

CATEGORY IS:
Cocktails!

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**Mixed Drinks
Inspired by
Legendary Drag
Performers**

Prestel
Munich • London • New York

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Introduction

Cocktails and drag shows go together hand in hand—like heckling at a Bianca Del Rio performance. It's a real wig-scratcher, then, that there has never been a cocktail book devoted exclusively to the Drag High Arts. Fortunately, those dark days are finally over: in these hallowed pages, you will read about some of the world's most legendary drag stars and learn to make cocktails and zero-proof drinks inspired by their storied lives and careers.

Having a cocktail created in your image is obviously the highest honor any human can receive, and some may question whether drag artists are worthy of such prestige. To these doubters we say, read on: in this book, you will learn about sixty performers who are also celebrated makeup artists, dancers, and actors. You will be awed by comedians, costume designers, community activists, and contortionists. You will toast Emmy winners, Broadway stars, and astronauts.

Okay, we have—yet!—to send a drag queen to space (when we do, hopefully Lady Bunny is available), but you get the point: drag performers are true artists. They excel in a dizzying number of fields while also helping us examine, question, and laugh at the gender norms that lead to so much misogyny, queerphobia, and transphobia—a development so threatening to some that they are literally trying to ban the art form. That a drag performer can embody all this while simultaneously cracking a poop joke seems pretty worthy of an artisanal drink, don't you think? (Honestly, Neil Armstrong could never ...)

If you've picked up this book, fellow drag lover, chances are we don't need to convince you of the art form's worthiness. Hopefully, you're even sympathetic to the difficulty we faced in narrowing down the performers included to just sixty. The weight of this responsibility was not lost on us—this book *will* make or break entire careers. But here's the Long-Island-Iced tea of it all: it would be an impossible task to perfectly



represent drag's rich history within a single book. So we didn't even try! Instead, we present just a narrow sliver of its breadth and reach, which truly spans generations, genders, and geographies.

We picked some no-brainers, like global sensations Trixie Mattel and Pablio Vittar. We also included people who paved the way for those performers' current superstardom, such as Divine, who ate literal dog shit in *Pink Flamingos* so that RuPaul could one day implore us to "work."

Speaking of Mama Ru, no book on drag could be complete without healthy representation from a little reality TV competition called *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Ours is no different, and rightfully so—the show has single-handedly mainstreamed drag, launched the careers of hundreds of queens, and inspired an entirely new generation of aspiring drag artists. It's unfortunate there has yet to be a platform of similar stature to celebrate the work of drag kings and nonbinary and genderqueer drag artists, who are just as plentiful and talented as their sisters. However, performers like Landon Cider, Sin Wai Kin, and Murray Hill are far too booked and busy to notice any lack of opportunity.

There are plenty of people in this book who have never graced the *Drag Race* main stage. These include historical figures like vaudevillian king Annie Hindle, whose drag fooled ministers into consecrating her same-sex marriage in the 1880s, and local queens like Elishahy D'witshes, known for jumping off double-decker buses on Miami's South Beach and landing in the splits. They may not be household names, but such iconic behavior *cannot* go untoasted.

Now, for a quick note on pronouns: in the eloquent words of Gottmik, "gender is stupid." Still, we have done our due diligence to use the preferred pronouns of each performer in this book. But, much like Jinkx Monsoon's sewing abilities, gender is elusive and amorphous—many artists change their preferred pronouns over time (Adore Delano once said her preferred pronoun was "pizza") or use different markers when in or out of drag. If this concept is simply too much, we have just the cocktail for you: the Old Fashioned! (Zing!)

It's a testament to drag's cultural impact and significance today that there are so many incredible artists worthy of a tribute drink. If your most beloved performer isn't included, we hope you take inspiration from this book and whip up your very own cocktail recipe to toast your fave! We implore you to consider this option before coming for us on Twitter, dear drag stans. We are very scared of you.

David Dodge and David Orton

