



WASHOE COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM

DRAG QUEEN STORY TIME


Origin

History of Drag

- Goes back to Shakespeare in Western culture when men played the roles for women
- Popular in the United States as far back as 1880s
- William Dorsey Swann known for throwing drag balls in late 1800s



Modern use of Drag

- Popularity of Ru Paul's Drag Race (started 2009 and now on Season 14 still on the air)
- Drag Queen Story Time founded in 2015
- [The Blue's Clues Pride Parade](#)  Sing-Along Ft. Nina West! 2021
- New York Times coverage of [Drag Queen Story Time 2017](#)

Event Process

Youth Services and Library Events Team

- Program Proposal Form
- Any staff can propose a program, it is reviewed by the team, branch staff decide if they want to hold program
- 2019 Sparks Library Staff proposed Drag Queen Story Time

Drag Queen Story Time Sparks Library July 20, 2019

- Drag Queens Aspen Meadows and Ginger Devine (the Reno News & Review Drag Queen of the Year in 2015)
- Over 800 patrons in attendance with multiple news crews and a large crowd outside Sparks Library



2019 Drag Queen Story Time



2019 Drag Queen Story Time



Drag Queen Storytime 2019

From [The Nevada Independent](#)

“If anything, the calls to cancel the event likely brought more people to it. Lines to enter the story hour stretched past the library entrance and snaked onto the sidewalk. Library staff had to rotate parents and children in and out of the reading. And those who didn’t make it into the event still made a Saturday out of it, sitting at tables across the library, reading books to their children. According to the library’s gate count, about 800 people entered the library during the event.”

Drag Queen Storytime
Sparks Library July 20, 2019



Virtual Drag Queen Storytime

2020/2021 Drag Queen Storytime goes Virtual



2022 Drag Queen Story Time



2022 Drag Queen Story Time

Librarian Report-Sparks Library

“Sparks Library hosted two successful Drag Queen Story Time Events on Sunday, June 26, 2022, with special guest Miss Ginger Devine. A total of 58 children and adults attended this fun event. Miss Ginger read *My Shadow is Pink* by Scott Stuart, *It's Okay to be a Unicorn* by Jason Tharp, and *Mary had a Little Glam* by Tami Sauer. We danced with bubbles and sang *If You're Fabulous and You Know It* and *The Hips of the Drag Queens go Swish, Swish, Swish*. Everyone had an opportunity to draw outside with chalk, blow bubbles, and color some Pride themed coloring sheets.”



2022 Drag Queen Story Time

Librarian Report-Downtown Reno Library

“On Saturday, June 25, 2022, the Downtown Reno branch hosted Drag Queen Story Time, starring the fabulous Miss Ginger Devine.

There were 52 patrons in attendance, with the youngest being 10 weeks old! Everyone enjoyed Miss Ginger's book selections, her sense of humor, and her ability to give life to the books. She truly shines as an advocate for early literacy.”



Drag Queen Story Time Benefits



Five interrelated elements of DQSH that offer early childhood educators a way into a sense of queer imagination:

- Play as Praxis
- Aesthetic Transformation
- Strategic Defiance
- Destigmatization of Shame
- Embodied Kinship

“Ultimately, the authors propose that “drag pedagogy” provides a performative approach to queer pedagogy that is not simply about LGBT lives but *living queerly*.”

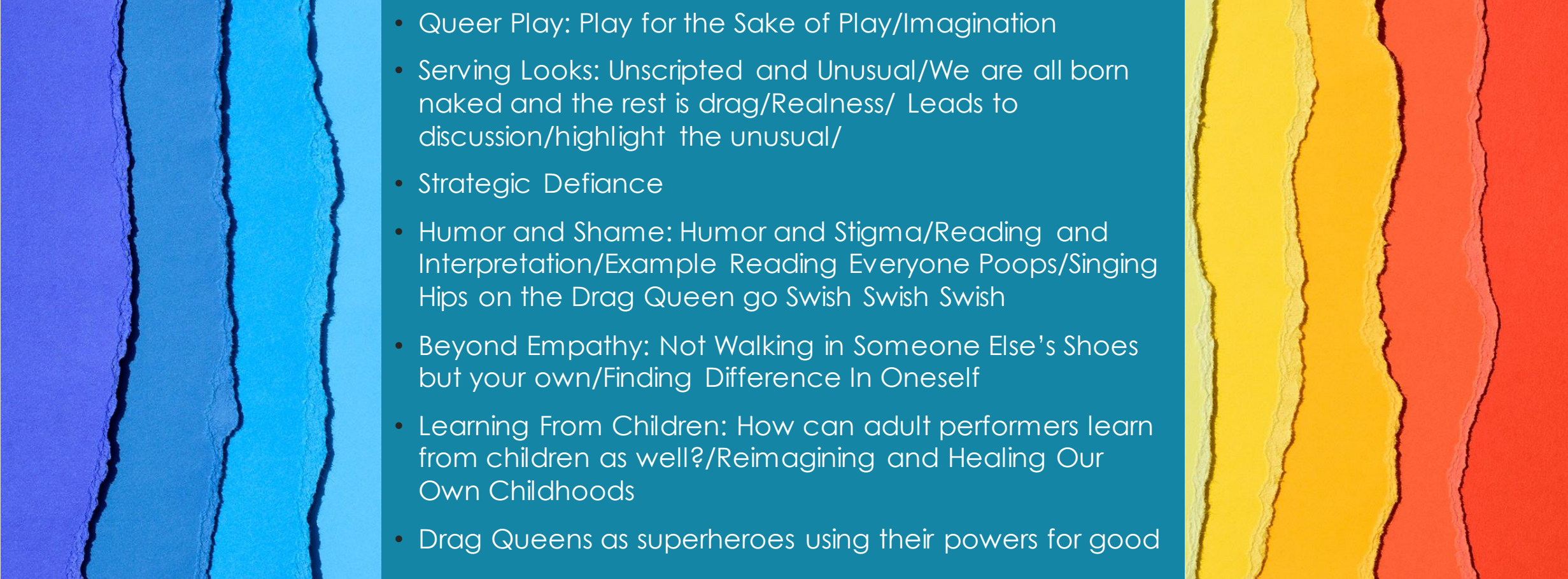
Harper Keenan & Lil Miss Hot Mess (2020) Drag pedagogy: The playful practice of queer imagination in early childhood, *Curriculum Inquiry*, 50:5, 440-461, DOI: 10.1080/03626784.2020.1864621 (Jan 2021)

LINK: <https://doi.org/10.1080/03626784.2020.1864621>

Research: Harper B. Keenan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy at the University of British Columbia.

Harris Kornstein is an assistant professor of Public & Applied Humanities in the College of Humanities at the University of Arizona.

Drag Queen Story Time Benefits

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- Queer Play: Play for the Sake of Play/Imagination
 - Serving Looks: Unscripted and Unusual/We are all born naked and the rest is drag/Realness/ Leads to discussion/highlight the unusual/
 - Strategic Defiance
 - Humor and Shame: Humor and Stigma/Reading and Interpretation/Example Reading Everyone Poops/Singing Hips on the Drag Queen go Swish Swish Swish
 - Beyond Empathy: Not Walking in Someone Else's Shoes but your own/Finding Difference In Oneself
 - Learning From Children: How can adult performers learn from children as well?/Reimagining and Healing Our Own Childhoods
 - Drag Queens as superheroes using their powers for good

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Drag Queen Story Hour: A Herstory



DQSH grew from queer author Michelle Tea's personal desire to connect her toddler with queer culture. As the outgoing Executive Director of the San Francisco literary non-profit RADAR Productions, Tea conceived of the programme in 2015, which was launched under the leadership of incoming Executive Director Juli Delgado Lopera and Managing Director Virgie Tovar. Soon after, DQSH was replicated by established organizations and in DIY-style events around the world. Most have taken place in libraries, schools, bookstores, and other community spaces. Readings have happened in dozens of locales, from major cities like New York, Mexico City, and Tokyo, to smaller ones like Cleveland, TN and San Marcos, TX (Drag Queen Story Hour, n.d.-b). Many coordinate under an incorporated non-profit organization, though others operate independently.

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Drag Queen Story Time



Our Mission ... is to connect people with information, ideas and experiences to support an enriched and engaged community, one person at a time.

Our Vision ... is that all Washoe County residents benefit from the Library's support of literacy and self-education.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights:

- In support of Intellectual Freedom: Ultimately it is each and every parent's/guardian's responsibility whether their child views/attends/reads/engages in a public library experience.
- It is not the responsibility of individual community members to decide what may or may not be appropriate/acceptable for other people's children.
- Public libraries offer/provide the experience for people to engage, it is up individuals whether or not to attend.

Board Discussion

