



# From Drags to Riches: The Untold Story of Charles Pierce (Haworth Gay & Lesbian Studies)

*John Dececco Phd, R. Allen Ogi*

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Learn how Charles Pierce achieved stardom and became one of the most famous female impersonators of all time! Charles Pierce (1926--1999) was an internationally known and highly successful female impersonator, known for his vivid portrayals of Bette Davis, Katherine Hepburn, and Mae West. This book offers a candid look at a career that spanned over fifty years--from his humble start at the Pasadena Playhouse, to his sold-out shows in San Francisco. From Drags to Riches provides a rich and colorful history of Charles Pierce. In this insightful and moving volume, Pierce's friend John Wallraff offers valuable insights about the little-known man behind the makeup and captures the essence of what drag stardom is really like. This informative, imaginative, and sexually provocative book contains:

- stories of how famous Hollywood icons shaped Charles Pierce's life and his act
  - Pierce's history, from his humble beginnings at the Pasadena Playhouse to his sold-out shows in San Francisco and beyond
  - a look at Pierce's private life
  - an examination of the price of fame--how successes and failures shape any performer
- Using the words of Charles Pierce himself, adding a dash of humor, mixing in fascinating insights, and sprinkling in juicy stories of love, lust, and sex, this book is a melting pot of information about a well-loved but sometimes misunderstood man.

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