

ALL HAIL "THE QUEEN"

"Funny—and inspired—extraordinary in their Atlantic City of Genet—in their Forest Hills of drag—these gentlemen in bras, diaphanous gowns, lipstick, hairfalls and huffs—discussing their husband in the military in Japan, or describing their own problems with the draft—one grows fond of all of them." —Renata Adler, N. Y. Times



"The transvestite aura with fascinating, gripping detail! It is a unique phenomenon."

—William Wolf, Cue



"Extremely sensitive, serious picture!"

—Kathleen Carroll, Daily News



"'The Queen' is a beautiful film; its sensational and shocking subject matter is treated with such sensibility, taste and compassion."

—Judith Crist, New York Magazine



"It has to be seen to be believed!"

—Robert Salmaggi, WINS

the Queen

Si Litvinoff-Vineyard Films—
MDH Enterprises Production
Executive Producers:
Lewis M. Allen and John Maxtone-Graham
Produced by Si Litvinoff and Don Herbert
An Evergreen Film
Presented by Grove Press
Directed by Frank Simon

in color

ADVERTISING

SYNOPSIS

This documentary film shows a bevy of female impersonators preparing for and performing in the drag "Miss All-American" contest of 1967. It is narrated by Jack ("Sabrina") Doroshow, the pageant's director and "Mistress or Ceremonies," whose protege, a beautiful 18-year-old named Richard ("Miss Harlow") Finocchio, is one of the chief participants. Unlike so many other recent films on the gay life, THE QUEEN is carefully edited and well photographed (in color), and, more importantly, not a pathetic exploration—or glorification—of homosexuals, but a sympathetic exploration of real people.

THE QUEEN—A TRANVESTITE BEAUTY CONTEST IN CINEMA VERITE

The Queen—"Miss All-American of 1967"—is the crowned winner of a pageant of female impersonators from all parts of the United States (the participants call it "the Nationals"). The film begins as Jack Doroshow, called "Sabrina" in Gayety, phones his mother to invite her to the contest, which Sabrina has organized and over which she will preside as Mistress of Ceremonies. Also introduced are Richard ("Miss Harlow"), Sabrina's beautiful 18-year-old protege, and Joe, the pageant's assistant director. Jack calls a meeting of several participants to order and announces a few ground rules: a male attendant will take away any contestant's garments removed during the performance—dropping one's clothes smacks of a striptease, and this pageant eschews the leering and sensational—and any girl who proves uncooperative will be punished. The contestants are judged as follows: 5 points each for walking, talking, bathing-suit competition, gown and make-up and hairdo, and 10 points for beauty.

As the participants prepare for the contest, we learn more about them as female impersonators and as individuals. Some are boyishly fair-skinned; others have heavy beards. The number of New York accents is expected; the number of Southern accents is not. Some look like homely young men, some like beautiful young women, and some both. In the club-like atmosphere of their hotel rooms, all discuss their homosexuality with disarming charm and a sense of humor. Most seem politically right-of-center, expressing the desire to join the army, as one black queen says, "to protect the country"; some have "husbands" in the Army. They appear cheerfully resigned to their status as an in-group of outcasts and are wary of the sex-change operation. Their conversations exclude the air of a girls' social, but without the bitchiness.

The selection of gowns, rehearsals (the production number is to be "You're A Grand Old Flag") and making-up are finally completed, and the night of the pageant, to be held at Town Hall in New York, has arrived. There is a small crisis: Harlow's fall was not sent from Philadelphia; a few frantic phone calls avert a larger one. The Miss All-American Pageant of 1967 begins with Sabrina introducing the contestants to an audience that has paid \$15 per seat. Mario Montez, a guest star with acting credits in several Andy Warhol musical-comedies, belts out "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend." The judges include Warhol, Terry Southern, Edie Sedgwick, Larry Rivers, etc. The bathing-suit competition (while the band plays "Am I Blue?") and the song-and-dance performances earn much applause, leading to the evening's climax.

The five finalists are announced: Miss Sonya (Boston), Miss Harlow (Philadelphia), Miss Emory (New Jersey), Miss Alfonse (Chicago) and Miss Crystal (Manhattan)

CREDITS

Grove Press Presents Si Litvinoff • The Vineyard Films MDH Enterprises Production of THE QUEEN • An Evergreen Film • Directed by Frank Simon

CONSULTANT—Sidney Meyers • NARRATOR—Jack Doroshow

PRODUCERS—Si Litvinoff and Don Herbert

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS—Lewis M. Allen and John Maxtone-Graham

PHOTOGRAPHERS—Frank Simon

SOUNDMEN—Sven Lukin

Ken Van Sickle
Robert Elfstrom
Alfonse Schilling
Joseph Zysman

Gwen Brown
Nigel Noble

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR—Sven Lukin

EDITORS—Fred Shore and Geraldine Fabrikant

IN COLOR

RUNNING TIME: 68 MINUTES

ALL HAIL the Queen!

"Funny—and inspired—extraordinary—in their Atlantic City of Genet—in their Forest Hills of drag—these gentlemen in bras, diaphanous gowns, lipstick, hairfalls and huffs—discussing their husbands in the military in Japan, or describing their own problems with the draft—one grows fond of all of them."—Renata Adler, N. Y. Times

"the Queen is a beautiful film; its sensational and shocking subject matter is treated with such sensibility, taste and compassion."

—Judith Crist, New York Magazine

"The film presents a controlled, artfully balanced reality. the Queen makes you wonder because it has been made with an intelligence so sensitive and secure that it need never underline a 'right' attitude. It is superb."

—Martin Gottfried, Women's Wear Daily

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"FUNNY...INSPIRED... EXTRAORDINARY! ONE GROWS FOND OF ALL OF THEM!" —N.Y. TIMES

the Queen
IN COLOR

T H E A T R E

2 cols. x 2 inches - 56 lines

Mat 201

3 cols. x 11 inches - 462 lines

Mat 303

CAST

Flawless Sabrina Jack Doroshow
Miss Manhattan Crystal
Miss Philadelphia Harlow
and other beauty queens from the transvestite world

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"The Queen' is a stone gas!"—Da Latimer, East Village Other

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T H E A T R E

3 cols. x 5 inches — 210 lines

Mat 301

"THE QUEEN' IS A STONE GAS!"
—DA LATIMER, EAST VILLAGE OTHER

"FUNNY, INSPIRED, EXTRA-ORDINARY! ONE GROWS FOND OF ALL OF THEM!"
—RENATA ADLER, N. Y. TIMES
"A BEAUTIFUL FILM; ITS SENSATIONAL AND SHOCKING SUBJECT MATTER IS TREATED WITH SUCH SENSIBILITY, TASTE AND COMPASSION!"

—JUDITH CRIST, NEW YORK MAGAZINE



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T H E A T R E

2 cols. x 7¼ inches — 204 lines

Mat 205

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IN COLOR

T H E A T R E



2 cols. x 4 inches — 110 lines

Mat 204

"FUNNY, INSPIRED—EXTRAORDINARY!"
—Renata Adler, N. Y. Times

the Queen

An Evergreen Film Presented by Grove Press • COLOR

T H E A T R E

21 lines

Mat 101



"FUNNY, INSPIRED—EXTRAORDINARY!"
—N. Y. Times

the Queen

An Evergreen Film • COLOR

T H E A T R E

2 cols. x 2 inches — 56 lines

Mat 202

"FUNNY, INSPIRED—EXTRAORDINARY" in their Atlantic City of Genet—in their Forest Hills of drag—these gentlemen in bras, diaphanous gowns, lipstick, hairfalls and huffs—discussing their husbands in the military in Japan, or describing their own problems with the draft—one grows fond of all of them."
—Renata Adler, N. Y. Times

the Queen

An Evergreen Film Presented by Grove Press
Color

T H E A T R E



2 cols. x 3½ inches — 100 lines

Mat 203



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"'The Queen' is a beautiful film; its sensational and shocking subject matter is treated with such sensibility, taste and compassion that what might have been a grind-house movie emerges as an impressive human document and a finely made film as well."

—Judith Crist

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