

# BOSS IS MAYA RITCHEY

ReelYouth Community Stories, 2020.

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## **Synopsis:**

Drag performer Maya Ritchey shares her insights about gender expression, drag, performance art, and the queer community.

## **Run Time:**

5:55

## **Suggested Grades:**

10+

## **The Takeaway/ Learning Objectives:**

Drag isn't just for cis gay men, and doesn't just involve hyper-femininity. Drag is a way to play with gender expression, creativity, and performance; anyone can do drag!

## **Content Flags:**

## **Keywords:**

Queer, gender, gender expression, gender performane, drag, youth, documentary

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## Pre-viewing Questions:

- What are some ways we perform gender day-to-day?  
Our gender expression might look very different if not for external influences and expectations. Our gender identity may be one factor in how we choose to present ourselves, but societal ideas of gender can also be a factor. In other words, we may choose our gender expression based on how we want to be perceived rather than how we feel.
- What is drag? How does it relate to gender?  
Drag is playing with gender expression, usually incorporating visual art, music, dance, or other aspects of performance art. Often, people in drag are portraying an exaggerated version of gender, usually one different from their own.

## Post-Viewing Questions:

- What are some other depictions of drag you have seen? How do they differ from Maya's experience?  
Ex: RuPaul's drag race, local drag shows, Drag Storytimes, etc. Different characters, different ways of playing with gender, different target audience, etc.
- What are some reasons for doing drag?  
Ex: fun, art, experiment with gender expression, make friends, build confidence, connect with queer history, belonging and a sense of family, etc...

## Common Questions:

- How can she do drag if she's a girl?  
Drag is much more diverse than cisgender gay men dressing up as women; drag is about exploring gender expression through performance.
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## Associated Activities:

- Compare/contrast Boss is Maya Ritchey with Behind Locked Doors