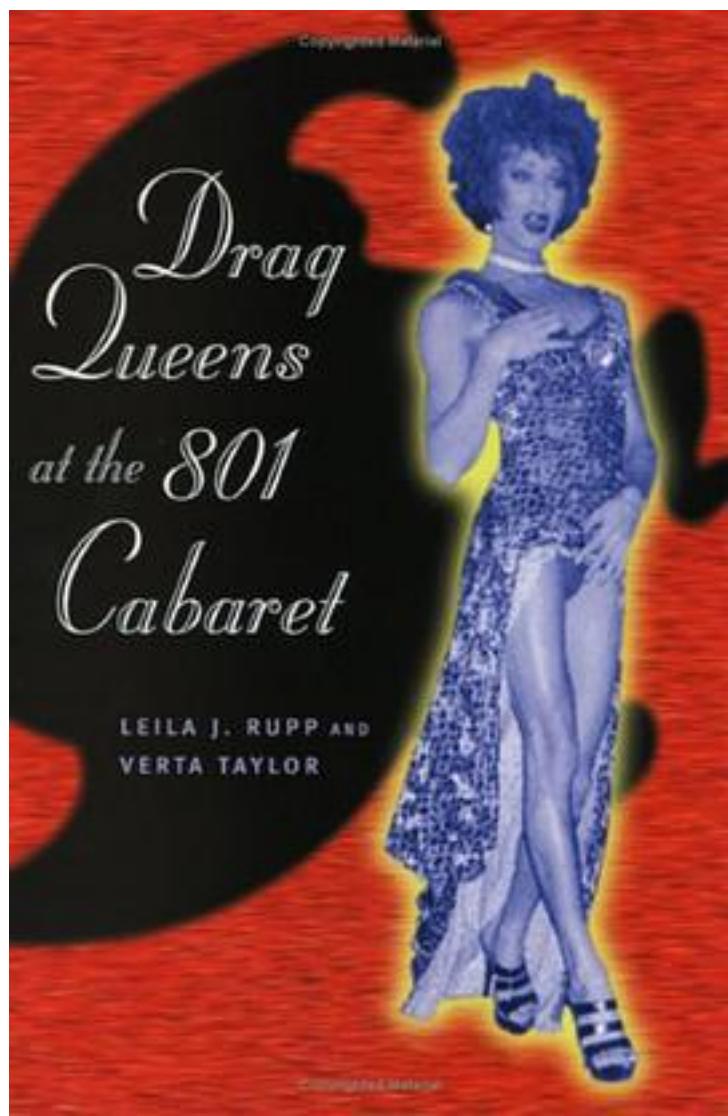


Drag Queens at the 801 Cabaret



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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 anyone who walks by 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 blondes and stunning brunettes clad in black leather miniskirts, stiletto heels, and see-through lingerie take the stage. En Vogue's "Free Your Mind" blares on the house stereos. 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 provide a backstage pass 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, 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 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 author's 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.

作者介绍:

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标签

评论

A thick description of the contestation, intentionality, and collective identity behind drag performance.

Verta Taylor

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