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Drag: The Herstory and Phenomenon

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Drag: The Herstory and Phenomenon Reflection

My thesis involved two different creative projects. The first project was designing three dresses for MODA's spring fashion show. The second project was performing as a drag queen for Outspoken's drag show. I'm very proud of the dresses I created. They were inspired by "The Reveal" aspect of drag performance. Each dress has the ability to transform into a different dress. Each dress transforms differently. The black and gold dress's transformation was inspired by Designer Daddy's transforming dresses he made for his daughters for their visit to Disney World. The little black dress's transformation was inspired by Hussein Chalayan's Winter 2013 dresses. This dress has the most shocking transformation because it is such a drastic change. The final red dress was inspired by the transformation done by the cast of Cinderella on Broadway. This dress was the most difficult to make because it involved making a corset. Although I didn't win an award for these dresses at the show, I did receive a ton of positive feedback from audience members and a lot of memorable reactions and gasps from the audience during the show.

The drag show performance was so much fun. This was my first time performing as a solo act in a drag show. I had performed in drag, but never alone before. It was my first time performing under the stage name Pariah as well. For the show, you had to prepare two performances. My first performance was a lip sync and dance to DJ Suede's Cash Me Outside Remix. I decided on this song because I felt like it would get a great reaction from the audience. I wore a black t-shirt dress with a corset I made over the top of it, black pumps, and a short black wig. For the dance, I incorporated burlesque and vogue dance moves. I danced with a chair and did a few death drops. It wasn't my bet dancing, but I really enjoyed it. For my second performance, I decided to sing live. I chose Kesha's Praying to sing because I really like the song and it has a perfect part to activate the transformation dress. I ended up crying on stage and my dress ended up getting stuck during the transformation. Even though it didn't go 100% according to plan, I still managed to get a standing ovation from the audience. I didn't end up placing for this show, but I did get a ton of people asking for pictures with me after the show and a lot of "You made me cry!" from audience members.

Overall, I believe my choices for these two creative projects went well. I got a ton of positive feedback for both projects. I may not have won any awards with these projects, but the kind words and reactions I received from audience members made everything worth it.