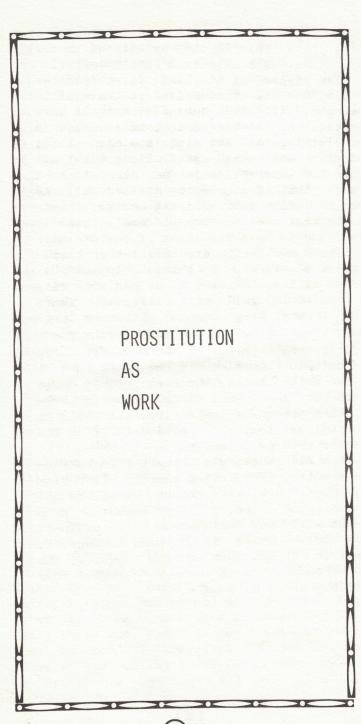
Often, the Drag Queen will go to great expense in buying clothing. Money is usually no object. Although they are not rich, they are able to afford expensive garments. Their type of "Business", does bring in a large income. One should not get the idea that all Drag Queens have a large income. Only those who "Pass" on the street & know how to conduct themselves in public, do most of the business. The Drag Queen may be a "Prostitute" by night and yet will still

bring in a fair income by working in the day, either as a male or a female worker.

The types of clothing vary from the very modest to the ordinary, the mini to the maxi. (I have noticed that the more beautiful of the Drag Set, tend to dress in mod clothing, as the mini and maxi skirt, and mini and maxi coats along with all other mod assessories.) One can tell at a glance, that if a Queen is dressed well, he does a fairly good business on the street. Queens that are not too noticeable, usually are found to have the least of customers.

Shoes and Boots are articles of clothing not always easy to obtain. In most Canadian cities, the shoe sizes ventures only up to size 10 or 11 at the largest. There are not many Drag Queens who have large feet. But those who do, must order their foot apparel from out of the country. There are certain companies in the southern part of the United States which carry only large sizes in shoes and boots. Usually these articles are quite expensive, but will be ordered, as they are needed to fill the Queen's role as a female.

Not all shoes are bought from outside the country. Foot sizes ranging from size 10, down, are most common in all retail stores. Therefore, a large amount of Drag Queens will buy their shoes in an ordinary shoe store. There is no need however, to dress in "Drag", when buying shoes, if the proper shoe size is known. Therefore they will buy shoes as a male.



Prostitution is defined as, selling the use of one's body, whether the person be male or female, for the purpose of sex. Sometimes the words, Harlot, and Whore are used.

Every country, city, and town, has their own type of "Prostitute". (My city is no different. In my research, I have taken in, where, why, who, when and how they work) 1) Street Cruising.

To "Cruise", is a homosexual slang word meaning, to move from one area to another, in order to make contact with another person. This meaning does not only apply to homosexual, but to Drag Queens also. They move to different areas which may be more profitable to them, in order for them to be "picked-up", more easily.

2) Working Hours.

The "Working Hours" of the Drag Queen are unlike those of a normal, "Straight", worker. They may work between one to ten hours per day or longer. To them it is not a tedious job of working on an assembly line, or a forty hour, five day week, they enjoy their work, because it is pleasure to them. Unlike the straight worker, who leaves his work and forgets about it until the next day, the Drag Queen lives and breathes his work and pleasure, as one, for he is constantly among the "gay" crowd. He is always working from the moment he awakes to the time he sleeps. Their work is pleasure, whether it be for the purpose of, "Prostitution" or for for pleasure.

If one was to put the Drag Queen in a category of a working shift, the average Queen would follow the similar pattern as stated below:

- a) Most Queens often start at night and work until just before dawn. This means on the average, between, 9"00 p.m. to 4-5:00 a.m.
- b) Of course there is the occasional coffee or beer break, as a business must be run. A change in location might also bring in a new customer.
- c) They do not want to stand on one corner, or work a certain area too long. They want to be noticed, but not too noticed by the undesireables, which means the city police. For, Prostitution, is, still against the law and they could be picked up for soliciting. d) After their brief, "working day", they will return home to sleep all day, then only to get up and start the cycle over again.
- e) Of course, as almost all business are run, Sunday is a day of rest. This also applies to the Drag Queen.
- 3) What does the Drag Queen receive in return for his services as a Prostitute?

The money received for services, depends upon the "customer". If he is out just for a quick pick-up, the money received will be limited. The most he will get from the Queen will be a drive around the block or a sport kiss. If a customer is interested in having a good time, the money made will be usually quite large, ranging anywhere from \$20 - \$100 per customer. Even before the Queen will consent to enter the customer's car, she will come up with a plausable excuse for money, which is just to see if he will "take the bait". Certain phrases used are: "I need some mo-

ney for rent", or "How would you like to go to a club tonight?" or "Would you like to come up to my place for a drink?"

If the bait is taken, they will enter the car and then might go to a tavern or cocktail lounge. They will sometimes go to a cafe where they are accepted for what they are. Some cafes charge these Queens to sit in their establishment in order for them to be picked-up. They will make a certain percentage from each person that the Queens get picked-up by.

Most often they will go to the Queen's own apartment for a drink or some other diversion. What happens if the male wants just more than just a drink or kiss?

Let us look at the male's side. The persons who usually pick up Drag Queens are "straight". This means that the male is "Heterosexual", and thinks he is picking up a real female. What he expects and what he will receive from the Queen, is something else. The Drag Queen might come up with the excuse of being deceased or having been sick at one time, and cannot have any type of sex. The Queen, will then perform, oral sex for the male. This means that the she (he), will perform "Fellatio", on the male. This will most often satisfy the male, and he will not push for anything more.

There are of course, cases where Drag Queens have been forceably raped into having sex with the male. This resulting in the male finding out the true sex of the Drag Queen, which is then followed by a cruel beating.

There is a remedy most often used to prevent such beatings and rapings. The Drag Queen will sometimes have a friend accompany him on the street. The saying, "Safety in numbers", comes true in this case. They will often walk or stand in groups of two

or more for their own protection.

They will not be picked up by more than one male in the car. The chances of this happening are very slim. The Queen prefers to be picked-up only by one male in a car or on the street. The reasons are the same as above, in cases of an attempted rape by the male, the Drag Queen and his friend, will be able to defend themselves more easily. Even though they are playing the female role, they are still males and can defend themselves as such.

### 4) Living Conditions.

The Drag Queen may live by himself, but is usually found living with two or more other Queens. This is very practical, in the sense that, they save time and expense on travel to each other's houses or apartments. Since they work in groups of two or three, they should live in the same groups.

Often they shall live as man and wife in a "Straight" neighborhood. Even though they are both "gay" males, they must put up a front for their neighbors. The Queen, by day, will play the female role of the wife, while at night they will be male lovers and have all male sex.

The areas, and the kinds of living quarters, may vary from the most expensive apartment in the best part of town, to the worst part of town, or a house in the best or worse part of the city or outskirts of town.

Most often, the higher class Drag Queen will live in the same area he works. They will live in a group in the same apartment or in the same building. One apartment would be unlocked all night, or several would be open for the Queen to bring his customer to.

## 5) Social Life.

When the Drag Queen is working, either

on the street or in a club, they get together for food and drink or just for a bit of friendly chatter. There are several places that cater to Drag Queens or any other "gay" person. Cafes are most often the mingling spots. They will gather together, one or two times per night, to give their feet a chance to rest.

Some of the Queens will most frequent a "Gay Club", to meet others with similar interests. One is able to find many different types of people at such places.

When not mixing in a club or cafe, a party is thrown and all are invited. The format for a party is the same as a straight party, except for a few changes. There are a variety of people invited to these parties. Many Drag Queens, Female Impersonators, Lesbians, Homosexuals and some "straight" people are just some of the guests.

Often where you find a "gay" party, there are drugs in use. Narcotics such as; Lysergic Acid (LSD), Speed, and Heroin come into great use along with marijuana, Hashish and Mescaline. The use of these drug is of course, illegal. Therefore these parties are often raided by the police. In return, a handsome jail sentence, ceases their activity on the streets.

# **PROSTITUTION**

AND

THE

LAW

1) Homosexuality, between two or more consenting adults, is legal in most provinces and states in North America. However, the law pertaining to Prostitution is the same in every country, it is illegal.

In the State of California, under the Disorderly Conduct Statue, Section 647 of the California Penal Code: "Every person who commits any of the following acts, shall be guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor:

- a) "Who solicits anyone to engage in or who in any public place or in any place open to the public or exposed to the public view engages in lewd or disolute conducts....
- b) Who loiters in or about any toilet open to the public for the purpose of engaging in or soliciting any lewd or lascivicous or any unlawful act."

This law, not only goes for those sexual offenders such as, Homosexuals, but pertains also to those people who disguise themselves as female for the purpose of "Prostitution".

## 2) Police

The police are on constant survaillance for any sexual offender, whether they be Homosexual, Lesbian or Drag Queen. They cruise the streets in squad and ghost (unmarked) cars, looking for anyone who might be in the act of disobeying the law.

Approximately 90% of all Drag Queens in an area, have been arrested or have their names and addresses on the police files. The remaining 10% do not have their names on record, as they wander from one city or country to another. This makes it difficult to define the exact amount of Drag Queens on record.

A large majority of arrests results from solicitation of decoys by homosexuals

and the Drag Queens.

What are decoys? Decoys are police officers who provide the Drag Queen with the opportunity to make a prescribed solicitation. The decoys will drive the streets in unmarked cars. They will often be young and will be accompanied by another officer, who is needed for a witness for the arrest.

3) Public Acceptance.

The average "Straight" person does not realize that there are such people as Drag Queens let alone Transvestites and Female Impersonators. They cannot visualize a male dressed as a female. Therefore, when seeing a female, either walking the streets or standing on the corner, they are taken for real females. Those people who do know that these people are really males in female clothing, will ridicule and joke about them. They do not understand why they are, what they are, and do not want to understand.

There are many business that will profit by these people. The Drag Queen will often sit in a bar or a cafe for food and drink. The result being, a number of people will enter the said establishment, in order to just watch them.

# §§§§ SUMMATION

The information in this article is based on what I have seen, heard and read, about "The Drag Queen". I have made a close study of the Drag Queen, through both visual contact and actual meetings with these people. The article is also based on my own experience as a Transvestite.

