



CULTURAL DEPRAVITY

Bacha Bazi in America?

American drag culture bears a disturbing resemblance to the Afghan custom of “boy play.”

by WILLIAM KILPATRICK

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A little boy is dressed in drag in the TV show “Generation Drag” (discovery plus/YouTube)



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The boys are virtual sex slaves of the men who have purchased them from poor families or sex traffickers, and they are frequently rented out as prostitutes to the men who come to watch them dance.

The men who groom the boys are not ashamed of what they do. In fact, it is common for them to boast about it. Frequently, the men are well-to-do and hold positions of power — often in the military.

Although some in this culture criticize the practice, many accept it as ... well, as a cultural tradition that is widely accepted.

You might think that our own culture would never countenance such a practice. But you would be wrong. In fact, our government did nothing to curtail the practice when it was in a position to do so.

The practice is called “bacha bazi,” which roughly translates into English as “boy play.” It’s a practice that goes back centuries in some regions of Afghanistan, and it is often justified by reference to certain passages in the Quran.

In the Quran, paradise is described as a place where men will have “bashful” but “high-breasted” virgins for companions. But, in addition, “they shall be attended by boys graced with eternal youth, who to the beholders eyes will seem like sprinkled pearls.” (Quran 76:15)

But what does the U.S. government have to do with any of this? After the U.S. invasion in 2001 and the expulsion of the Taliban from power, the U.S. military partnered with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), which it had helped to form, to keep the Taliban from returning to power.

Some of the ANSF, however, brought the bacha bazi tradition with them. Soon, the bacha bazi boys began to make an appearance on U.S. military bases. Some of the Afghan officers brought the boys to live with them on the bases.

Many of the U.S. officers and enlisted men were appalled by the practice, but their superior officers cautioned them not to interfere. This was the era in which multicultural theory ruled in American society and American schools. And one of the chief tenets of multiculturalism is that no culture has the right to impose its values on another culture.

Moreover, U.S. leaders were afraid of jeopardizing their vital partnership with the ANSF. The result was that the U.S. turned a blind eye to the

One might be tempted to think that this was a one-time, never-to-be-repeated moral failure. But something similar to bacha bazi is now being introduced to North American society, and it is being encouraged and even celebrated by many in government, education, and media.

I'm referring to the celebration of drag queen culture, and the practice of exposing young children to drag queens in libraries, classrooms, pride parades, and other venues such as restaurants and even military bases.

These events are often advertised as family-friendly and kid-friendly. On military bases, for example, kids are enticed with “goodie-bags,” “bouncy houses,” and face painting.

It's bad enough that children are enlisted in the service of a grown man's sexual fetish. What's worse is that children are also being encouraged to adopt the drag identity for themselves.

Bookstores and library shelves are now crammed with drag queen books targeted at toddlers, teens, and every age group in-between. These books present drag culture as being fun and playful. What's more, the drag queens are portrayed as role models and heroes for children to emulate. One such book is *Auntie Uncle: Drag Queen Hero* (recommended for ages 3–7). According to the description, “[T]he young narrator thinks it's awesome that his aunt and uncle are the same person.” When he's in drag, he's Aunt Lotta, and when he's not, he's Uncle Leo. Needless to say, Aunt Lotta is the hero who saves the day. According to the blurb, it's “a sweet, uplifting story about fearlessly letting your true self shine.”

But the drag pushers are not content with books and story hours. Drag shows now feature teen and younger boys performing their dance routines while wearing wigs, makeup, and high heels.

Discovery+'s television series *Generation Drag* is a look at the lives of five “drag kids” between the ages of 12 and 17. The series opens with 12-year-old Vinny showing the camera crew his high-heel collection and an array of candy-colored wigs. His drag name is “Vanessa Shimmer.”

The first season of the series follows the five boys as they prepare to perform at Dragutane — a Denver event that brings together LGBT+ youth from all over the country.

So, the idea of dressing up boys as girls and having them dance seductively in front of an appreciative audience is not confined to Afghanistan.

Of course, the tradition of bacha bazi is repugnant to the Western conscience. We would be shocked if it were discovered that the abusive custom was being practiced in the United States. And we would expect the authorities to take prompt legal action.

Yet, a practice not unlike bacha bazi is already present in our country. Under the pretense that drag events for children are nothing more than playtime activities, boys are encouraged to dance seductively before adults.

Granted, bacha bazi with its prostitution of boys is a more serious matter than participation in a drag event, but there are enough similarities between the two practices that a comparison seems warranted. In both cases, the adult–child interaction is justified as a form of play. The drag events for children are presented as just another fun activity. And balloons, bouncy houses, and face painting reinforce the deception. But how about bacha bazi? What’s playful about that? Recall, however, that the term “bacha bazi” means “boy play.” It’s probable that, like Western groomers, the Afghani groomers initially present the dancing as a playful activity. And perhaps also as a culturally important activity — something the boys can be proud of. The boys in *Generation Drag* certainly seem to feel that they are doing something of cultural significance. They look upon themselves as highly talented entertainers. Some seem to think of themselves as artists.

Another similarity between the two practices is that both enjoy a certain degree of community approval. The bacha bazi dances are often held to entertain large groups of adults who clap and shout to show their approval. When the Taliban were previously in power, they outlawed bacha bazi, though there is evidence that some members have resumed the practice upon retaking power.

Approval of drag has increased dramatically in America. Although drag shows were once considered part of the *demi monde*, they now seem to have acquired a certain legitimacy. Drag events now take place in schools, libraries, restaurants, and military bases. All of a sudden, the sexualization of children for the entertainment of adults is being presented to us as just as wholesome as a day at the county fair (many of which, ironically, now feature drag queen events).

Will the authorities enact laws to curtail the excesses of the drag queen movement? Some states have already passed such legislation, and others seem likely to follow suit. But there is little hope that this will happen at the federal level. Just as the boy groomers in Afghanistan feel free to force boys to look and act like girls, the Biden administration looks kindly on Frankenstein-like doctors who employ scalpel and syringe in order to make boys look like girls, and girls look like boys.

If Biden is willing to stand up for procedures that mutilate children's bodies, he certainly will have no objection to the attempt to tamper with their psyches and their souls through drag. For that is what it amounts to. Defenders of drag say it's all about fun and play. At most, they say, it's about expanding the child's horizons — introducing him to all of life's diversity and helping him discover his true self.

But there's more to it than that. Consider "[Drag Pedagogy: The Playful Practice of Queer Imagination in Early Childhood](#)." The manifesto, put together by several queer theorists, claims that educators in the past conditioned children to accept heterosexuality. By contrast, drag queen events are aimed at subverting "heteronormativity."

One of the chief authors of the manifesto is college professor Harris Kornstein, a founding member of Drag Queen Story Hour and the author of such classics as *If You're a Drag Queen and You Know It*, which he wrote under his drag name "Lil Miss Hot Mess." The book is recommended for ages 2–7 years. The Amazon description portrays it as "a fun sing-along book with a drag twist that encourages kids to embrace all the playfulness of drag culture."

So, lighten up America, and join the fun. At least, that's how drag culture is advertised. The reality is quite different. Do the drag queens simply want to entertain children or do they have something else in mind?

Jonathon van Maren has written extensively about the subject. After describing video footage of "nearly nude adults ... engaging in sexually charged performances for children," he asks naïve Americans to wake up to the real purpose of such activities. The point is not having fun, says Van Maren. Rather, "Sexualization is the point. Grooming is the point."

The childish naivety with which many in our society greet drag queen culture does not signal the advent of a sophisticated enlightenment, it signals a descent into darkness and decadence.

*William Kilpatrick is the author of several books about cultural and religious issues, including [What Catholics Need to Know About Islam](#); [The Politically Incorrect Guide to Jihad; Christianity, Islam, and Atheism](#); and [Why Johnny Can't Tell Right from Wrong](#). His articles have appeared in numerous publications, including *Catholic World Report*, *Crisis*, and *Front Page*.*

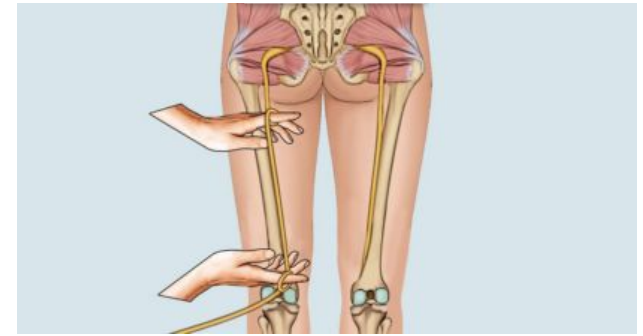


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The writer's closing sentence is so very true. These actions are further evidence of our culture's "descent into darkness and decadence". We must stand against these practices and protect our children from these depraved minds.

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It's the abuse of the innocents! God help us! The future will depend on these children that our society is destroying in a large swath. From mutilation, to gender confusion brought about by media and deviants, to hormone injections to sterilize them. Today's adults should stand up and call out this satanic movement - for the future's sake.

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