



Radical Drag, Gay Pride parade,  
New York, June 24, 1973. Photo by  
Leonard Fink, LGBT Community  
Center National History Archive.

## QUEERLY VISIBLE: GAY MEN, DRESS, AND STYLE 1960–2012

I THINK THAT IS THE HUGE PARADOX OF THE GAY WORLD THAT WE'RE NOT TRADITIONALLY MASCULINE MEN AND YET THE MASCULINITY IS WHAT WE WANT TO UPHOLD AND SUBSCRIBE TO IN TERMS OF CLOTHES AND APPEARANCE.

*Nick Fyhrie<sup>1</sup>*

The notion of masculinity and the authenticity of a “real” masculinity that can be presented through choices of clothing and behavioral traits is a perennial concern within the gay male communities of Britain and America. Similarly matters relating to effeminacy have played a positive or negative role in gay men’s negotiation of their appearance. Indeed, the history of gay men’s style and dress has been marked by a vacillation between strivings towards or away from hyper-masculinity and overt femininity. This paradox, outlined by Fyhrie, reflects Jamie Gough’s observation in 1989 that “Gay masculinity is