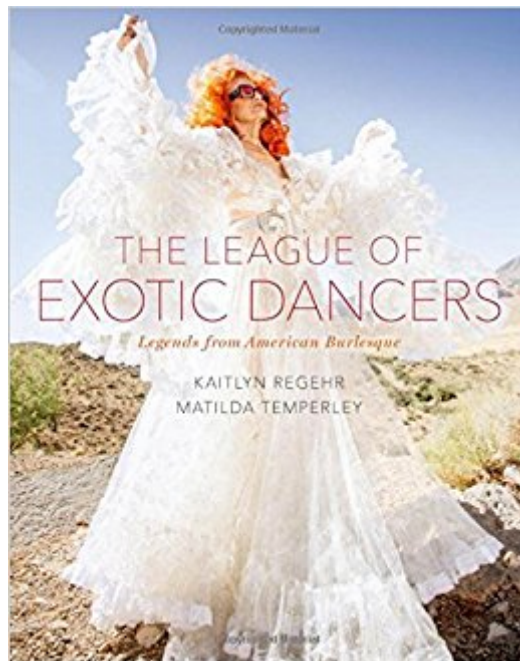




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The League Of Exotic Dancers: Legends From American Burlesque



Synopsis

Every year in downtown Las Vegas, often called "Old Vegas," The Burlesque Hall of Fame reunion brings together members of the League of Exotic Dancers, one of the earliest unions for women in exotic entertainment, to perform their half-century-old routines. In this annual tradition, performers from the golden age of Vegas burlesque rally counter-culture neo-burlesque fans who both keep the tradition alive and add new meaning to it. Over the past four years, documentarian Kaitlyn Regehr and photographer Matilda Temperley have embedded themselves within this community-a group, which like Old Vegas itself, continues to survive and thrive sixty years past its supposed prime. Here, in a smoky, off-strip casino, they found women, at times well into their 80s, subversively bumping and grinding away preconceptions about appropriate behavior for a pensioner. This collection of interviews and photographs is drawn from the backstage dressing rooms, homes, and lives of this aging burlesque community, as well as the young neo-burlesque community who adore them. The authors present an inter-generational sisterhood that is both unique and socially significant. Through a range of experiences-from discussing struggles for wage equality, to helping stabilize an 85 year old as she steps into a sequined g-string-the authors describe the complexity of the lives of these performers and the burlesque history from which they come. Regehr and Temperley present multidimensional portraits of this community and conclude that they are at their most vital when read with all the nuances, troubles, trials, and triumphs that they formerly and currently experience.

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Downtown Las Vegas. Photography by Matilda Temperley. Bambi Jones. Photography by Matilda Temperley. Stage at the Burlesque Hall of Fame. Photography by Matilda Temperley.

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Toni Elling. Photography by Matilda Temperley. Bic Carroll. Photography by Matilda Temperley. Loulou D'Amvil. Photography by Matilda Temperley.

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Complemented by Kaitlyn Regehr's detailed, analytical text, Temperley's images celebrate her subjects in dynamic performance shots, informal documentary images and posed portraits. * Royal Photographic Society Journal * Five stars: a fascinating visual documentary. * Amateur Photographer *

Dr. Kaitlyn Regehr is a writer, documentarian and scholar of cultural studies. Her work has been published internationally across academic and popular print media. In addition to serving as a topic specialist for BBC World, she has created documentary content for iTunes and networks including Super Channel (CA), SWR (DE) and ARTE (FR). Regehr's work has explored intersections between gender, performance and politics in female driven communities. Matilda Temperley is an award-winning photographer. Her work regularly appears in international publications such as, The Guardian, The Telegraph, Harpers Bazaar and National Geographic. Matilda's work is inspired by marginalized societies. Her sell out book, Under The Surface-Somerset Floods won the Royal Photographic Society's Vic Odden Award in 2015. Her second book, Omo- Change In The Valley documents human rights abuses in Ethiopia.

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