

Sources and ideas for reading further:

List of US-american Trans*activists:

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/thomaspageemcee/25-important-trans-and-gender-nonconforming-ameri-9bfl#.jblPGADY6>

Gan, Jessie: »Still at the back of the bus«: Silvia Rivera's struggle:

<http://www.redalyc.org/articulo.oa?id=37719107>

Silvia Riveras Rede »y'all better quiet down!«:

<https://vimeo.com/45479858>

Aaron, MTPC Intern: Sylvia Rivera's Legacy of Resistance (07.03.2014):

<http://www.masstpc.org/sylvia-rivera-legacy/>

The New York Public Library: Digital Collections (Marsha P. Johnson):

<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/search/index?&keywords=Marsha+P.+Johnson>

Interview with Miss Major: How Dare They Do This Again: Stonewall Veteran Miss Major on the »Stonewall« Movie

<http://www.autostraddle.com/how-dare-they-do-this-again-miss-major-on-the-stonewall-movie-301957/>

Baumgartinger, Persson Perry/ Verein][diskursiv: Trans*Bewegung Vergessen Erinnern. Die Anfänge der aktuellen Trans*Bewegung in Österreich, in: Guggenheimer, Jacob u. a.: »When we were Gender«, Geschlechter erinnern und vergessen. Analyse von Geschlecht und Gedächtnis in den Gender Studies, Queer-Theorien und feministischen Politiken, transcript 2013, S. 152 – 153.

Voß, Heinz-Jürgen/ Wolter, Salih Alexander: Queer und (Anti-)Kapitalismus, Schmetterling Verlag 2013, S. 28-29.

Some parts were slightly changed or translated into English.

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<http://politik.asta-eh-darmstadt.de/stonewall-was-a-riot/>

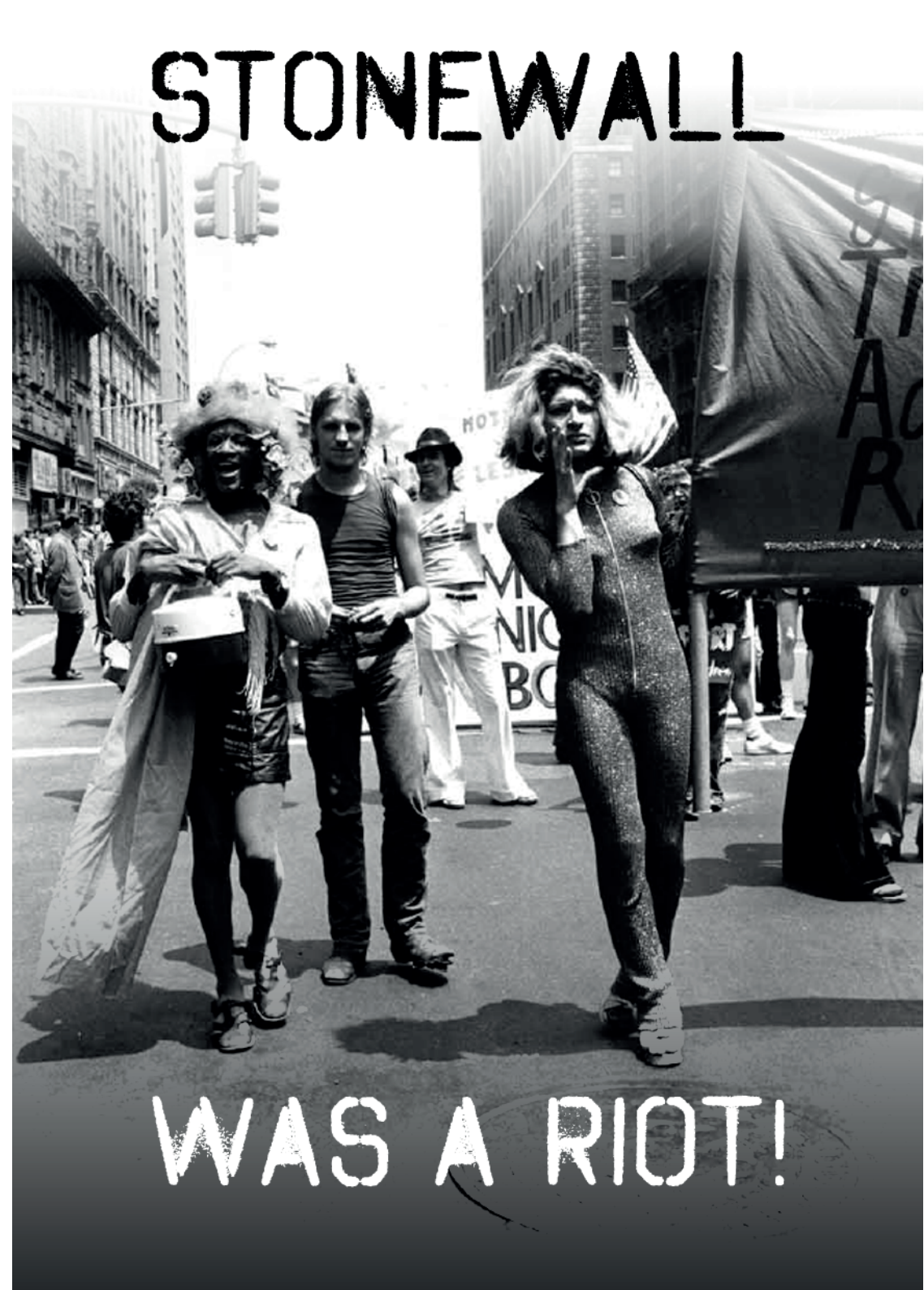


cover picture:

<http://www.masstpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/sylvia-rivera-march.png>

Marsha P. Johnson (left) & Sylvia Rivera (right) of the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.) at the Christopher Street Liberation Day, Gay Pride Parade NYC (24. June 1973).

Photographer Leonard Fink



A story never told

»The famous Stonewall-Riot was a Riot of people with different critical backgrounds and ways of living: working class people, Prostitutes, Drags, Blacks¹ /People of Color – Queers in the original sense of swearing. -, »which fought for their survival« (Silvia Rivera, zit. In Feinberg 1998: 97). However in most of the books and films about it, the riot is described as a movement of (*white*) Gays and Lesbians (Baumgartinger 2013, p. 152 – 153)«.

»The *whitewashing* starts with the founding of the »Queer Community«. In august 1966 in San Francisco, where before queer homeless youngsters had united in the self-help organisation Vanguard, Blacks, Trans*-women and Sexworkers revolted against policeviolence at the Compton's Cafeteria Riot. But with the Gay-Pride-Parade, which is held now every year in the capitals of the »western world«, the remembering goes to a later Riot in New York City – or even more to a big narration, created by settled homosexuals, erasing class and »race« and not distinctly male people from what had originally happened in Christopher Street in the district of Greenwich Village at the End of June in 1969« (Voß/Wolter, p. 28-29).

Silvia Rivera was a Trans*activist and sexworker, which, until recently, was all but erased from history. She was a loud voice for the most



marginalized – Trans*people of color and those with low incomes, and it's been said that she was the first bottle-thrower at the Stonewall Rebellion. She also pleaded for homeless people, but her fighting for underrepresented groups led to her exclusion from the Community, which by then had become an organisation led by white middleclass male gays. She died in 2002 of cancer at a shelter for homeless trans*people.



Marsha P. Johnson was a »drag mother« to many, and a mentor to Rivera, with whom she cofounded S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, an organization which provided food and shelter for homeless Trans*people and Drags). Like Rivera, she's also been mentioned as a veteran of the Stonewall Riots, and she was deeply concerned with street kids. In 1992 Marsha died and it is said, that it was a murder led by trans*discriminating and/or racist motives, but the case is still unsolved.

Miss Major, involved in the original Stonewall Riots reports about the *whitewashing* (especially criticizing the new film about the Stonewall-Riots):

»It's just aggravating. And hurtful! For all the girls who are no longer here who can't say anything, this movie just acts like they didn't exist«.

»we were that one faction of folks that you could make fun of and abuse and ridicule and hurt and no one said a damn thing«.

»but they kept snatching that up and not allowing them to exist or acknowledge that they existed«.

»The fact that they're doing this again. It's just so hurtful. What about the lives of all these people, women and trans men and stuff«.

»This is about the younger people who are coming behind me. About the trans folks who don't know that we have a culture. That we deserve to exist. That this bullying shit is wrong. We can't live our lives the way somebody else thinks that we should«.

»These people need to be acknowledged for the role they played. And that they existed! It's so important that they at least realized that Marsha and Sylvia existed and that they did so much to help the community. And they tried to work with the [mainstream LGBTQ Community]. For me and the girls who lived Uptown, they did so much«. (Miss Major)

¹ To uncover the unequal constellations of power and active structures of discrimination, which are, amongst other things, constructed by »skincolor«, Black is written with a capital letter and *white* is written small and italic.