

***Drag Queen'sLand* – A Queensland Music Festival project about belonging to the Queensland drag community**

Raphaela Stadler

Department of Tourism, Leisure, Hotel and Sport Management

Nathan Campus

The Queensland Music Festival has commissioned a piece about Queensland's drag community for the 2011 festival season. The show, subtitled "a psychological burlesque" (QMF, 2011), tells the story, issues and challenges of belonging to this particular community, using the drag queens' own voices and presenting a music theatre piece about their life on and off-stage. Classified as a community arts project, the work addresses issues central to the local drag community in Brisbane, with a goal of improving their situation and conditions. However, the question arises whether the artists, who are not drag queens themselves, have the authority to represent this community on stage? This paper deals with the creative and administrative process of bringing the drag community, the creative team and the artists, the festival staff, as well as the researcher together to create a shared understanding and knowledge. The tensions between these drag community insiders and outsiders are highlighted in order to describe the participants' journey of creating an authentic piece.