

Documenting Queer Performance on the Texas A&M University Campus

FRANCESCA MARINI, PhD

Abstract

This paper introduces, and invites feedback on, a new study that will focus on documenting Queer performance on the Texas A&M University campus; the study is the beginning of a larger project examining student-led performance. The Coming Out Monologues and Draggieland (a Drag performance contest) are the focus of this qualitative study, which aims at documenting these yearly events and the stakeholders involved, through in-depth interviews and the analysis of existing sources. The paper introduces the two events, presents the study's context, approach and research questions, and discusses possible challenges, as well as future research.

About the author:

Dr. *Francesca Marini* (she/her) is a tenured Associate Professor at Texas A&M University, School of Performance, Visualization and Fine Arts; she teaches courses on various topics, including aesthetics of activism, devised theatre, and arts documentation. She holds a doctorate in Library and Information Science (UCLA), a master's degree in Archival Studies (Modena State Archives), and a bachelor's degree in Film and Theatre Studies (University of Bologna). Her research focuses on performing arts documentation and archiving and on theatre history, as well as on special collections and archives outreach. Prior to her current role, Dr. Marini worked in the Texas A&M University Libraries-Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, and also served as Director of Archives at the Stratford Festival (Canada) and as Assistant Professor of Archival Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Dr. Marini is an active member of several professional and scholarly associations (serving on several committees, and in leadership roles), including the Theatre Library Association, the Society of American Archivists' Exhibits and Events Committee (E2), and the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS). Dr. Marini serves on the committee of the Cushing Library's Don Kelly Collection of Gay Literature and Culture Research Fellowship.