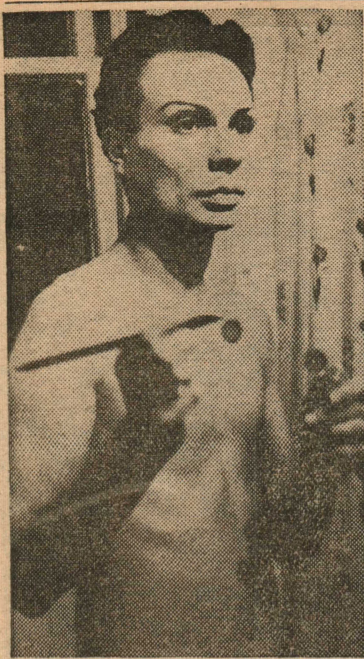


# 'THE QUEEN'—NEW TV MOVIE



From Jack to Sabrina via make-up.



Just imagine.



Harlow after beauty nap.



Judges' vote shocks them.



And if I win...

**By GENE RUFFIN**  
 Many moviegoers have thought there could be nothing new in film offerings. But there's a new and wild movie — yet a very sensitive one — about transvestites and others living in the drag world.

The title of this movie is "The Queen," and it concerns itself with a drag beauty contest to select Miss All American from the transvestites entered in the pageant. They come from all over to New York's Town Hall to take part in the gay event.

### Flawless One

Contestants are lost in their own personal desires to be Miss All-American. The winner rules for a year and is considered "The Queen" of all the draggers in the country.

The flick is the first venture of Grove Press of New York in the field of movie making. Until this time, the company has been dealing in the publishing of erotic books and "underground" magazines. Grove Press is considered the most important publisher of this type of literature in the United States.

The show is MC'ed and produced by John Doroshow, better known in the drag world as "Flawless Sabrina," the most celebrated female personality in the business.

In the movie, each contestant is given a list of rules. If these rules are violated, the chaperones will throw out the contestants. The chaperones, or guards as you prefer, also keep contestants from attacking the men in the audience. Now, that's really a switch.

### Annual Event

The transvestites who are regional winners are housed in the Woodstock Hotel. They give the photographers a field day in shooting scenes of the girlie who the draggers react to the strain of being part of the final chapter in "Flawless Sabrina's" production.

The personalities of the contestants begin to unfold relating their behavior as female impersonators. There is a vast number of differences in those that take part in this annual event.

Some are striking in their appearances, while others make you cringe because of ugliness. The selection of gowns and rehearsals add to the drama when some of



The winner — Harlow.

the selectees can't seem to make the grade. It also adds to the breakdown of the female disguise.

The transvestites, not all but most, openly admit to homosexuality. The impersonators are indeed men with the girly vainness of beauty over-riding their male personalities.

### Fill The Role

Harlow, a protegee of "Flawless Sabrina," played by 18-year-old Richard Finocchio, is the beautiful, sensitive contestant who allows her tears to flow freely when another entry steals her wig.

Harlow is pretty, small and captures all the grace and charm needed to fill the role of a woman. Here is a top performer in a role that many will remember.

Because of the threat of a lawsuit by the real Miss America contest, the name of Sabrina's pageantry was changed to the Nationals.

### Movie Stars

The show even has a chorus line made up of several beautiful male chorus girls who perform a song and dance number without too

many out-of-step gallops. "Flawless Sabrina" gives the \$15 a seat audience a sampling of her voice when she takes the spotlight to do the tune, "I'm No Angel."

The impersonators have names that read like the Academy Awards Show of the early 40's. You'll be introduced to Betty Grable, Marilyn Monroe, Rita Hayward, Ava Gardner and the like of other sex kittens of the past.

The winner of the contest is to receive an award of \$1,000. As it turns out the winner only gets \$500 for being selected the best drag queen in the country.

### A Fix

Miss Crystal, another drag contestant, yells that the contest is fixed. Her behavior makes Harlow and Miss Emery, the Negro runner-up, flee backstage in horror.

"Where's that Sabrina? I'll cut her up," yells the upset Miss Crystal. "Flawless Sabrina" has taken the cut—trying to avoid the temperament of the six-foot six Miss Crystal.

Before the judges make their

selection, the drag queens parade around in bathing suits, make small speeches and tell of their ambitions if they win the title.

The best speech was the one made by Miss Crystal, "Nobody knows this, but I need an operation." This sends the audience into a flurry of laughter as they think the impersonator is talking about having her sex changed through surgery.

### Point System

The contestants are judged as follows: Five points each for walking, talking, make-up, hairdo, and the bathing suit competition. They are given ten points for beauty. The judges have to narrow the field down to five finalists and from this group emerges "The Queen."

The judges include Andy Warhol of film producing fame, Terry Southern, Larry Rivers to name a few.

The film was released through Vineyard Films and directed by Frank Simon and was shown in Cannes during the annual film festival. The running time is 68 minutes.

Not all of the contestants are homosexuals. Some even talked about joining the Army to save the country. The bull sessions between the impersonators are lively and filled with the remarks that only women would say.

### No Girls

There is also the over-riding feeling in this flick that you're caught in the midst of a group of queers trying like hell to keep from remembering that they are men.

Some of the drag queens are what the hip world calls "Plastic Fantastic," a term "Flawless Sabrina" coined to describe any queen that uses hormones or has surgery performed to aid in their girly appearance.

Harlow, "The Queen," openly admits that she never had any feelings for girls and that the type of men she dates are all straight.

Grove Press has come up with a winner in this flick, their first attempt at movie making, and it is likely that they will use this success as a stepping stone to other movies based on subjects once considered taboo.

"The Queen" is really a movie for queens.



It's a fake.

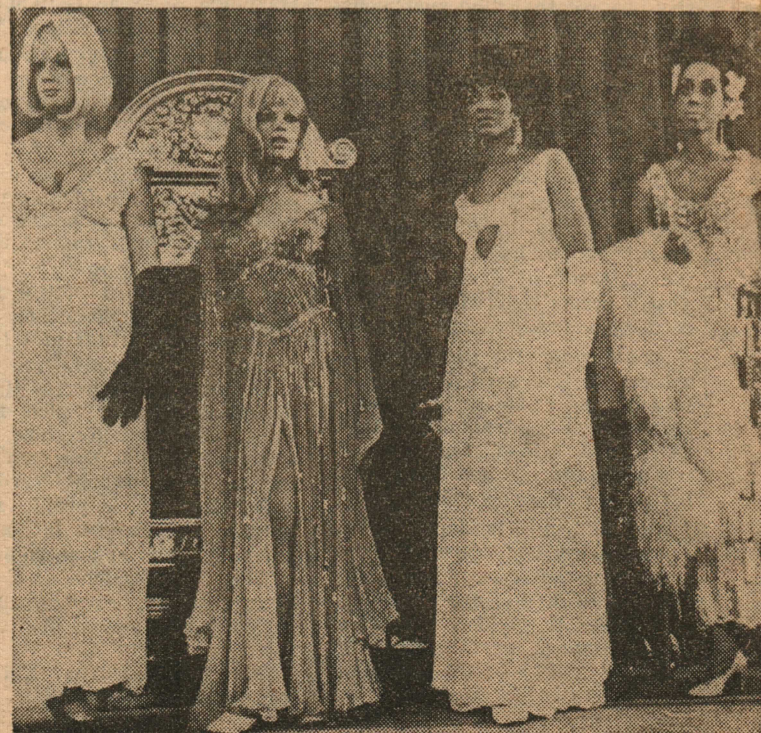


Emery and Harlow — two top TV's.



Transvestites before the ballot.

She didn't vote.



The four TV finalists.



Tranvestite chorus line.



Contestant and matron.



And she sings too.