

SNMA Library
July 23, 2021

Drag

Drag, cross-dressing, and transvestitism have been essential topics in LGBTQ history and culture, not to mention literature and scholarship. At the SNMA, there are over 140 books that look at these phenomena from different angles. Dating from the 1970s to the present, these works span genres such as novels, academic studies, memoirs, anthologies, manuals, coffee table books, photo books, and even paper doll books.

Peter Ackroyd, *Dressing Up, Transvestism, and Drag: The History of an Obsession* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979).

A historical investigation of transvestism and drag performance.

David Croland, *Drag Dolls* (San Francisco: Roundtable Press, 1996).

A book of eight paper dolls of the leading drag queens and club kids of the 1990s.

Simon Doonan, *Drag: The Complete Story* (London: Laurence King Publishing, 2019).

A look at the history and culture of drag across the twentieth century.

Leslie Feinberg, *Drag King Dreams* (New York: Carroll & Graf Publishing, 2006).

A novel about queer and trans community members supporting each other in the face of a hate crime.

Gerard H. Gaskin, *Legendary: Inside the House Ballroom Scene* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013).

A photo book of house balls in New York City, Philadelphia, Richmond, and Washington, D.C.

Jack Halberstam, *Female Masculinity* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1998).

A pioneering work of queer theory that considers drag king performance, among other topics.

Clark Henley, *The Butch Manual: The Current Drag and How to Do It* (New York: Sea Horse Press, 1982).

A humorous guide for gay men about how to be more clonelike and masculine.

Josh Kilmer-Purcell, *I Am Not Myself These Days: A Memoir* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2006).

A personal account of gay life in mid-1990s New York that touches on the world of drag.

Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, *I Am My Own Woman: The Outlaw Life of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, Berlin's Most Distinguished Transvestite* (Pittsburgh: Cleis Press, 1995).

An autobiography about gender, sex, politics, and history.

- Patrick McCabe, *Breakfast on Pluto* (New York: HarperFlamingo, 1998).
A novel about a drag queen escaping from an oppressive Irish town in the 1960s.
- Robert Rodi, *Drag Queen* (New York: Dutton, 1995).
A satirical novel about gender, drag, and family.
- RuPaul, *Workin' It!: RuPaul's Guide to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Style* (New York: It Books, 2010).
Helpful and provocative lifestyle tips from the famous drag queen.
- Leila J. Rupp and Verta Taylor, *Drag Queens at the 801 Cabaret* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003).
An exploration of the world of drag queens at a venue in Key West, FL.
- Steven P. Schacht and Lisa Underwood, eds., *The Drag Queen Anthology: The Absolutely Fabulous but Flawless Customary World of Female Impersonators* (New York: Harrington Park Press, 2004).
A collection of essays about drag and the performance of femininity.
- Susan Smith, *Of Drag Queens & the Wheel of Fate* (Tacoma, WA: Justice House Pub., 2001).
A lesbian novel set in Buffalo, NY.
- Juan Antonio Suárez, *Bike Boys, Drag Queens & Superstars: Avant-Garde, Mass Culture, and Gay Identities in the 1960s Underground Cinema* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996).
An academic study of 1960s underground film, with an emphasis on depictions of drag.
- Charlotte A. Suthrell, *Unzipping Gender: Sex, Cross-Dressing, and Culture* (Oxford: Berg, 2004).
An academic study of transvestitism as a cultural practice.
- Donna Jean Troka, Kathleen LeBesco, and Jean Bobby Noble, eds., *The Drag King Anthology* (New York: Harrington Park Press, 2002).
A collection of essays, poems, and photographs about drag king communities.
- Peter Underwood, *Life's a Drag! Danny La Rue & the Drag Scene* (London: Frewin, 1974).
A biography of the Irish-born British entertainer in the underground world of drag.
- Marc Wilkins, *Wigstock: Holiday on Heels* (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 1996).
A pictorial look at New York's annual celebration of drag.
- Mary Wings, *She Came in Drag* (New York: Berkeley Crime Time, 1999).
A lesbian detective novel involving an army of drag queen lookalikes.
- Erica Wright, *The Granite Moth: A Novel* (New York: Pegasus Books, 2015).
A detective novel revolving around a community of drag queens.