FEMALE MICS

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52

Holli White

ACME







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COVER: BABY MARTELL

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SUAVE AND CONTINENTAL DESCRIBES HOLLI WHITE, WHOSE ARTY



Holli's a faithful fan of FEMALE MIMICS and never misses an issue. He claims he's picked up valuable tips

N THE continent, connoisseurs of the art of the sex-switch are currently buzzing about a newcomer from England who performs under the name of Holli White. All the rage, Holli has done female impersonations in all the capitals of Western Europe. He's originally from Wales and got his start in London where a scout for one of the Paris extravaganzas spotted the act in a small nitery and booked Holli post haste. An immediate success in Paris, Holli went on to perform in Bonn, Rome, Brussels and Copenhagen. This was followed by an all-out tour which found the act held over in Amsterdam for nine weeks. Following this, Holli took a well-earned vacation on the French Riviera. He rented a villa for privacy, and it was here that most of the pictures on these pages were taken. In a sense, Holli's holiday was really a busman's holiday. Not for one moment did he neglect to practice the artistry which lies behind his place of pre-eminence as the toast of continental transvestites. Thus these photos present the behindthe-scenes preparations of an expert female impersonator. The shots are candid, which is to say that Holli didn't make any effort to do anything other than what he ordinarily does while preparing to go on for a show. Still, it's easy to see from them why he currently ranks at the top of his field!



4

MASTERY OF THE SEX SWITCHEROO HAS ALL EUROPE APPLAUDING!





from the magazine. Our readers, likewise, can pick up pointers on makeup from expert impersonator Holli.







In wig and costume, Holli is epitome of feminine allure. Every little movement is keyed to this allure.



Not many genuine glamor gals can look as sexy as Holli posing in this kind of getup!







Here Holli reveals tricks of the trade which transform him into the sizzlingest and best-stacked of blondes.







Sexy, black lingerie plays all-important part in the bringing out of Holli's curves, both front and rear. Result really fools his audiences.



Holli constantly practices different styles of female gaits and works on emulating various ultra-female



poses until he has them down to a T. This requires great muscle control, particularly of hips and pelvis.

MEN IN SKIRTS



by CARLSON WADE

Famous author of She Male, coauthor of Transvestism Today, Erotic Symbolism, Sex Pleasures and Perversions, plus hundreds of articles on theatre life.

THE female impersonator is a little known and little understood creature. The mere mention of a man wearing female clothes is enough to bring on unwarranted persecution and ridicule. Misunderstanding is responsible for this narrow attitude. The art of the femme mimic is an established segment of show business. Some of the greatest performers have been those who began as female impersonators or portrayed feminine roles on stage. For what other media of entertainment demands so much talent and ability as in the impersonation act where a man must wholesomely completely and change his sex? Female masquerade is a challenge only the most gifted and talented have the courage to accept. For this reason, let credit fall where it is due.

As a form of behavior, theatrical and non-theatrical, impersonation is not new. It existed nearly 6,000 years ago and has persisted despite public opposition or prejudice against this bizarre form of dress. Let us dip into the past and see how this practice was kept alive throughout hundreds of centuries.

GREECE AND ROME

Legends about Hercules tell that he gave up his masculine habits and put on feminine garb when laboring under Eurystheus' domination. Another version of this legend explained that Hercules did the same when in the service of Omphale. He was not the first to be so effeminated by women. Samson was thusly treated by Delilah when he failed to meet her expectations. Despite their muscular valor, military bravery and mascu-

Privately, many otherwise shy and retiring young men play at female impersonation. In the entertainment field, many top stars like Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon, here shown in a scene from "Some Like It Hot", undertake mimic roles.



Julian Eltinge, possibly the most famous of the professional impersonators, set standards by which those who followed are still judged.

NCISHENAULI

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RK

VAUDEVILLE WAS THE HEYDAY OF THE PRO FEMME MIME. IMPERSONATION WANED IN 40'S AND 50'S, BUT NOW IS BACK STRONG!

"Single" acts set the stage for today's lavish revues like the "Jewel Box" and such nitery shows as the 82 Club's in New York. line traits, they were turned into pseudo-women for one reason or another.

Many early writers (Statius, Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, etc.) told of Achilles who was dressed by his mother as a woman and sent to masquerade as such among the fifty daughters of King Lycomedes so that he would not be accepted for the battlefields.

It is well known that Julius Caesar would dress as a female when appearing in public. His nephew, Augustus not only thrilled in feminine garb but went further. He had all hair plucked from his body so that he would give a completely feminine and "clean" appearance.

(Before you chuckle down your sleeve, take a look at our modern, well-oiled supermen, weightlifters, bodybuilders and physique stars. These self-worship body addicts are curiously free of body hair!)

Nero was another female impersonator who spent fortunes on his gowns. He selected the mythological heroines Niobe, Canace and Aphrodite as subjects to emulate. He wore masks of women's faces, appearing at public gatherings and affairs as a gaily dressed young lady. He especially delighted in impersonating women in childbirth.

Commodus was another excellent impersonator. He would appear in circus parades and other festivities in the costume of a female, defying detection. Commodus was fond of a girlish boy to whom he made gifts of jewelry, perfumes and delicate, hand-made feminine clothes. Both would walk the streets of Rome and none of the spectators were any the wiser

SCRAMBLING THE SEXES IS HALLMARK OF FAMED 82 CLUB!

as to the true sex of these girlish "females!"

ENGLAND AND EUROPE

"Mumming" is a practice that is followed during the Christmas season in England. It originated about two or three hundred years ago. Men go dressed as females and females go dressed as men. In these costumes, they walk all over London and visit friends and neighbors.

At the time of Shakespeare, the appearance of women on the stage was forbidden. This meant that all female roles had to be played by men and boys who were gifted for such a transformation. Outstanding female impersonators were "Dicky" Richard Robinson, William Ostler, "Nat" Nathaniel Field, Robert Goughe and Alexander Cooke. All female parts were played by these "men actresses" as they were known, including those of cheating wives and tragic queens. Toward the end of the 1600's, young Edward Kynaston was given awards for his portrayal of female roles in the theatre. At this same time, handsome Charles Hart was a London favorite because he was excellent in the role of a female, down to every last mannerism, voice and gesture.

In the early 17th century, women appeared on the stage. This created a problem since many of the female impersonators had been eunuchs - males who were castrated before reaching puberty and thus remained feminine with no masculine characteristics - and they felt jealous about the competition. These eunuchs had beautiful bodies and feminine manners and also high soprano voices. But their day was ending. Some of them made efforts at maintaining positions but succeeded only in evoking a scandal. There was beautiful Crescentini, a gelded youth who was a favorite of Napoleon. Others of this period included Senesino, Gizzielo, Caffarelli, Guadagni and Bernacchi. Considering their surgical transformation, they had very

Onstage at the "82", a top mimic gets set to reveal tricks by which audience was fooled into accepting him as an ultra-sexy chorus girl.



beautiful voices and sang soprano and contralto in the operas. Composer Handel was commissioned to write special music for them.

But as time went on, their ranks diminished and they faded into the past. Replacing them were other effeminate men but with full masculine powers.

It is said that the Virgin Queen Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII was really a boy! According to the legend, young Elizabeth died of an illness at the age of eleven, while in the care of a governess who feared royal wrath because of this tragedy. Keeping the young Elizabeth's death a secret, the governess buried the body herself, then sought a substitute. She could find none. She became frantic and looked upon a young boy who bore a remarkable resemblance to the dead princess. She offered him money and wealth if he would accept the challenge of posing as Elizabeth. The boy took this chance and was accepted by Henry VIII, according to legend; in fact, the boy went to the throne as Queen Elizabeth I and regarded as a mighty monarch, as well. No doubt these powers stemmed from a masculine personality. "She" was never examined by a doctor. "She" always wore wigs. "She" was nicknamed "Bisley Boy," after the village where the ruse originated. Was Queen Elizabeth I a boy or female impersonator? Some day, the truth may come out.

Louis XIV of France, known for his beautiful legs, also wore beautifully designed gowns as a means of exposing his lovely limbs. He did, incidentally, introduce highheeled shoes as a means of drawing attention to his legs. French women loved this new style and it is in fashion to this day.

His brother was Philippe, Duke of Orleans, who went even further in femme mimicry. Not only did he wear the latest fashions in public, but he dabbed his cheeks with rouge, scented himself with *parfum*, wore flashy jewelry and was (Continued on page 58)





From top to toe, Minette overlooks nothing in his role as a femme.



Presenting, in photos and words, the confessions of a professional stage transvestite. Some will be shocked, others impressed by the candor with which Minette bares his very soul.

WAS CONCEIVED IN PARIS, born in New York City and raised in Boston. I made my debut in showbusiness at the age of three, appearing with my aunt, Edith Le Bec. My aunt had come to America as a teenager many years before, and had had a successful career in musicals, vaudeville, and burlesque. She taught me to do impressions of popular singers of the day; my first performance was an impression of Belle Baker's "All Of Me." Then followed impressions of such stars as Ruth Etting, Ethel Waters, Eddie Cantor. Another popular song was "River Stay Way From My Door" as Kate Smith, Helen Kane, and Mae West would sing it. I realize now what powers of concentration I must have had to be able to learn to do my act, and what great patience my aunt must have had to teach me these songs.

At the age of 6 I retired from burlesque to attend school. Soon I was back at work, but this time I was appearing in vaudville. I did a song and dance act, becoming the most popular "kiddie act" on the circuit. Was I proud when Gilda Grey, making a come back at the time, chose me to tour with her in a review on Kieth circuit. Gilda Grey was still the undisputed "Queen Of The Shimmie," and my name appeared in small letters at the bottom of the bill.

When I was 14 I was dealt quite a blow when a new law prohibited children under 16 to work on stage in Boston. I was tall for my age and decided to make a change. Becoming a nightclub crooner, I amazed myself more than my friends by working for several seasons in and around Boston as a vocalist with bands, one of which broadcast over a local radio station. However, I wasn't really happy with myself or my act. So, at the age of 16 I took a course in costume design. Though I was still working as a singer and making good money, I longed to get out of showbusiness and become a couturier.

As it turned out, there were no jobs at decent wages to be had without practical experience or a following. About this time, there became a great demand for female impersonators in Boston. Chris Scarlet, a dancer I'd known in vaudville who had become successful as an impersonator, gave me the idea of becoming a female impersonator. For the first time in years I felt fullfilled as an artist. I was able to express myself much better in gowns than I had been able to in trousers!

At first I worked in small clubs singing comedy and novelty numbers, getting better bookings. Then I was booked into the 181 Club in New York City) forerunner of the Club 82).

Having made quite a name for myself as an impersonator, I returned to Boston in 1951 to appear at the College Inn. This was Boston's most popular club, seating 500 in the lounge alone. On weekends crowds waited in line to get into the club. I had a good spot in the review and remained at the club until the Summer when Roxy King, "The King Of The Tassel Dancers" asked me to join his troupe in Providence. This was a better salary and better spot in the show, so I took the job. Later, another club owner in Providence asked me to star in my own review at his club, which I did. In a short time, we built up the business at the Jazz Room to a capacity audience.

After that engagement, I returned to the College Inn, but left later in the season to work weekend dates in and around Boston. I had quite a following and was especially known for my rendition of "Rose Of



Minette has made a study of all the different kinds of women and continues studying them in order to keep his act fresh. He actually has set up a filing system keyed to correlate many different facets of female behavior.











Washington Square," to which I had written my own parody. Whenever I walked into any of the clubs featuring female impersonators, I was always requested to sing my "theme song." I was now making more money working two or three nights a week than I had been in working at The College Inn.

This all came to an end on the 30th of Dec. 1951 when Archbishop Cushing wrote an

article condemning female impersonators. This man was so powerful that many of the clubs, including the College Inn closed voluntarily rather than try to buck the power of this important church man. He also condemned the exotic dancers and MC's who used "blue" material and so there was a great exodus of night club acts from Boston and the end of an era in "the hub."

Most of my friends left town for other parts of the country, but I remained to secure a booking at the

Log Cabin near Fonda, N.Y. where I worked until April 1952. The club wanted a dancer, so I brought along another impersonator friend of mine, Renee Roberts. The owner of the club met us at the railway station and drove us to the club in a terrible snowstorm. Also on the bill was the glamorous and beloved Lou Pierson, whose recent and untimely death saddened all who knew him. Business wasn't too good as the nearest town of any size was Amsterdam, which was 17 miles away and the main industry was the Mohawk Carpet Co. which was on strike. However, the club made enough money to keep out of the "red" and the food was excellent. We were on the main road and many truck drivers stopped in to eat during the day. Sometimes the owner would get us out of bed at 9 or 10 in the morning to act as hostesses, encouraging the drivers to buy drinks. With no beard, and I'd let my hair grow to shoulder

Minette varies garb from sexy, modern-day outfits to bustle dress so popular at the turn of the century.





He also has developed routines around the character of the flapper and various jet set types found in Europe.

length in Boston; it wasn't hard to look half way decent in a short time by putting on a little lipstick, blouse and slacks,

If business was slow at the Log Cabin, it was at a near standstill at the other clubs in the area. What nightclubbing the public was doing was coming our way. This became a point of irritation to other club owners and they made complaints to the police, saying that we had an indecent show or that the club remained open after hours. The police were putting more and more pressure on the club owner, however, I didn't give it much thought as I'd always presented a clean act, but I was more careful of my material. Nothing we did pleased the rival owners, and I remember saying to the owner: "If I clean up my act anymore, I'll be singing hymns." Finally the club was closed and I decided to return to New York City.

As I had practically no male

clothes, I arrived to visit with friends of mine in the Village as a female. My friends thought this very chic and persuaded me to remain in "drag," which I did for several months. It was a lot of fun living as a woman. I took the name of Rose Revere and made friends with dozens of people who never dreamed I wasn't "the real thing." This I didn't enjoy as I like to be honest about myself, but dared not in this case. I was regularly dating nice men, one of whom professed his love for me and went so far as to propose marriage.

In July I received a letter from Chris Scarlet offering me an opening with Rayleen's Review in Penn. At this time, Rayleen was wellknown for his reviews. I went to work in his review on a two week contract, with two week's option and remained for 6 months.

In 1953 and 1954, I was working in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Bridgeport, and Wilmington.

In June 1953, I was booked into a Detroit club where I sang and MC'd a review which consisted of four female performers. The headliner was the fabulous Yvette Dare (dancer with a parrot to undress her). In Philadelphia 1954, I saw Yvette again who was appearing at a club there. This resulted in a tour of 8 months with Yvette Dare and her review. She was truly a fantastic and unique person and the entertainment world lost a great artist with her death in 1955.

About this time, my Mother died and I returned north to close my family home as my Father had died in 1952.

My next stop was Philadelphia to work a club that had closed the night before my arrival. I was lucky enough to find work in another club, but worked there only one night. When I came to work the following evening, I found that the club had burned to the ground.



That Spring and Summer were difficult for me as the law in Philadelphia was determined to keep female impersonators out of "The City of Brotherly Love."

I even worked in a carnival for a few weeks in the side show as Surpentina (dancing with a pair of boa constrictors) and doubling as Mme. Electra, the girl who defies death in the electric chair.

Then back to New York City where I took a position with a costumer, working in his Greenwich Village dress shop (for a year and a half). How wonderful to have a home after years of living out of a suitcase!

I was working on costumes for Coleen Dewhurst, who was appearing in "The Eagle Has Two Heads" at the Actor's Playhouse. The play was photographed by well-known theatrical protographer, Avery Willard. He gave a Halloween costume party, to which I came in "drag." Everyone was amazed when they found out I wasn't a female at all. Avery was delighted and astonished when he found out who I was and kept saying "I must photograph you. You are one of the most convincing female impersonators I have ever seen." Needless to say, I won first prize and later Avery did photograph me, which led to my "rediscovery" and retirement from female impersonation.

I had met a clever actor, George Schroeders, who had an act with a player piano-"George and Nola." Since I was a child I have been a collector of old records and sheet music, and was able to give George the words to old songs that were useful to him. I introduced Avery to George, who needed new photographs. When the three of us got together, we decided to do a little movie short (Avery had his own movie equipment and was very interested in film work). So the three of us began filming "Speakeasy Queen" (very much like the

Although he started out in pants as a "burly" performer' Minette soon found he felt much more competent when



early movie makers did; making up the story as we went along). It was filmed in George's apartment, with me in the title role and George in dual roles-one of my leading men and a night club dancer (female), besides directing the film. I brought along famous impersonator, Billy Richards, to the filming one day and Avery put him in the film in a comedy role. Thus was the birth of Ava-Graph films - I gave the company it's name-and me in a new medium of show business. After that I made several films for Ava-Graph, and was soon known as "The Sweetheart Of The Silver Screen." There will be more about Ava-Graph and our filming in articles by Mr. Willard for future issues of FEMALE MIMICS.

I returned to working clubs in and around New York City, mostly weekend dates.

I've come a long way since I was the "new red hot mama." Over the years my singing has gone from loud to soft and from hot to cool. Since I've been back in New York I have added much to my record collection and I now own about 3,000 78 records and sheet music from the early 90's to the late 40's. My singing style has been influenced more by these singers of yesteryear than by the artists of the day.

As I play the piano and am able to accompany my own singing, it is possible to play small club rooms. It has been a year since I started working on my new act as a singing pianist. Working by myself has taught me so many new things to do with my voice that I never dreamed possible. So I keep learning and improving, which any true artist must do to feel really gratified in his heart. If I am not better next year that I am this year, then I have not used my time to its best advantage, but this promise I owe to myself and my public-Next year Minette will be even better! END



practising stage artistry in skirts. Today he's one of the top-ranking mimic-artistes in the entire country.



WHEN BOY



It's off to the most exclusive of hair-dressing salons for Gigi Duval where Madame will take him in hand



Eyebrows and lips are worked over carefully to accentuate the lines of femininity. Then, next on the agenda,

BECOMES GIRL



to provide the modish coiffure which constitutes the first step in the transformation from male to female.



comes a careful fitting for undergarments and frock — all designed to bring out the most in figure allure.



Wig is carefully styled to suit Gigi's personality; hair-comb was designed to give the effect of studied carelessness. Particular attention had to be paid to molding wig to scalp while following natural hairline.



Coiffed and dressed, Gigi gets into proper spirit with a series of pirouettes and poses strikingly female.





相论的





Bidding goodbye to the salon expert, Gigi is on 'her' way, a vision of feminine loveliness to fool anyone.

HE MUST Have been

A BEAUTIFUL BABY



Rugged and masculine, Baby still displays the innate beauty his many fans so admire.

THE KITTENISH appeal of Baby Martell, top-flight female mimic, has been described by some of his fans as "a childlike quality embodying the true innocence of the pre-teens combined with the kind of knowing sex appeal which is frequently displayed by precocious adolescent females." The quote is from a letter received by FEMALE MIMICS from a reader who wished to call our attention to Baby's charms. Now that we have a chance to present these charms to our other readers, we are very grateful indeed for the tip-off to one of the most scintillating impersonator personalities to be uncovered in a long time. Baby comes from Baltimore originally, but has been doing a lot of travelling both in the U.S. and abroad over the past few years. He has been seen in a variety of shows and has undertaken an equally wide variety of transformations, devoting much time to developing new female characters with which to enhance his art. For one so young (Baby is just under 21 years of age), he has already established a remarkable repertoire which has gained him a following both here and in Europe. It's a sure thing that this Baby is destined for a great future. He's already passed the toddling stage and the way his acclaim is growing he'll soon hit the top!







At making up and costuming, Baby is an expert. And once the job's done, there's a genuine demonstration of sex appeal which is maintained even when key parts of the anatomy are bared to view.









LOOK AT BABY NOW! BARDOT HERSELF MIGHT ENVY SUCH CURVES!

Baby confesses that transformation truly makes him feel the joy of one who has been able to recognize his full potential. "It's not an art that can be developed," Baby says. "Although you have to really work at it, the talent is something you must be born with."














ALL GROWN UP NOW, BABY EPITOMIZES THE TANTALIZING TOPS!

Ever since adolescence, Baby has been drawn to the art of female impersonation. Now, at last, his ambitions have been realized to the utmost.







Not merely sexy, but also the height of the sophisticated woman — that's Baby. You'll be seeing more of him!















Cherchez La Femme

Literal Translation: "Find the woman." And that's a neat trick if you can do it!



Program of this Canadian "switch show" presents the cast in a variety of poses.

"Cherchez La Femme" is to the Canadians what the "Jewel Box Revue" is to U. S. transvestite fans!

Delmar

Rid

Lina

- Girls

Bambi

nos

Gene



"C HERCHEZ LA FEMME," a revue featuring the top female impersonators in Canada, is famous throughout the country for its spectacular productions. The quality of its shows has resulted in critics heaping lavish praise on the company as a whole and upon many of the individual performers. The show's name, meaning "find the woman," is followed by a sub-title in the billing: "parmi les plus beaux hommes du monde!" - which translates as "from among the most beautiful men in the world." It's not an easy task. There is one girl in the show, but the rest of the beauties are all impersonators, and it's very rare indeed that a spectator is able to select the natural female among the expert mimics. Pretty soon now, U. S. audiences will have the opportunity to try and find her for themselves. After four years of touring Canada to countrywide raves, the "Cherchez La Femme" troupe is on the brink of embarking on a tour of the States. Don't miss them! These guys are the most gorgeous girls in the world!

> Exotic is the watchword for both the performers and settings used in the lavish productions put on by the Montreal company.



Star of the show is American Gene Chandler, formerly of the 82 Club and Jewel Box Revue!

The accent is French, the appeal Gallic and the show itself decidedly Parisian!



the readers always write



Here's a new column intended just for you, the reader—it's your sounding board and your mirror...so drop us a note with your comments on the magazine and your thoughts in general, and include a photo of yourself for our next issues, coming soon.



TERRY

Dear Editor:

I'm a faithful reader of your magazine and enjoy it very much. I admire your courage in presenting the case for the transvestite to the general public. There are far more of us than is generally realized, but many of us don't realize that there are others with the same taste for changing roles as we possess. To know we are not alone



R.K.

is to improve our mental outlook. For doing this you are to be congratulated.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a photo of myself which you have my permission to use in your magazine. I do hope that your readers will find it appealing. Looking forward to future issues, I remain,

R.K., Chicago, Ill. Thanks for the photo, R.K. It's lovely. We hope other readers will follow your example and send in pictures of themselves in costume.

Gentlemen:

There are no superlatives necessary for FEMALE MIMICS — it speaks for itself. There's so much pulp on the market today that it really seems wonderful to see a professional job well done! Thanks much for a truly fine magazine

Although I'm only an amateur in this field, I enjoy it very much. I'm enclosing a snapshot which I hope you'll enjoy – and maybe your readers, too. Best regards.

Terry, Milwaukee, Wisc. Thanks for the pat and the picture, Terry. And don't forget to write and tell us how you like this issue.



Dear Editor:

I thought you might be interested in seeing what's going on in the field of female impersonation in West Berlin. The picture is from the show at the Chez Nous cabaret, a swingin' joint for sex-switchers in this city. I recently visited it while touring Europe and liked it (both the city and the transvestism I found here and the Chez Nous itself) so much that I'm settling down here for awhile. Please send my copy of FEMALE MIMICS to me here: I hope this presents no problems since I would really miss seeing every issue. This could even make me return home.

N.S., West Berlin, Germany Stay put! We'll send FEMALE MIMICS along to you as we do to our many other readers in West Berlin and the rest of West Germany.









OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE HIDDEN WORLD OF TWILIGHT MEN



From Times Square to Hollywood, millions of homosexuals live and love, almost always in secret, out of sight and out of reach to the normal man.

NAKED TO THE NIGHT

Reveals the bold-shocking life of a young male hustler with the body of a wild stallion, who sold his manhood to anyone with the time, the place and the price.

HARD COVER only \$3.00 (plus 25¢ postage and handling)

DAMIL, Dept. C Box 148, Jerich		
Gentlemen: Enc (plus 25¢ postag rush me THE NIGHT.	ge and hand	
Name		Age
Address		
City	Zone	State

Dear Editor FEMALE MIMICS

Each of your three issues has been a real thrill! I hope numbers four and four thousand are as interesting.

This note is hastened to you as I have a cancelation this afternoon and a few moments to write telling you how wonderful it is that we impersonators now have a champion. I have loved to dress up as a female for over forty years, an estimated 62,400 hours of sheer delight, and have never regretted a single moment. I still look forward to Thursday afternoons off from my dental practice and those glorious week-ends when I can live as a female reveling in silken luxury and the little niceties of womanhood. Someday soon I must write you of some of the pleasures and wonderful experiences I have had and the wonderful cooperation and understanding of my sisters who live with me. Best of luck,

Doc., Seattle, Wash.

COCCINELLE



My dear editor:

Having just seen your edition of FEMALE MIMICS with the greatest of them all Cocinelle in it, I thought you might be interested in this photo which appeared in a French newspaper. It shows the female impersonator successfully fooling a passerby who obviously finds her (him?) extremely attractive. In Paris, Cocinelle is frequently subject to the gallantries of men attracted to her (him?). Hope you find this photo interesting, and my congratulations for a forthright and entertaining magazine.

C.M., Paris, France





Dear Editor:

I love your magazine so much that I'm going to make a suggestion for a future issue. With all the developments in wigs these days, I think you should do an advice story on how transvestites can best use these hair pieces to enhance their sex-changes. Believe me, they offer wonderful opportunities for dress-ups. With them, one of us

Romance! Intrigue! Adventure!











OFFBEAT! **BIZARRE!** UNUSUAL!

SOME OF THE ACTUAL ADS IN WOW MAGAZINE



Young woman, age 24 desires correspondence wit with other young ladies or with unusual interests. ladies or men letters answered. See Photo.



Girl, 26, 5' 2", 110 lbs., size 9. You like girls? You like being a girl (even imaginatively)!? For fashion, fun and foolishness, then, let's write. See Photo.



Single girl, age 27, 38-26is interested in discipline 36. and restraint. Desires to hear from those with similar interests. See Photo.



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Join the Others, Like Yourself, Making Life More Interesting In the Most Exciting Club In Existence!



Girl, age 24, Financially independent, free to travel and submissive, wishes to meet interesting people, dominant girls and sunbath-ing enthusiasts. See Photo.

LADIES -FREE MEMBERSHIP IF YOU SEND US YOUR AD AND PHOTO TODAY!



ADDRESSES.



SELBEE ASSOCIATES, Club Division P.O. Box 899, Radio City Sta., New York 19, N.Y.
Count me in on CLUB WOW and please rush me all the above membership material in plain wrapper. I have enclosed:
() \$10.00 for one full year membership. () Cash () Check
() \$5.00 for 5 month trial membership. () Money Order
Start sending everything to me at once.
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY ZONE STATE
FREE TO 1 YEAR MEMBERS ONLY! Interesting correspondence maga- zines containing ads and photos of men and women with NAMES and



Beautiful girl, age 24, 5'7" tall, enjoys dancing and swimming and is studying for an air-pilot's license. She weighs 120 lbs. and as a single gal would appre-ciate and exchange robust and broadminded letters.



Attractive couple, executive 3[°], wife 26, seek talented rien, gals, couples for friend-ship and possible parties and weekends at our Long Island beach house. Will answer all who send detailed letter and appropriate photo.



can change both style and color of hair and be a whole different and new girl each time out. I know because I'm using a variety of wigs myself and I've never had such satisfaction before. To show what I mean, I'm enclosing pictures of myself. Hope you can use them. Again, much gratitude for such an excruciatingly exciting and wonderful magazine.

K. M. Hilliard, San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Sir,

After watching the newsstands for years, for something really interesting and well done in the female impersonators line, I feel I really hit the jackpot, and more than I ever had hoped for in your FEMALE MIMICS magazine. The first one I noticed was the second edition and after seeing that one from cover to cover, I knew I just had to have every edition.

As for myself, it's a long story, but I've been "dressing up," probably for many reasons as far back as my sixth birthday. I'm just an amateur impersonator and my love of all the feminine things of fashion has been my favorite hobby for many years. It is wonderful to be able to bring out my feelings like this to someone and I hope I may have some of my pictures printed in your magazine. Also hope this will not be the last of our correspondence.

> Sincerely, Bob (Nancy Ann) Silver Spring, Md.

Dear Editor:

I thought the enclosed clipping from "Variety," the show biz bible would be of interest to your readers. It struck me that the writer all the way from France — is in effect echoing the philosophy of your excellent magazine. Like you, he asks for tolerance and understanding for those of us whom until the advent of FEMALE MIMICS were without a spokesman. Thank you again for speaking for us.

L.L., New York, N.Y.



Dear Gang at FEMALE MIMICS:

Just thought I'd drop you a line with a recent photo of myself. Absolutely adored your last issue. When will the next one be out? Will you send me a copy? Is this the one where you'll be using those scrumptious photos you took of me? I hope so. Love and kisses and see you soon,

Baby Martell Hi, Baby. Those "scrumptious photos" of you are indeed in this issue on pages 31 through 40. And a luscious full-color centerspread too!



BABY MARTELL





LOU PEARSON

Dear Editors:

Loved your mag so much I just had to get my picture in it. So I'm enclosing a snapshot of myself all primped-up and sassy. I know you're not going to believe this after seeing the photo, but I actually used to be the star lineman on my school football team. Hope you can use the snapshot.

Lou Pearson,

New York, N. Y. We believe you, Lou and what's more, as you can see, we're using

the photo. Bet you were the most tackled fella on the team!

Dear Editor:

As a professional female impersonator I welcome this opportunity to congratulate you on a truly superb magazine. Without descending to sensationalism, you have truly presented the case for the transvestite and also for those of us who make our living as female mimes. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a biography of myself and some pictures. I hope I don't sound conceited when I say that I know your readers would enjoy seeing my act. I would welcome their attendance. Thanks very much for your magazine. Once again, it fills a real need.

Dimitrius Dega,

H'wood, Calif. Thank you for the pix and bio Dimitrius. One of our staff will be catching your show real soon and we recommend that our readers do the same.

Dear Sirs:

I have just finished reading your Premiere Issue of FEMALE MIMICS and enjoyed it very much, not only for the fact that you have shown pictures of friends of mine who are still in the profession, but also because you have tried and as far as I am concerned, shown the public a good view of the female impersonator, letting them know that this is an art of performance, rather than a way of life.

I at one time was a female impersonator, but have since quit, for a while at least. I retired for a while after I go married, and we returned to San Francisco, but lately I have thought of returning to the profession.

I think, too, that it would be a good idea to let the public know that this isn't the easiest profession to be in either and how hard it is to keep in it. Plus another good example for the public to read about are some of the experiences that an impersonator goes through, deceiving the public on stage and being truthful with them off stage.

For example, when I was working at a club in Detroit, another impersonator and I were required to mix between shows with the customers, in costume. Several times we ran across college boys







that would refuse to believe that we were of the male sex. I know just how hard it is to convince some young guy that is half drunk, that you aren't really a woman. It is a compliment in one way knowing that you have fooled some people completely, but also trying to be honest with people and not using this art to a disadvantage. This is an opinion that a lot of the public has.

I hope that this publication will keep going and would you please let me know if this can be subscribed to. And the price of the subscription.

Thank you and please let me hear from you about the subscription.

> Sincerely, Terry Taylor San Francisco 9, Cal.

Dear Editor:

I think you should be highly commended for an unusually attractive - beautiful - colorful magazine called "FEMALE MIMICS."

I have bought three copies of your Premiere Issue, giving two away to close friends with like interests.

My favourite is on Pages 53-54-

MEN IN SKIRTS

a perfect female in every mannerism.

From Europe came the Colonial costume – men of high station would wear effeminate wigs, lacefringed garments and ladyish shoes. Before you laugh, take a look at some of our modern men: they are body fetishists, nature boys, wearing long hair down their necks. Modern clothes are frilly, femininely colored and form fitting to emphasize the male sex.

Feminine influences can be seen in the costumes of Spanish bull fighters, Scotch kilts, leotards of male ballet performers, pastel colored shirts and sweaters of American men.

ABBE deCHOISY

No account of female impersonators would be complete without mention of the famed Abbe Francois Temoleon deChoisy who had 55, FEMALE FOR FUN-BURMA.

SHE-HE is my idea of a seductive sorceress, a temptress, a with. She is distractingly, desirably beautiful.

My special interest lies in the fact that I have been the unchallenged, undisputed female impersonator in our area for 27 years, having won many cash and merchandise prizes mostly at Hallowe'en parties. My costumes are almost completely black including the unmentionables and wig.

FEMALE IMPERSONATION is a challenge to a person's talent and imagination. I find it to be a very exciting, enjoyable, experience—unusual, uninhibited, unconventional —I love it.

I PROMISE to be a regular customer for your magazine. It gives me costume ideas.

THANKS AGAIN FOR A BEAU-TIFUL BOOK.

> Sincerely, Robert Hind Chatham, Ontario

Dear FEMALE MIMICS:

I've recently been thinking of going into the field of female impersonation professionally. I've long been a hit at parties and my friends all tell me I should take it up as a

no competition when it came to posing as a female. Born in 1644 in Paris, his early experiences included being dressed as a girl by his mother who loved him as though he were a doll. In his own biography, deChoisy said that he even developed natural feminine bosom contours because of his constant use of high corsets. At 15, he was heralded as a young lady of style. His face had no hair. His pierced ears sported glittering earrings. His own mother introduced him as "Mademoiselle."

There were times when deChoisy sought to abandon his role but time after time he found he could not live happily without his beloved feminine clothes and he returned to this transvestite world.

He tells of his own marriage, in his biography – a marriage to an attractive young lady who went dressed as a boy! She adopted the career. I enjoy your magazine, and what's more I respect it, which is why I'm writing to ask you for advice on this. Thanks.

K. L., Boston, Mass. Well, K. L., the truth is it's a tough grind to become a success as a female mimic. You have to really be dedicated to make the grade. Unless you're willing to really drive yourself, our advice is to go on enjoying yourself at parties and leave show biz to the pros. Sorry if this sounds harsh, but you're better off knowing the score now than later.

Dear Editor:

Recently a friend of mine caught me making up as a woman and he's been kidding me about it ever since. Like me, he enjoys your magazine. But he says it's strictly for looking at, not for emulating for ones own enjoyment. I don't see that I did anything wrong. But I am confused. Can you straighten me out?

D. B., Des Moines, Iowa We don't recommend emulating the people pictured in our magazine. They're very special folks. On the other hand, your friend has no right to be so high and mighty. It's strictly a case of "to each his own!"

role of being his "husband" and in that arrangement the two of them appeared to be quite happy.

They travelled a great deal and when gossip turned against him, they moved to a new community where their true identities were kept secret from all, including their servants.

DeChoisy inherited a title and substantial income which meant he could travel all over Paris, Burgundy, London and show off his lovely gowns. Eventually, he acquired so much influence that he persuaded the nobility to give him an Embassy appointment in 1685. Now he could take advantage of his position in the courts to show off his feminine transformation. He travelled throughout Europe and even visited the King of Siam as a fully dressed female.

When he died in 1724 at the age of 80, he not only left behind a fantastic life but his memorable book of recollections which is regarded as the "most" in the study of female impersonators. DeChoisy also appeared on the stage in female parts, of course.

Four years after his death, in 1728, another Frenchman was born in Tonnerre. He, too, would soon become the most talked about female impersonator, second only to DeChoisy. This second man's name was Chevalier d'Eon deBeaumont. His early childhood of being dressed as a female was similar to DeChoisy. He, too, was a beautifully dressed creature; when received in the court of Louis XV in Paris, all other young women were put to shame when they saw the exquisite beauty of this young boyas-a-girl.

A favorite of Louis, he was sent to Russia on a spying mission, gained the confidence of Empress Elizabeth and was responsible for considerable diplomatic maneuvers. D'Eon served in the French army and was also a minister plenipotentiary because of his gifted diplomatic finesse. During the years when he lived in London, he was such a perfectly dressed female that no one could be convinced of the true sex. Returning to France in 1777, he was ordered to wear feminine apparel for political purposes and to keep his true identity a secret. It is said that the King and Marie Antoinette even designed clothes for him. When he died in 1810, reaching the age of 82, an examination was made and the announcement was shocking -D'Eonwas a man!

RECENT FEMALE IMPERSONATORS

Because public pressure and misunderstanding was high, female impersonation was consigned to the stage in the early 1900's. After World War I, this art of show business reached its peak of popularity. Originally, the female impersonator would follow the minstrel show in the early vaudeville performances. Later, whole shows would be written around this form of entertainment.

Some of you may remember Bert Swor, Neil O'Brien, Honey Boy Evans and the famous Lew Dockstader. Their performances were humorous and done on the level of a parody. Soon, teams were appearing; remember Savoy and Brennan, Mackin & Wilson, Gillihan & Murray, Golden & Hughes, the Bowman Brothers, Brennan & Rogers?

Other immortals in the hall of impersonation fame included Harry LeClaire (the Bernhardt of vaudeville), Pet Shaw, Jack Wilson, Olin Landick and many others.

Did you know that Jerry Cohan (father of the famed George M.) was also a female impersonator in comic bit roles? Even Dave Warfield would "bring down the house" when appearing as a humorous Irish girl.

In Europe, meanwhile, Gyvengy was a headliner in Budapest where he played the role of a singing chambermaid with such perfection that his true sex was disputed. Other mimics were Fregoli, a quick change artist of feminine clothes, Ristori who was as graceful as a ballet dancer, Chretienni who was master of the enticing leer.

London's pride was Nathaniel Field who performed at the famed Globe and Blackfriars theatres, he played in the best dramas of Beaumont and Fletcher. He was so adept at impersonation that he defied detection to the point where his true sex was a constant debate.

Germany had Urany Verde, a female impersonator who possessed the most beautiful soprano voice. While he was suspected of being a eunuch, it was later brought to light that he was a full physical male.

Let us not forget Oscar Wilde, the famous British author-poet who may have been a homosexual but was also an excellent femme mimic. At Oxford, he let his hair grow down to his shoulders a la femme, adopted womanish mannerisms and a general female attitude. Even his writings have a distinct feminine attitude and style.

The most famous female impersonator in America was the late Julian Eltinge. He toured with the Cohan & Harris minstrel show in the early 1900's, then went on his own, appeared in musical come-



dies. His skillful transformation made critics stand up and cheer. Had he lived in the Shakesperian era, there is no doubt he would have appeared on the stage in the feminine roles and been knighted by the Queen for his artistic talents. Julian Eltinge did much to establish impersonation as a vital segment of art and theatre. He displayed wit, grace, charm and good manner. His shows were good familv entertainment and free from coarse wit. At the height of his career, he reportedly earned as much as \$4000 weekly!

No one has ever been able to come close to Julian's talents; perhaps Bert Savoy deserves some credit. During vaudeville, Bert Savoy teamed up with Jay Brennan and was soon recognized as a mimic with remarkable talents. He played in nearly all states and even went as far as Alaska. Some of his most successful mimic shows were Miss 1917, the Ziegfeld Follies of 1918, Cinderella on Broadway, Greenwich Village Follies.

Bert had a gimmick. Each performance centered around a mythical room-mate who was just "too much for this poor girl." Sometimes, he would play the dual role. But there was a certain burlesque quality about his act that made him second best when it came to the classic talents of Julian Eltinge. Yet, Bert is regarded as a bright star in the heavens of female impersonations.

Tommy Martel deserved the billing of: "The Most Girl In Burlesque Is A Boy." He played in stock companies and also took Julian Eltinge's role as the "Fascinating Widow."

The Great Stewart was fondly dubbed "The Male Patti" because he could so imitate the famous Spanish songstress, Patti. He exhibited unusual talents with makeup. His voice was a *natural* soprano. In fact, he would rightfully boast that his tones had not changed since he was a choir boy. When he sang, "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now," he brought down the house. It is said that when he sang in La Traviata during a tour in Spain, a robust royalist admirer threw him a knotted kerchief in which was a ruby ring. His deception was perfect. It is said that when he passed on, some time after, he was holding onto that ruby ring — as if to convince himself to the end that he was a past master of the ruse.

Bothwell Browne is remembered for his act called, "What's Sauce For The Gander Is Sauce For The Goose!" This was during the Woman Suffragette movement. Browne was neatly attired in a pencil-thin check tailored suit with the divided skirt, collar and tie that were fashions of the day. His act consisted of sitting in a niche eight feet high, above which was a gorgeous pink Cupid with his familiar pointed arrow. (This was a Gibson Girl gimmick.) The act had a song that went on to become quite famous: Why Do They Call Me The Gibson Girl? His other acts featured his impersonation of Cleopatra - in this one, he made his immortal entrance on a litter being borne by two giant Negro Nubians. It was a sensation. He even made several silent motion pictures. At this time, female mimicry was an accepted part of show business.

There have been others who belong in the annals of fond memory. Ray Bourbon, still active, is as good as always. Mr. Lynn Carter, T.C. Jones, Jackie Maye, Terri Lane. All are skillful female impersonators who arouse the envy of less feminine females in the audience.

Everyone is familiar with the role of Charley's Aunt, which calls for a man to impersonate a woman. Sid Chaplin (brother of Charlie), Jose Ferrer, Jack Benny, Ray Bolger, are a'few of the performers who played this role to the hilt.

We all know about "Some Like It Hot" in which Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon were excellent in female garb.

Lew Lehr, Georgie Jessel, Bobby Clark are also known for having played as "dames" in the Ziegfield Follies, George White Scandals and other revues of the day.

In the early 1930's, the art of mimicry started to descend. The stars dimmed. The Depression came upon us and while people needed to laugh, female impersonators just could not provide the type of humor that was needed. The warring 1940's killed off more demand for such forms of entertainment. These days, female impersonators have a small, select audience. It is hoped that a revival will appear.

MIMICS IN MODERN TIMES

The public is ever hungry for something new. Ever since the days when mimics were headliners and found in virtually every city's vaudeville theatre, the public has been interested in this "different" form of entertainment. The decline only intensified the search for the rapidly disappearing mimic. A few of them banded together and decided to continue on in the tradition of this hundreds-of-centuries old entertainment and help it flourish again.

It came to life via the night club. Even though the vaudeville and burlesque theatres were doomed to obscurity, mimicry was reborn in the night club. New York, Washington, D.C., Miami, New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Francisco started featuring mimics. Night club owners found they were enjoying full houses because of these impersonators and they increased a 15-minute single act to a two hour show featuring over two dozen impersonators! Demand for more and more "girls" increased.

The current mimic does not usually take the role of a "boozy dame" or "Irish washerwoman." While performers prefer comedies, they demand jokes with good taste and acts that are suitable to this particular type of talent. For example, imitation is popular. Mimics will duplicate popular female stage, screen or television stars. The interpretations are in good taste and seriously portrayed.

Earlier, mimics worked singly or in a team with a partner in the male role. Modern mimics appear as singles but in an act - or in a large group as in a show or revue.

In the "heyday" of mimics, especially with Julian Eltinge, costumes consisted of long dresses, sleeves down to the wrists, flowery hats which were all period items. Today, mimics wear gowns with plunging necklines, strapless sheaths, two-piece swim suits and bikinis—and look more feminine than the real girls, themselves! Modern mimics have more courage in exposing more bare flesh than their predecessors and credit must be given to them for this daring step. But, of course, they have great genius in completing the illusion of femininity: dressed or undressed.

BECOMING A MIMIC

The growing popularity of mimics in modern times is increasing the demand for new faces and bodies. Is it easy to be an impersonator? Well, not only do you have to be able to successfully dress, act and think like a female, but you must be talented in the field of voice, acting, dancing. This is no easy task. Masquerade involves more. It demands a complete transformation in body and mind. Makeup must be flawless. (And this is probably the most difficult of all talents!) Your features must be completely feminine or the entire transformation is a flop.

Even when you are perfectly disguised as a female, you cannot walk out on stage and just fool around. You must *entertain* your audience as well as *astonish* them. You have to develop whatever latent talents you possess and utilize them to the fullest. No other field of entertainment is so demanding. For, if you are deficient in entertaining your audience, your entire appearance becomes a sham and humiliation. You will be jeered off the stage.

Most mimics find spots in the night clubs and resort hotels catering to this form of entertainment. A mimic usually performs thrice nightly. The last performance is around midnight. Since you will perform before the "supper club set," your act must be built around the theme that life begins at midnight. Your audience is a hard one! They do not like the usual "drinking crowd" night spots no matter how good the show may be. They have come to your particular night club because they want something unusual, something different, something that is entertaining, astonishing and exhilarating. Anything short of this will leave them flat. If they want ordinary entertainment they can get it in any night club.

Furthermore, during Julian Eltinge's time, vaudeville was a family affair. Today, the modern mimic must aim to entertain adults. Youngsters are left out of it. Your audience is the night clubbing adult who is found in densely populated areas and big cities. Resort areas are good, too. New York, Miami, Reno, Las Vegas, Los Angeles are popular sites for mimics.

An impersonator's revue must start off with a bang and keep going; the audience must be fully enchanted and entertained by the clever ruse until the curtain rings down the final act. The quality of the entertainment must be on the same talented level as that of any major television or motion picture appearance with mixed groups. The only difference (and it is some big difference) is that the audience knows the gorgeous redhead singing at the microphone or the precision chorus of dancing girls are all he-men!

A typical show consists of a singing glamour girl; she must be dressed in the height of fashion and be a true clothes horse. Most impersonators have falsetto voices but the "girl" who has a true and natural soprano or feminine voice will be a headliner. Following are some comics to tickle the fancies of those who like to have a good laugh. Then are included several extravagant spectacles that are complete with shimmering costumes, golden sandals, mischievous wigs. All should create the illusion of perfect and complete femininity with just the slightest hint of masculinity.

One extremely popular act is a flashback to the good old days. The mimic becomes a flapper, does a Charleston. Or "she" may do a take off on Mae West during the Gold Rush Days. This is always sure to bring down the house, but it has to be excellently handled.

A mimic show just is not a mimic show unless it has a good toe dancing act. The mimic must have slender grace, be able to wear tights to show off a smoothly sculptured figure, and be good on the toes. Remember that you face an extremely critical audience; perhaps,



the most critical one in any part of show business. Your costumes, makeup, act, voice and everything else must be absolutely perfect. The slightest flaw will loom up to cause disappointment and embarrassment.

Yes, impersonating is an art of show business that may soon prove to be a gold mine to the clever producer who wakes up to this fact. Millions of theatre goers and TV viewers are getting tired with westerns, courtroom cases, soap operas, hootenanny music, panels, political discussions and news, news, news. The public wants entertainment! That's where the mimic comes in. 4 TYPES OF IMPERSONATORS

There are different types of impersonators just as there are various techniques in all forms of show business. Let's see how diversified a mimic can be, depending upon his abilities, of course. After all, you can't make a silk stocking out of a wool sock!

1. Guys as funny dolls. Everyone loves a clown or funny doll - the buffoon is one of the oldest forms of entertainment. But the clown who wears skirts and skyscraper high heels will bring down the house in riotous laughter. It's just too, too much! Nearly all masquerade balls, parades, social benefits, fraternity hops, Shriners' celebrations, Halloween blow-outs have clowns wearing dresses. Just the appearance of a femme buffoon is enough to make "her" the life of the party which might otherwise have been a flop. Even some kids' television shows feature this form of impersonation which is passed off as humor.

A funny doll is usually garbed in a discarded house dress, wig made of a rag mop, a plumed hat, a toolarge purse. His makeup is smeared and exaggerated. He looks terribly stupid and just a scream! Some mimics will carry the clown act further by putting on a grass skirt and Hawaiian leis around the neck. A few clumsy, clownish attempts to do a hula hula dance will surely bring down the house. The finale comes when the clown steps on a still smouldering cigarette butt with his bare foot!

Most funny dolls prefer the sec-

ond form of clowning which is quite serious and sincere. The mimic makes a complete transformation; the wig must be of the smoothest and life-like qualities. Costumes must be elaborate and flattering but not gaudy or unbelievable. Spiked high heels should be dancing with life. The mimic is bound into a figure training garment (padding, of course, to give the illusion of a lovely bosom complete with shadowy cleavage); then makeup must be flawless to create the picture of excellent grooming that befits a Hollywood queen. Thus attired, the fully dressed femme mimic attends the party, masquerade show or ball and assumes the complete personality of a female. This type of "clown" is actually a serious interpretation that may be regarded as funny during a celebration but will draw a well-deserved share of praise and flattery.

The New Orleans Mardi Gras celebration is known for having such exquisitely gowned creatures as part of its parade. The Mummers Parade in Philadelphia on New Year's Day is another opportunity for displaying impersonating talents. Watch such parades and you'll see countless impersonators in a feminine movement as they mince along to the rhythm of the music. The floats are adorned with these beautiful "boys" as girls. They win prizes. Many of them are so adept at assuming feminine mannerisms with their lovely gowns, heavenly scents and coquettish grace that the "real girls" are bitter with envy.

2. Transvestism. No discussion of impersonation would be adequate without understanding transvestism - a form of aberrational behaviour in which a male must dress as a female and thus assume the complete feminine personality in every respect. It is regarded as eccentric because this compulsion is often linked to the sexual instinct. (A full understanding will be found in Transvestism Today by Edward Podolsky, M.D., and Carlson Wade.) Transvestism is usually carried on in private; often in lonely solitude. The transvestite yearns to wear feminine clothes throughout the day and not just for the purpose of

entertainment. He feels unhappy with male clothes.

We have many cross-dressers among us but they keep their secret so closely guarded, it is difficult to arrive at any reasonable estimate. Noted sexologists such as Havelock Ellis, Krafft-Ebing, Freud, Kinsey have gone into detail about this strange form of behaviour. Cross-dressers are rich, poor, young, old, married, single, exclusively heterosexual, or they may be bisexual and there are some homosexuals but these are in the minority. This is often realized with surprise which indicates how lack of knowledge about transvestism has given rise to so much misunderstanding.

Unlike the female impersonator who is proud of his ability to masquerade as a female, the cross dresser hides his garments from all others and will occasionally "doll himself up" for an evening all to himself or with a very close friend. Very few dare to risk exposure by going into public. Some do, however, but their masquerade must be very deceptive to avoid being exposed.

Such cross-dressers are experts with selecting proper dresses, wigs, make-up, accessories. There must be no exaggeration. The crossdresser must be able to walk, talk and look just like a woman. There have been some transvestites who fear exposure through a masculine voice and therefore carry little printed cards stating they are deaf mutes! Some carry false identification so even if they are caught, they hope to delude authorities.

The transvestite cares little about expense when it comes to satisfaction of this longing. He will spend as much as is needed for the best gowns, silk stockings, sheer lingerie, skyscraper heels, ermine wraps, muffs, velvet gloves. We may also safely say that many nervous young men who go to department stores for lingerie or feminine apparel for "the wives" are actually buying these items for themselves. Mailorder houses such as Montgomery Ward, Sears Roebuck and those you see advertised in leading women's magazines are other outlets for the shy transvestite. It's much easier to

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Cross-dressers are often dissatisfied with being males and would love to be changed into the weaker sex. Not all cross-dressers are this way. (Personally, I have met numerous weight lifters and brawny factory workers who secretly dress as females and enjoy this transformation but not to the point of desiring a sex change.) But a good many would be glad to have a change.

Such cross-dressers are frustrated and unhappy; they hate themselves with self-pity because they are not feminine. There have been some suicides reported but these are in the minority. Many transvestites are married, fathers, and regarded as respected members of the community. Their secret is safe. Their families may not even know the truth.

Much material is published in the form of photographs, magazines, books, pamphlets, etc., based on transvestism. This indicates the high percentage of people interested in the subject.

It is important to understand that transvestism and female impersonation are *not* one and the same! The first is regarded as an eccentric form of behavior. The second is a form of theatricalism which is also profitable. Yes, I agree that many cross-dressers are also impersonators but there is still a difference between these two forms of mimicry.

3. Criminals and spies. It is rare, indeed, to read of a female impersonator (or transvestite) who commits a crime or any immoral act! But there are occasional instances when a man will dress as a female for the sole purpose of committing a crime. Unfortunately, this creates a bad impression on the entire profession of female impersonators.

Stories have appeared in the papers of men who wore skirts and blouses as a means of disguising their true identities — bank robbers. In fact, some robberies were committed by "women" who, when apprehended, turned out to be men!

One story reported the capture, during World War II, of a German woman – who turned out to be a male Nazi. He disguised himself in feminine garb to delude his wouldbe captors. Other spies also don female clothes in assignments where great risk is involved yet the appearance of a male is unwise - so they strike the happy medium.

Art critics repeatedly declare that daVinci's model for Mona Lisa was a boy! DaVinci, being a mischievous practical joker, wanted to create an eternal hoax. He took a young boy, garbed him as a female, told him to smile and then painted the immortal Mona Lisa, complete with wig and all. The enigmatic smile was that of the boy knowing he was achieving posterity as a girl!

4. The professional impersonator. Let's dim the houselights. The bright spotlights jump over the stage, searching. The orchestra strikes up a lively rhythm. The stage is suddenly caught up with bright lights. A lovely blonde is on the stage. She dances to the music. Everyone is transfixed. Her body is exhilarating. She has the most beautiful legs and the softest bare shoulders. Her figure becomes motionless in a graceful pose. The cymbals clash. Everyone gasps. Wolf whistles echo through the theatre or night club. The lovely dancing girl reaches upward, pulls her wig from her head. She is a man! The audience is stunned! But they love this ruse and thrill at this unusual form of entertainment. It's as different as different can be!

The professional entertainer must be a "female" when wearing an offthe-shoulder gown. When lifting up her gown, "she" shows beautiful, shapely legs. The hosiery is exquisite with perfectly straight seams. A sparkling floral-patterned, diamond-studded garter is teasingly just above one knee. Each step should be feminine. As "she" stands before the microphone, "she" blinks her elongated false eyelashes, looks flirtatious, and in a surprisingly feminine voice, declares, "This is only a sample of what's coming!"

And so, the show goes on. The evening's entertainment usually includes a few playlets, some musical production numbers, toe dancing impressionists, clowning and just a lot of good, wholesome fun reminiscent of the happy days of the variety show.

As stated earlier, the professional impersonator has a difficult task. Not only must each costume be original (no carbon copies in this field!) but there must be complete femininity. A masculine jaw or 5 o'clock shadow has to be completely disguised. Eyebrows need to be shaped to meet facial contours. The figure must be neat, well-shaped. Calories *do* count, after all. Songs must be of the latest. Nothing "old hat" is allowed in this form of entertainment.

QUO VADIS MIMIC?

Mimic, what of the future? It is true that this vital part of show business has been neglected because of public misunderstanding. The impersonator is looked upon as being "weird," or "bizarre" or laughingly called a "character." This attitude has made it an uphill road for the mimic who is determined to continue in his artistic endeavor which is an established form of entertainment.

Performers in the films, television, stage, even sports may get into scandalous trouble and while there are many gossiping tongues, there does not appear to be much ridicule of the profession, in general.

But let one female impersonator make a slight mistake, then the entire profession is taken to task and held up as an object of scorn. Newspapers, gossip columns and others who want to achieve readership are quick to build up any mishap into a gigantic scandal when it befalls a mimic. The entire profession is hurt by the slightest error of just a few . . . and the few heretics are very few, indeed.

Numerous night club owners are most cooperative and buck opposition by presenting female impersonators as frequently as the public wants to pay to see them. Several revues and shows are now making tours of the country. Their determined attitudes should offer inspiration and courage to others who are timid and passive. A high standard of entertainment is developing and those who have hope and stamina will become part of this world of the future.



With legs like these, Kitt Rogers has a head-start on most of the would-be mimics.

DO-IT-YOURSELF KITT



A playful newcomer to the game of impersonation, talented and torridly inclined Kitt Rogers believes in the do-it-vourself approach to sex transformation. Admittedly still an amateur, Kitt has devised his own techniques and procedures for the change-over. The first thing Kitt did was to conduct a whole series of private experiments with lipstick and eye-shadow until he had the hang of using these aids with the sparseness necessary to achieve true femininity while avoiding the garish effects amateurs so frequently fall into the trap of accepting. Next Kitt tested the attractiveness of those purely feminine undergarments which are a "must" to the accomplishments of womanizing oneself. Corsalet, garter-belt, carefully prepared padded bra featuring all the details of the female bosom, silk stockings, etc. - these were the items Kitt concentrated on for snug fit and maximum appeal. Nor was he content to accept a costume which was merely appropriate from the front. No indeed! Not Kitt! A perfectionist, he checked both undies and outer clothing from all angles, being quite particular as to the lingerie allure of the derriere - this being perhaps the one thing which most separates the expert transvestite from the mere dilletante dabbling at masquerading. Satisfied with the rear effect of silk netting, Kitt then checked once again to make sure those stocking seams were straight. Then, on went the dress, and Kitt was truly ready to face the world as a woman!



Just 19 years old, Kitt has been experimenting with the props and devices of female impersonation since he was 16 years of age. However, it's strictly a hobby with him and he has no ambition towards a career.



KITT HAS ALL OF THE NATURAL ENDOWMENTS NEEDED TO MAKE THE GENDER CHANGE CONVINCING!







Conscientiously, Kitt molded the falsies himself to be sure that they were true to female form.

Front and back, Kitt personifies the successful transformation. Figurewise, he might well be envied by more experienced and mature mimics.









