

Performing Queer Latinidad: Dance, Sexuality, Politics (Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama/Performance)

Ramon H. Rivera-servera

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Performing Queer Latinidad highlights the critical role that performance played in the development of Latina/o queer public culture in the United States during the 1990s and early 2000s, a period when the size and influence of the Latina/o population was increasing alongside a growing scrutiny of the public spaces where latinidad could circulate. Performances---from concert dance and street protest to the choreographic strategies deployed by dancers at nightclubs---served as critical meeting points and practices through which LGBT and other nonnormative sex practitioners of Latin American descent (individuals with greatly differing cultures, histories of migration or annexation to the United States, and contemporary living conditions) encountered each other and forged social, cultural, and political bonds. At a time when latinidad ascended to the national public sphere in mainstream commercial and political venues and Latina/o public space was increasingly threatened by the redevelopment of urban centers and a revived anti-immigrant campaign, queer Latinas/os in places such as the Bronx, San Antonio, Austin, Phoenix, and Rochester, NY, returned to performance to claim spaces and ways of being that allowed their queerness and latinidad to coexist. These social events of performance and their attendant aesthetic communication strategies served as critical sites and tactics for creating and sustaining queer latinidad.

2014 Honorable Mention, Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists Book Award, American Anthropological Association

2013 Latino Studies Book Award, Latin American Studies Association

2013 Lambda Literary Foundation Book Award in LGBT Studies

2013 Outstanding Publication Award, Congress on Research in Dance

2012 Special Citation, de la Torre Bueno Book Prize, Society of Dance History Scholars



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