

PAY IT NO MIND: HOW MARSHA P JOHNSON AND OTHER QUEER BALLROOM MEMBERS ALIKE UTILIZED ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AS A FORM OF RESISTANCE

Civil Rights History





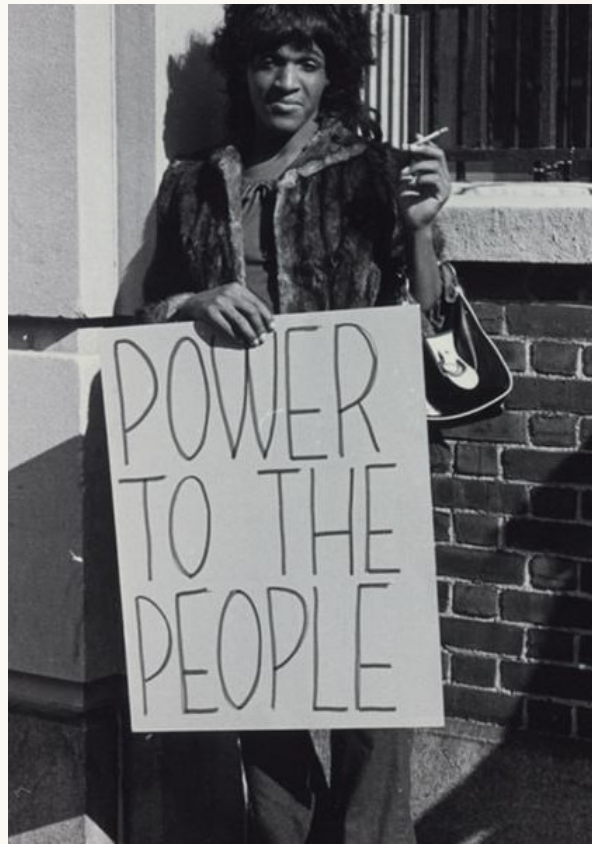


WHAT IS BALLROOM?

An underground LGBTQ+ subculture that originated in the 19th and mid-20th centuries, providing a safe space for creative expression, community, and competition.

THESIS

The queer ballroom scene functioned as a form of postcolonial resistance to state over-policing through performance, community-building, and artistic expression.



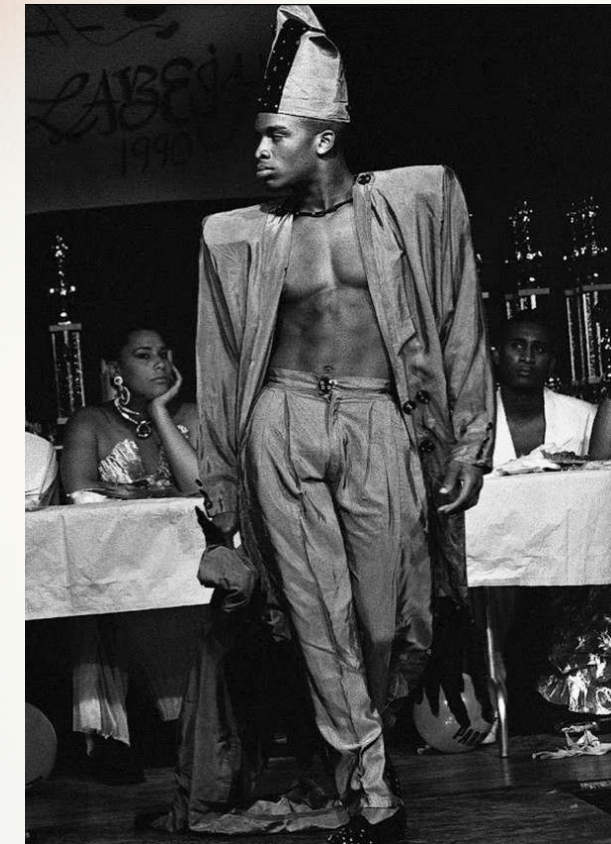
PART I

Marsha P Johnson:
activist and performer



PART II

Policing Personal
Expression



PART III

History of performance
protest



MARSHA "PAY IT NO MIND" JOHNSON

Marsha moved to New York City with one bag of clothes and \$15

She faced many difficulties, including finding employment, Johnson turned to sex work. She was often abused by clients and arrested by the police.

In 1970, Johnson and Rivera founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR),

POLICING SELF-EXPRESSION

Anti-Masquerade Laws (3 Article Rule)

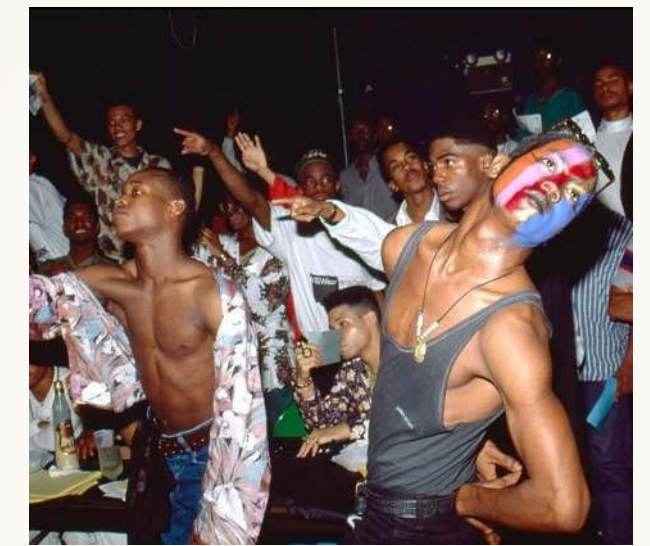
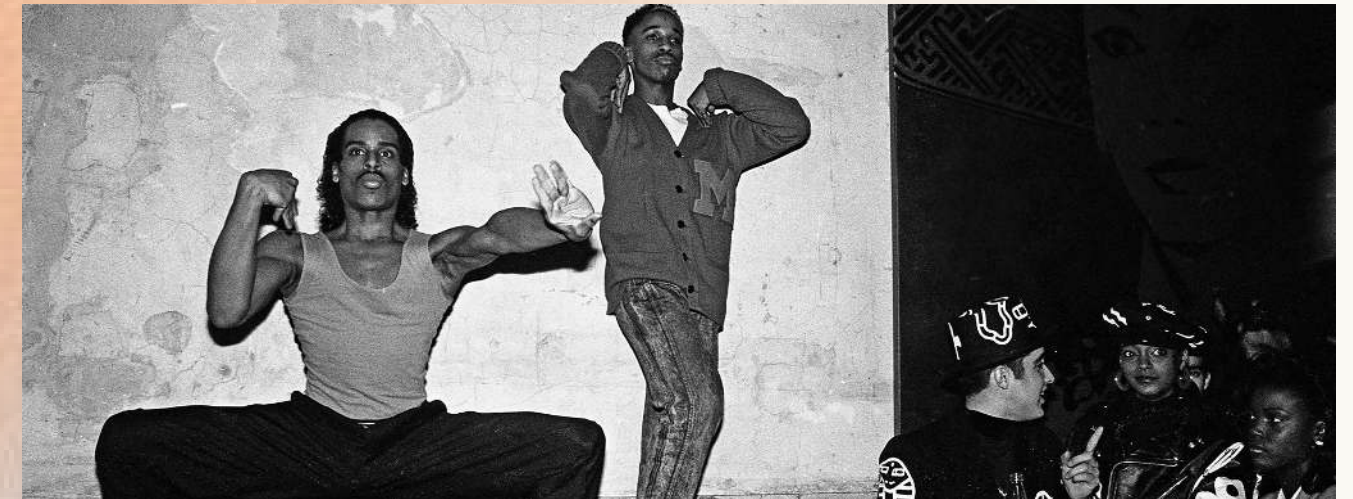
- New York's, dating back to 1845, was one of the oldest. It declared it a crime to have your "face painted, discolored, covered, or concealed, or [be] otherwise disguised... [while] in a road or public highway."

Walking While Trans Ban

- Officially known as "loitering for the purpose of prostitution"

Others included prostitution, public nuisance, disorderly conduct, liquor licenses, etc.



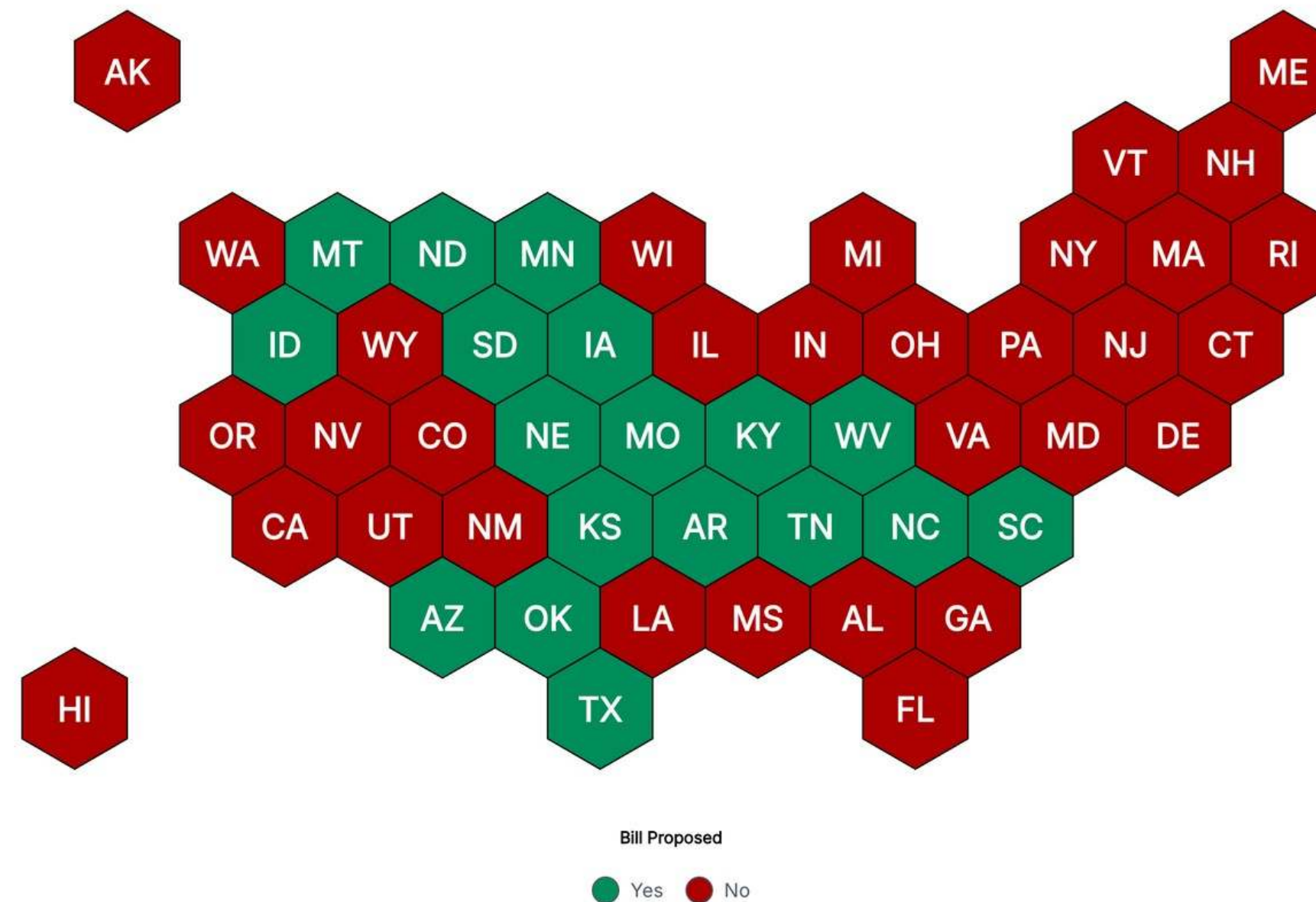


PERFORMANCE PROTEST

1869: First queer masquerade ball
1920s-30s: Harlem Renaissance
1960s-80s: From balls to house battles

CONCLUSION: TODAY'S REGRESSION

Drag Performance Laws by State 2025



<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/drag-performance-laws-by-state>