

Tick, tick, tick, it's the...

THE DRAG EXPLOSION

A Slideshow Extravaganza of New York City's Drag Scene
from the Late 1980s to the mid 1990s

Photos and Narration by LINDA SIMPSON



A glorious queendom rules once more in *The Drag Explosion*, an enlightening and educational photographic time capsule of NYC's momentous drag scene from the late 1980s to the mid '90s. All photos were shot by longtime drag personality Linda Simpson, back when film ruled and it was the exception to hobnob with a camera.

During this time of remarkable growth and surge in popularity for New York's wiggy subculture, Linda took hundreds of just-for-fun snapshots—vivid and intimate portraits of the most colorful characters of their day as they joyfully pushed the boundaries of gender expression.

Viewers are transported back to the underground East Village (including the legendary Pyramid Club and the drag festival Wigstock), nightlife adventures galore (at Limelight, Palladium and other mega-clubs), and the Drag Explosion itself, circa 1992, when the mass media "discovered" drag, and Gotham's queenly sorority emerged as pop-culture darlings. It was an era that changed the world of drag forever.

The Drag Explosion is a multi-media project, launched in July, 2013.

The website, TheDragExplosion.com, includes a sample of Linda's photos.



Experience *THE DRAG EXPLOSION*

As a Live Presentation—For Your Campus,
Arts Festival, Conference or Museum Venue



Linda presenting *The Drag Explosion* at NYC's Participant Gallery.

As a live presentation, *The Drag Explosion* is a series of short slideshows, each about five minutes long and each with its own theme. As Linda narrates, the slideshows create an overall story and history of a trailblazing subculture.

At TheDragExplosion.com, you can get an idea of Linda's live presentation by listening to her narrate the photo album "[Magical Queendom](#)"

Themes include *LGBT and Queer History; Performance Art; Gender Identity and Expression; Sexuality; AIDS and Queer Activism*

*The entire presentation, including an introduction, is about 50 minutes.

*Equipment needs are a slide projector, sound system and a microphone.

*The show can be tailored somewhat, such as an abbreviated or longer version. Linda is happy to participate in Q&A sessions.

*The show is PG-rated. Some of the images display (Gasp!) racy attire.

*The presentation has been shown at such venues as NYC's Participant Gallery and Dixon Place performance space, and at the New York Art Book Fair at MoMA PS1.

LINDA SIMPSON

Since the late 1980s, Linda has been one of NYC's most multi-faceted drag queens. Her career includes promoting and hosting nightlife events galore; publishing "the revolutionary gay magazine" *My Comrade*; hosting the groundbreaking cable TV show *Party Talk*; and writing, producing and starring in four plays (at P.S. 122, La MaMa and the Laurie Beechman). Over the past several years, her wildly popular Bingos have entertained throngs of players.

Her website is LindaSimpson.org.

Known for her witty demeanor, fine-tuned camp sensibility and unique blend of sass and class, Linda embraces the role she was born to play—a reigning queen!

Linda is proud to be a role model for modern youth and an enthusiastic champion of the avant-garde.

LINDA'S PRESS MENTIONS INCLUDE:

"A worldly wit... A kind of mother superior of the New York drag scene."

—*The New York Times*

"The thinking woman's drag queen."

—*Paper Magazine*

"Linda Simpson quotes and quips for the quality-seeking queer in all of us."

—*Genre Magazine*

LATEST NEWS!

*Linda's debut photo book, *PAGES*, a tribute to her captivating transgender friend Page, hits bookstands in October, 2013.

*A 50-photo slideshow by Linda's male alter-ego, Les Simpson, was included in the acclaimed exhibit, "NYC, c. 1985," at ClampArt gallery (May–June, 2013).



Press Mentions for *THE DRAG EXPLOSION*

"In her gender-bending photographs, Simpson depicts a revolutionary generation that changed the world with every party." —*The Huffington Post*

"What makes Simpson's work so unexpected is that she catches her subjects at spontaneous poses, in impromptu snapshots, and covert candid. The project is so natural, it feels more like a family album than a historical record." —*DangerousMinds*

"Not only a celebratory tour through a bygone era of drag led by Simpson's witty commentary, Drag Explosion is undoubtedly an important archive of an undeniably influential period of drag, performance and queer culture." —*FilthyDreams*



Linda's presentation of *The Drag Explosion* at Dixon Place in *Next Magazine*.

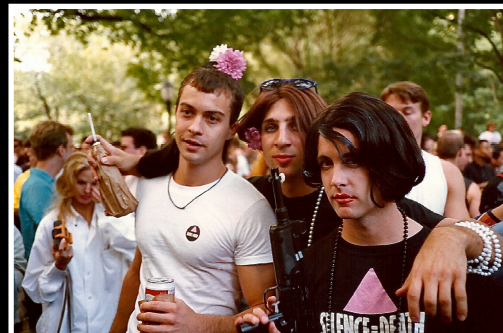
"Drag personality Linda Simpson was at the center of New York's blossoming drag scene from the late '80s to the mid '90s. While hobnobbing with some of our city's greatest queens, she took candid photos of parties, festivals and kiki's galore."

—*Paper Magazine*

"For all you Drag Race fans, this is one show you won't want to miss—
Linda is legendary. R.E.S.P.E.C.T." —*Gay Letter*

"Fascinating, terrifying, hysterical, and ultimately incredibly poignant." —*WOW Report*

Booking Information for *THE DRAG EXPLOSION*



There's no better way to enjoy *The Drag Explosion* than Linda Simpson narrating slideshows of her many photos. This vivid outsider history appeals to all ages—and all types of drag enthusiasts, from casual observers to dedicated DQ historians.

To Book *THE DRAG EXPLOSION*
Please contact linda@lindasimpson.org

