

VENUS BOYZ

A film by Gabriel Baur

With Dréd Gerestant, Diane Torr, Del LaGrace Volcano, Bridge Markland, Mo Fischer,
Storme Webber, Queen Bee Luscious, Mistress Formika, Judith Halberstam

CH / D / USA 2001 – 104 Min. – Colour – 35mm – Format 1: 1,85 – Dolby SR

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"Certainly what happens on a Drag King stage is a form of gender performance but it goes way beyond simply saying anyone can be anything. That's not the message behind the Drag King performance. Many of the mainstream media commentators on Drag Kings wanted to emphasize the idea that a very pretty feminine woman could be transformed through props and costumes and a little bit of facial hair into a very convincing man. That was basically the angle that mainstream media took on Drag King culture. There is a more interesting and subversive story to be told about Drag King culture that has to do with reinventing and rescripting, to some extent, gender norms. That's what I think Drag King culture is really good at, and good for."

Judith Halberstam, Gendertheorist

Short summary

A film journey through a universe of female masculinity. A legendary Drag King Night in New York is the point of departure for an odyssey to transgendered worlds, where women become men - some for a night, others for their whole lives. What motivates them? What changes take place? What do they dream of? The drag kings of New York meet in clubs and change lustfully into their male alter egos, parodying them and exploring male eroticism and power strategies. In London we see women experiment with hormones to become *new men* and *cyborgs*. Masculinity and transformation as performance, subversion or existential necessity. An intimate film about people who create intermediate sexual identities.

