



DRAKGKIDS

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D R A G K I D S



TELL TALE PRODUCTIONS INC.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PRESENTS "DRAG KIDS"

FEATURING LADDY GAGA, SUZAN BEE ANTHONY, BRACKEN GVASALIA, AND QUEEN LACTATIA

DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY MEGAN WENNBERG

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER EDWARD PEILL PRODUCER ERIN OAKES

EDITED BY WARREN JEFFERIES DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL McCURDY

Running time: 80 minutes



DRAG KIDS



As an art form,

drag has always been about breaking down barriers, invading new territories, and daring to do the unexpected. And now, a new type of queen is emerging on the scene: she's fierce, she's living in a time of unprecedented access to queer culture, and she's younger than ever before. She's a drag kid and she's a long way from the era of the queens who led the Stonewall Riots nearly 50 years ago.

DRAG KIDS is a beautiful, daring, and touching portrait of four kids chasing freedom and friendship through the art of drag.

Short Synopsis:

Jason is an 11-year-old drag queen living in the middle of America's Bible Belt. 9-year-old **Nemis**, aka Queen Lactatia, self-identifies as the "Diva-est diva you'll ever meet". 11-year-old **Bracken** is charting her own course in the once male-only world of drag queens, and 8-year-old **Stephan** is defying bullies with his alter-ego Laddy GaGa.

Drag Kids is an intimate journey into the lives of four child drag queens from around the world. Stephan, Jason, Bracken and Nemis have never met, but they're united by a shared passion for drag, and they're about to come together for the first time – to perform Lady Gaga's 'Born This Way' at the world-famous **Montreal Pride Festival**. As they prepare for the big show, each faces their own unique challenges, as well as challenges they have in common - deep feelings of isolation (most have never met another 'drag kid' before) and the struggle of trying to claim a place of your own on the fringes of a fringe culture.



Long Synopsis

Stephan, Nemis, Bracken and Jason

are very different kids living in very different parts of the world, but they're united by a deep love of drag.

Fiery Stephan, 9 (aka **Laddy Gaga**) lives with his British ex-pat family in the south of Spain, where his explosive performances can't be contained by their villa, so he has started performing at tourist restaurants.

Shy Jason, 11 (aka **Suzanbee Anthony**) lives in the US Bible Belt where racism and homophobia are rampant, but his chosen family have formed a protective circle around him that allows his sassy alter-ego to blossom.

Precocious Bracken, 11 (**House of Gvasalia**) lives in Vancouver, where she struggles for acceptance as a 'hyperqueen' (a female drag queen), and for opportunities to connect in the 19+ world of Drag Shows.

Child star Nemis, 9 (aka **Queen Lactatia**) lives in Montreal, and with the help of his 'momager,' he loves pushing boundaries – from selling his merch at a local fetish store to judging a Vogue Ball in a downtown bar.

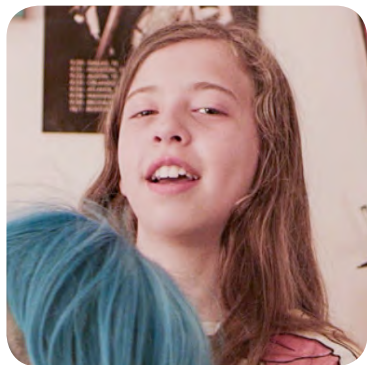
The *Drag Kids* have never met, but they're coming together for the first time at **Montreal Pride** to perform a group number to Lady Gaga's 'Born This Way,' and to compete in an all-ages Vogue Ball.

The Kids are overjoyed to meet others like them, and within minutes they're calling each other 'sister' and comparing wigs and high heels. But things quickly get serious – they only have three days to prepare for their big show, and it's clear only two of them have practiced.

Tensions mount as the show approaches, and sibling rivalries, 'borrowed make-up' and botched rehearsals threaten to tear them apart. Can they pull it together for the big show?

The next day is the Vogue Ball, and for all but Nemis, it will be the Kids' first chance to battle on the runway. There are surprise victories, devastating losses (with accompanying hissy fit) and one grand prize triumph.

DRAG KIDS
*is the story
of four kids
who lead the
revolution of
free expression.*



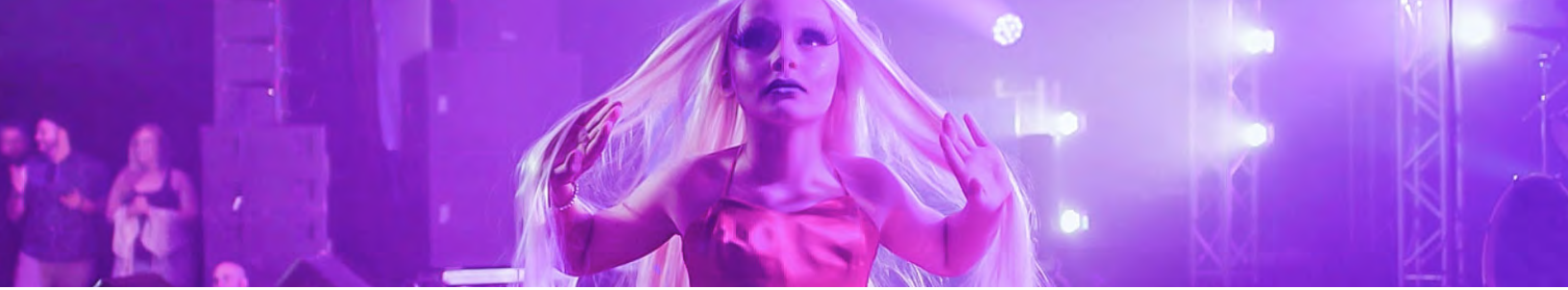
Bracken Gvasalia, Vancouver B.C.

11-year-old Bracken Gvasalia is part of one of the newest movements in drag. Bracken is a hyperqueen – a biological female who dresses as a drag queen. Like many attracted to drag culture, Bracken is drawn to its role in questioning gender norms. Even at a very young age she was a fierce feminist. Combine that with a quirky fashion sense all her own, and you have the recipe for a drag queen. At the age of 9 Bracken discovered RuPaul's Drag Race - a show where individualism, fun and creativity are celebrated – and within months she began her own journey into drag. Bracken has been embraced by the queer community of her hometown, Vancouver BC, where she is regular participant (and the only child) at Van Vogue Jam, an all ages vogue workshop run by dancer Ralph Escamillan. In 2018 Bracken became a member of Vancouver's first kiki house, House of Gvasalia. Bracken feels more out there, more open and more confident as her drag self, and she hopes her drag will help create awareness, build communities and start conversations for queer youth.



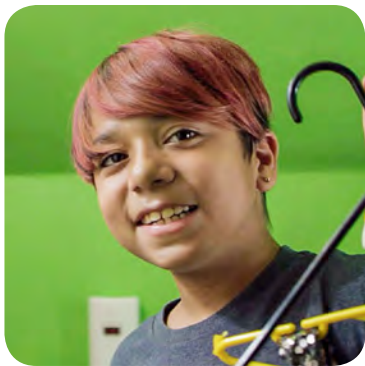
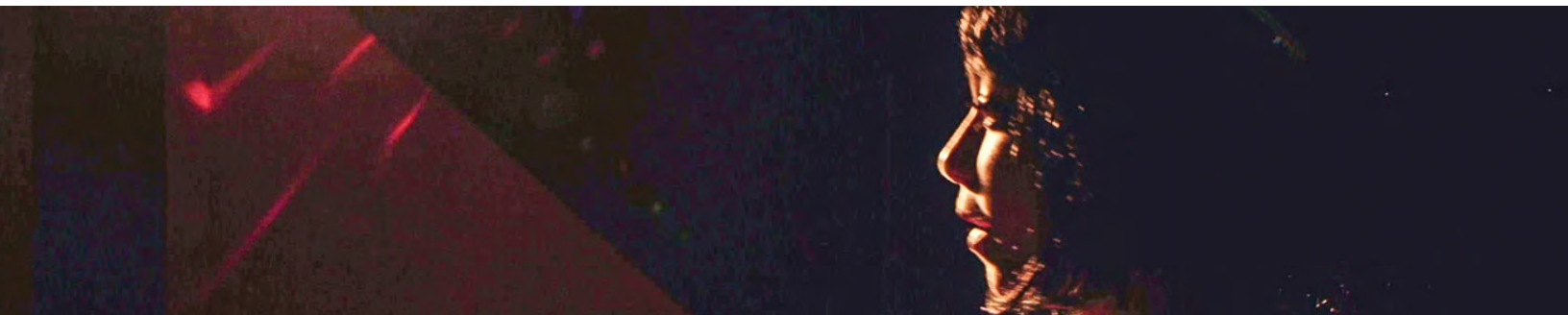
Laddy GaGa, Algorfa Spain

From the age of two when Stephan (a.k.a. Laddy GaGa) first donned his Mom's pink, peep-toe 4-inch Prada heels, his parents knew they had someone special on their hands. At 3 Stephan was belting out Amy Winehouse songs while wearing a black beehive wig. Drag was in the family to stay. Now 9-years-old, Stephan lives with his family in Spain where he regularly performs as his alter-ego Laddy GaGa, including appearances at Benidorm Pride and Dolores Pride. In addition to his drag art, Stephan is an aspiring singer who loves to perform his favourite songs any chance he gets. He's also proudly flying the flag for "Kids Unite Worldwide," an organization founded by his family and devoted to helping kids everywhere find safe places where they can be their truest selves. Stephan's drag can be described as quirky and gender-blending, but above all unique.



Queen Lactatia, Montreal Quebec

Who is Queen Lactatia? She's the diva-est diva you'll ever meet. She's also the drag queen persona of 9-year-old Nemis. In 2016, Lactatia became a household name in the world of drag after a video done for Elle Magazine went viral, receiving over 50 million views. Since then, Lactatia has been profiled by Teen Vogue, earned a spot in a major vogue house (New York-based House of Mizrahi) and sat on a panel at RuPaul's DragCon NYC. At the ripe age of 10, Nemis is a seasoned performer and celebrated icon, balancing the insta-fame of being an Internet sensation, with being a regular kid who enjoys skateboarding and playing video games. As a performer, Lactatia is fearless on stage and commands the attention of the crowd with his captivating delivery. As far as gender identity and pronouns go, Nemis considers himself gender fluid, and prefers to identify as awesome.



Suzan Bee Anthony, Springfield Missouri

Not many boys get dresses from Santa Claus and new purses from the Easter bunny, but that's normal for Jason, aka Suzan Bee Anthony, a 11-year-old drag queen from Missouri. Jason started doing drag long before he knew what drag was. "He's been wearing his sister's clothes since he was about 3 years old," says mom Victoria. For the most part the dressing up stayed within the house, but when Jason was 8 his parents took him to a Pride Fest where drag queen Ruby Diamond brought him on stage and introduced him to the crowd. The next year Jason returned to make his stage debut as Suzan Bee. Since then, he has made repeat appearances at Springfield and Joplin Pride Festivals, and he has performed shows in support of charities including Aids Project of the Ozarks and Rare Breed. In 2017 Jason was named Little Miss Gay Springfield USA. Jason describes his drag style as sequin glamour pageant queen, and he loves anything that sparkles.

DRAGKIDS

Director's Bio

Megan Wennberg is based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, but she loves travelling for work. As a writer and director she works in both documentary and fiction, and her work has screened at festivals around the world and been broadcast on CBC, The Comedy Network and The Documentary Channel. Megan has a Bachelor of Fine Arts, a Bachelor of Journalism, and she is a screenwriting alumni of the Canadian Film Centre. She is beyond excited that her first feature documentary is premiering *Drag Kids* will have its premiere at Hot Docs this spring.

Director's Statement

This time last year, I had no idea the Drag Kids existed. Now I can't stop thinking about them. The passion, bravery and self-awareness they display at such young ages astounds me, and I am excited to help share their stories.

As a filmmaker, I am drawn to unique characters and points of view, and the Drag Kids are unlike any characters I have ever met. They all have deeply personal reasons for doing drag, and I was privileged to get to know each of the kids in their home towns to witness firsthand what drives them, as well as the challenges they face.

Meeting the Drag Kids together in Montreal was also amazing. They are all such different personalities, and I was concerned they might clash or vie for attention, but for the most part (meltdowns and misunderstandings aside), the instant community of 'sisters' they formed was moving to behold.

I love the process of taking the unfamiliar and making it feel familiar that documentary filmmaking affords, and I hope this film will increase awareness and understanding of the Drag Kids' worlds, while also entertaining and inspiring audiences.

The Drag Kids are trailblazers, and through their passionate commitment to being themselves, they have a lot to teach us about ourselves.

DRAG KIDS
shows us how
far we've come,
and how far we
have left to go.

DRA^GKIDS

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