

Dear

I am very concerned to see libraries advertise Drag Queen Story Hour this coming summer. Drag is highly sexualised adult entertainment, and I am shocked to see it advertised as suitable for children. Surely, if we want to teach children about diversity and tolerance, it makes more sense to have readers such as a male nurse, female firefighter or a wheelchair user.

How was the decision made for children to be in contact with drag queens, given how many are associated with explicit material? I would not expect to walk into a library to see a burlesque dancer reading to children! Drag queens are in the same adult entertainment category. An inquisitive child looking for more information on the internet is likely to be exposed to highly inappropriate material.

What I do expect from libraries is for them to have children's safeguarding as their number one priority when organising children's events. I fail to see how this event can benefit children in any way and has the potential to cause them great harm by introducing them to a sexualised parody of womanhood and the world of adult entertainment before they are old enough to comprehend what they are watching. It blurs children's boundaries and leaves them at risk of exposure to sexual content.

I attach a link to an article from the Daily Mail as an example of the safeguarding risks to children. A drag queen who was invited into a school was later found to have a sexually explicit internet presence – not surprising for an adult entertainer – and the local council had to apologise for bringing this person into the school.
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8038669/amp/Furious-parents-slam-primary-school-drag-queen-Flowjob-read-pupils-young-four.html>

A pantomime dame is not just like a drag queen, in the same way that a pantomime is not just like a nightclub. One is suitable for children and has well-established boundaries, the other is adult entertainment.

I attach the provider's website for your referral.

<https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.co.uk/summertour2022>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards