



PA 199 BAPA  
PERALTA, AJ

# **DRAGGING** THE SPACE

An Analysis of Drag Performances at Drag Bars in Metro Manila

# STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Despite the mainstream recognition of drag culture, there is still a **significant gap in local academic research** that studies drag performances at drag bars.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- A.** What are the key themes and essential elements utilized in a drag performance at a drag bar?
- B.** What role does drag bar design have in showcasing drag performance?
- C.** How do drag shows at bars function as an avenue of sociopolitical expression?



# OBJECTIVES

**1.** To identify the key themes in drag performances in drag bars.

**2.** To determine and analyze the structure of drag performances in terms of:

- Hair and Makeup
- Clothing
- Performance Techniques

**3.** To assess the role of the drag bar design for drag performances in terms of:

- Layout
- Decorations
- Technology

**4.** To discuss the social and political significance of drag performances in drag bars.



# REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

## A. Definition of "Drag"

- **Drag** is a performing art that **plays with gender** (Severova, 2021)
- **Gender Performativity** Theory of Judith Butler
- The **detachable drag persona** of drag queens in Virginia (Hopkins, 2004)



Marlyn, Drag Artist

## B. Elements of a Drag Performance

- **Fleisher's Drag Performance Elements**
  - (Makeup and Wigs, Accessories and Clothing, and Lipsynch, Comedy, and Dance)
- **Sopitarchasak's Thai Drag Performance Elements**
  - (individuality, transformation, over-the-top quality, performing element)
- Drag is **more than impersonation and crossdressing** (Severova, 2021).

# REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

## C. Drag Bars

- A **space of artistic expression** for drag performers (Hilderbrand, 2023)
- Drag Design: **Stage, Seating, Lighting, Decorations and Sounds**
- **Enhancing the experience** of the audience and the performers (Pedanekar & Parki, 2022).
- Relationship between **the performance and its location** (Tompkins, 2012)

## D. Drag Significance

- Drag performances is a **social justice work** (Basieliere, 2020)
  - activism, fundraising, and outreach education



# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

## 1. Three Dimensions of Production of Space of Henry Lefebvre's

- A space that tells **how things moves and interact** with each others.
  - **Spatial practice:** Physical Space
  - **Representations of space:** The Function of Space
  - **Representational spaces:** The Meaning of Space

## 2. Elements of Drag Performance of Jake Hall

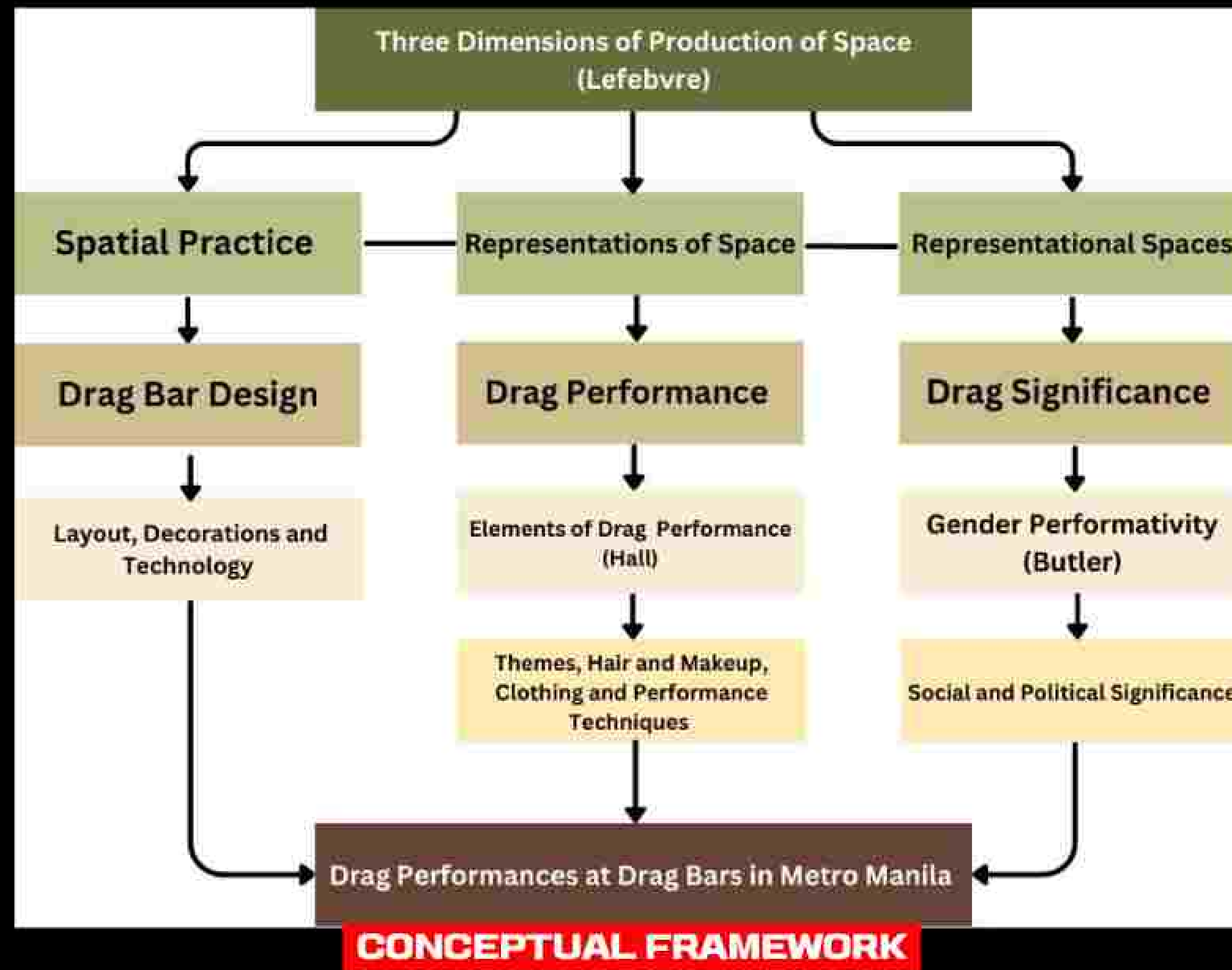
- The key elements of a drag performance are: **Themes, Hair and Makeup, Clothing, and Techniques of Performance**

## 3. Gender Performativity Theory of Judith Butler

- Deconstruction of Gender
- Drag Resistance







# METHODOLOGY

## Research Design

- **Qualitative** Research
- **Interpretative Phenomenology Study**



Rampa Drag Club

## Data Gathering Tools

- **Passive Participant Observation**
  - **Three drag shows** from **three different drag bars** in **Metro Manila** from **January to March 2025**.
  - **Drag in the South** in Las Piñas, **Hoesik** in Makati, and **Rampa Drag Club** in Quezon City.
- **Field Notes**
- **Informed Consent**
- **Secondary Resources**

## Data Analysis

- **Summary of the Events** (Three Bars Observations)
- **Application of the Conceptual Framework**
  - Identification of Themes
- Analysis of
  - Structure of Drag performances
  - Drag Bar Design
  - Social and Political Significance of Drag



# SCOPE AND

# LIMITATIONS

- 3 Drag shows from 3 different Drag bars
- Drag in the South, Hoesik, and Rampa
- Metro Manila (January to March 2025)

- Passive Participant Observation
  - Field Notes

- Mainly focus on achieving the specified objectives.

- Will not cover the culture of drag in rural and other urban locations
- The selected bars are relatively new.
- Accessibility; financial and time constraints

- Will not address backstage operation or other relevant preparation practices of drag artists.
- No additional information will be requested from the bar owner, manager, or architect.

- Other aspects that are not specified in the study will not be covered.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- **Contribution to the local academic research**
  - Understanding on drag performances at drag bars in Metro Manila
  - Present the Current Shape of Philippine Arts
- This study aims to share knowledge with the following:
  - In the academe
  - To all the drag artists
  - To all drag bar owners, managers or producers
  - To the government



*"We're all born naked and the rest is **drag**"*  
*RuPaul*

*References:*



**THANK YOU!**