



**Episode #4: The Evolution of Drag with
Edna Jean Robinson (Part 1 of our
What is Drag? Series)
SHOW NOTES**



Drag for me was always about character ... It was about the experience. The nuances of life. — Richard D. Curtain

INTRO

SO MUCH GOODNESS in this first interview! We talk drag. We talk controversy. We talk William and Kathy Griffin. We talk talent and pageants. We talk about it all. Even Donald Trump. We talked so much that i had to cut our interview into two parts. Here's part one. Enjoy!

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Drag being about a character a la its theater origins 11:07
- Drag persona and character development/ character breakdown (THIS IS GOLD!) 13:41
- Drag persona as an extension of the self vs. character develop 15:34
- Wiliam's Trans comments 20:09
- Kathy Griffin political art 21:00
- How drag has evolved 23:00 + 25:45
- Drag mirroring burlesque 29:08
- Pageant systems being created and added from a community need 31:15
- **"The greatest evolution of drag is that there are so many people doing it"** 32:56
- The future of drag is ALL-INCLUSIVE 34:13
- What drag is about NOW 35:25

BUILDING A DRAG CHARACTER

*The first thing I did with Edna Jean was I gave her an identity. I came up with her name then I drove around Ardmore, Oklahoma and I found out what school she went to. Where she worked. Her place of worship. ... And I gave her things to do, accomplishments. I gave her a life. I put her in different scenarios. I gave her an identity with real things that happened in Ardmore **and I wrote it all down.** — Richard Curtain*

BIGGEST MISTAKE

Not allowing my different looks to have different personalities and different names. I was told really early ... you can't have more than one name. You can only have one name ... I wish I was more steadfast in keeping their names solid. — Richard Curtain

THE MANY FACES OF RICHARD CURTAIN



Thanksgiving photo of Richard and his family of characters: [Edna Jean Robinson](#) + Elizabeth Robinson + Loretta Jones Robinson + Bubba

HOW HE HAS SEEN DRAG EVOLVE

One of the biggest things that changed is to secure bookings you had to compete in pageants.
— Richard Curtain

Some people are highly skilled at being creative and being good in the show but are horrible in pageants. And some people are highly skilled and great in pageants that are terrible in a show.
— Richard Curtain

The greatest evolution of drag that has happened is that there are so many people doing it. When you look at not just the different kinds pageants but the need for the pageants — because now we have King now we have Diva — all these things are a certain mark. And if you go to that mark when these things were created and go to the previous five years you can see the development of the need. — Richard Curtain

MIND FUCKING BLOWN!!! — me ;)

Does drag include girls who don't have a penis? My answer is absolutely. The future wants her included and not only the future, the community at large wants her included. And the future wants the king included and the boys included and everyone who is participating in what we are doing in the drag community. — Richard Curtain

You can't fit drag into a little box anymore. It's not dresses as girl anymore or dressed roll as girl. It's bigger. It's about the donning of alternative clothing, makeup, and costumes. It can really be so many things. — Richard Curtain

My greatest advice to people is to write down exactly what it is that you want to accomplish. — Richard Curtain

OUTRO

That was part I of my interview with Edna.

Part II will drop Wednesday Sept. 5th.

After listening to this episode, I realized that this is a way bigger conversation than just a 2 part conversation with one person. So keep your ears peeled because this topic of What is drag and how we define it will be coming up in future episodes.

Different guests. Same question. I really believe that that's the way to find our own answers just keep asking. Just keep digging.

And if you love our show, consider tipping your MC, sound editors, and creators via our Patreon. You can be a part of the show and support our movement, #WEAREDRAG for just a \$1 a month.

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That's our show for today beautiful dragsters! Thank you to my guest May May for sitting through all my questions and outbursts of love and adoration — because there were a few.

And of course thank you to YOU!

For listening. For sharing your art. For doing drag your way. Or for loving it for the diverse spectrum it is. Don't forget to subscribe to our show via iTunes and while you're at drop me a like and or a review or two.

Whatever it is you do, keep doing you. Remember your otherness is your power. And go forth and be the slay you wish to see . . . flawlessly. Drag on, bitches!

THINGS MENTIONED

[Drag University - THE online school of drag](#)

[#wearedrag YouTube channel](#)

Devin Dame & Gage Gatlyn - [Gatlyn Dame Group](#)

Thank you Dana!!!!

[The Drag Show Podcast Patreon](#)

[Pitiful Bitch Episode](#)

[Layla LaRue](#) + [Images](#)

[The late Whitney Paige](#)

[Willam's trans comments](#) + her [?apology?](#) YOU DECIDE (and let us know in the comments!)

[Kathy Griffin controversial art](#)

[Rose Room](#)

[The late Tandi Andrews](#) + [Images](#)

[Miss Gay America](#)

Started in 1972

[Miss Gay USofA](#)

Started in 1986

[Miss Gay USofA at Large](#)

Started 1989

[Miss Gay USofA Classic](#)

Started in 2003

Aurora Sexton

[FB Profile](#) + [Images](#)

Asia O'Hara

[FB Profile](#) + [Images](#)

Brandi Amara Skyy

[Website](#) + [Images](#)

The late Erica Andrews

[Images](#)

Krystal Summers

[FB Profile](#) + [Images](#) + [TDSP EP 01](#)

Mimi Marks

[FB Profile](#) + [Images](#)