

Media Alert

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Durham County Library Hosts the History and the Art of Drag

Program: The History and the Art of Drag
Date: Tuesday, July 1
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Main Library, 300 N. Roxboro St.
Cost: Free and open to the public

About: Durham County Library will host Dr. Michelle Robinson for a talk on the history of drag at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 1, at the Main Library, 300 N. Roxboro St. A performance will follow featuring local drag entertainers Vivica C. Coxx, Spray J., Jazmine Brooks and Vivian Vaughn.

Robinson, Assistant Professor of American Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, offer a brief history of drag in the 20th and 21st centuries, including voguing and the ballroom scene, drag performance on the American stage and the work of female impersonators inside Hollywood and out. She will examine some of the many varieties of American drag, from the House of Xtravaganza in New York City's West Village to Justin Vivian Bond's performances in *Kiki and Herb*, from the popular reality show *RuPaul's Drag Race* to Hattiesburg, Mississippi's annual "Miss Dixie" competition. The presentation will also address how the creative contexts and inventive uses of drag open up opportunities to re-think what we know about identity, gender and contemporary life.

Coxx is the recent manifestation of a queen who was born in Durham, but performed and succeeded in amateur competitions in Baltimore, MD. After 10 years of performance and practice, she began the "Vivica C. Coxx Presents" series at the Pinhook in Durham. Brooks, winner of many crowns, currently has her own show called Jazzy Drag and is the co-founder of Brooks Entertainment. Spray J. is one of Durham's newest drag kings. A Durham native, he currently performs with the Drag Doo Wop cover band Spray and the Jays. Vaughn has enjoyed a career in female impersonation for more than 15 years. Although born in New York, she considers herself a Southern Drag Queen and is quite involved in the local community.

This program is sponsored by Durham Library Foundation. For more information, contact Joanne Abel at 919-560-0268 or visit durhamcountylibrary.org.

Durham County Library encourages Discovery, connects the Community and leads in Literacy. As a department of Durham County Government, the library furthers Goal 1 of the county's Strategic Plan by enhancing cultural, educational and creative opportunities. For more information about the library, visit durhamcountylibrary.org.

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