

Dragtivism



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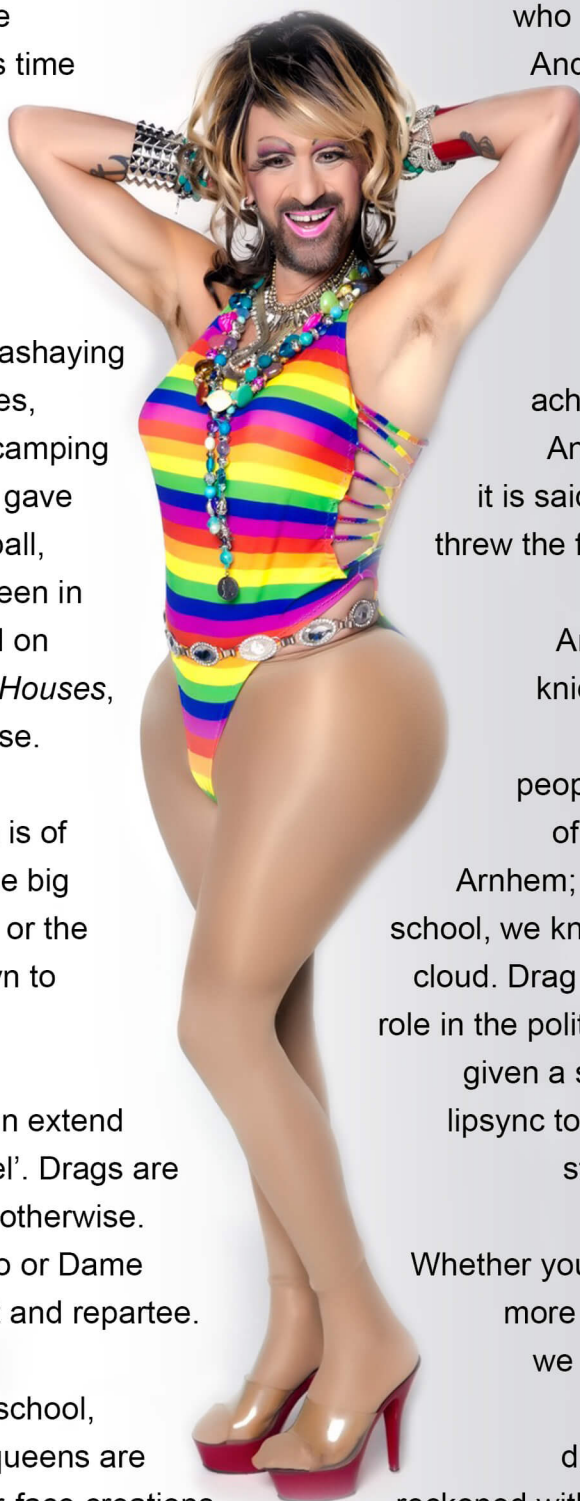
With Pride season peaking its little rainbow head around the corner, its time for us drag queens to dust off the paillettes, squeeze into the corsets and return to our rightful place at center stage.

For the next few months, we'll be sashaying our way around town, hosting parties, opening exhibitions and generally camping it up for the summer festivities. We gave a tantalizing taste in May at Superball, when it seemed that every drag queen in the country and beyond descended on Paradiso for the *Battle of the Drag Houses*, won by the 'Mermaid Mansion' house.

The core business of a drag queen is of course, *glamour*. The hair cannot be big enough, the make-up thick enough or the heels high enough. Drags are drawn to Swarovskis like bees to honey.

But the passion of a drag queen can extend beyond a love of the 'Art of the Heel'. Drags are notorious for their humor, bitchy or otherwise. Look no further than Bianca Del Rio or Dame Edna Everage for their hilarious wit and repartee.

But whether a queen is comic, old school, trashy, fishy, bio or bearded; drag queens are captivating, bigger-than-life, in-your-face creations



who demand *and receive* attention. And that attention can be used for more than just the theater of drag. Ireland's Panti Bliss is a household name in that country after her speech about homophobia went viral and became instrumental in achieving marriage equality there.

And looking as far back as 1969, it is said that it was a drag queen who threw the first rock at the Stonewall riots.

And there's plenty to still get our knickers in a knot about! Whether it's the persecution of LGBT people in Chechnya or the bashing of two gay men holding hands in Arnhem; to the bullying of queer kids at school, we know the world isn't one big pink cloud. Drag queens can and should play a role in the political conversation. When we're given a stage and microphone, we can lipsync to Beyonce *and* use our voice to stand up for what we believe in.

Whether you're a spotlight-hogging diva or more of a 'behind the scene' queen, we all have a role to play. Political activism in combination with drag-dragtivism- is a force to be reckoned with! **Make way for the Queen.**

