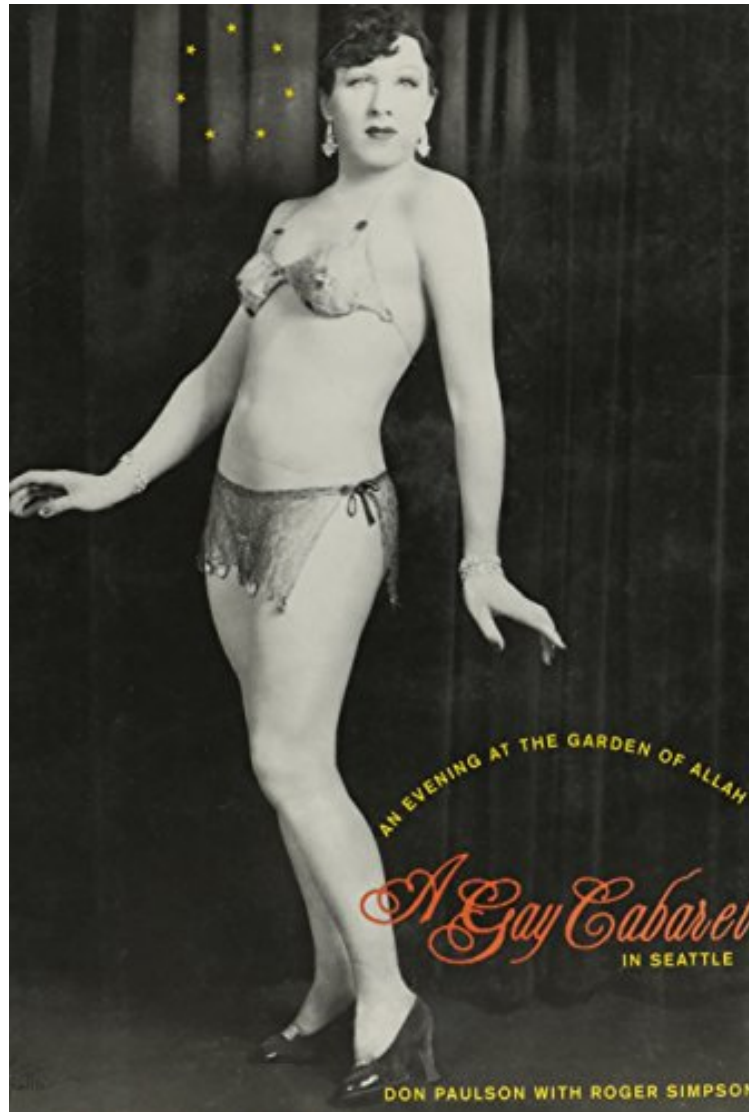


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## An Evening at the Garden of Allah: A Gay Cabaret in Seattle

*Don Paulson, Roger Simpson*

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**Don Paulson, Roger Simpson : An Evening at the Garden of Allah: A Gay Cabaret in Seattle** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Evening at the Garden of Allah: A Gay Cabaret in Seattle:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book is fantastic and very readableBy gwendolyn8This book is fantastic and very readable. Between the ample pictures and the format of the book (past the introductory chapter) being in 2-6 page interview excerpts from truly interesting people, it is an easy book to either pick up and put down and to chip away at in little spurts, or to become totally engrossed with and tear all the way through. This is a

wonderful recording of first hand accounts of one of the first openly gay owned and operated for other gay people drag cabarets in the country. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Evening at the Garden of Allah By W. Mathison I loved this book. The Garden was before my time, but I knew of the other places and had seen one mentioned performer. It ties in so wonderfully with the political situation and other events in Seattle's history and reminds one of how much things have changed. I couldn't put it down until I'd finished. I bought 2 more copies for gifts, and one of my friends who borrowed it, ordered his own copy. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. nice By Customer Wonderful book, insightful comments. A very happy read.

An Evening at the Garden of Allah takes readers back in time with its vivid, exciting oral history of this shining moment in America's gay and lesbian past.

"A drag bar in Seattle? In the forties? Owned by gay men? My dear, the mind reels! I salute Paulson and Simpson for showing me a world I never knew existed." -- Quentin Crisp "A drag bar in Seattle? In the forties? Owned by gay men? My dear, the mind reels! I salute Paulson and Simpson for showing me a world I never knew existed." -- Quentin Crisp From the Back Cover An Evening at the Garden of Allah tells the story of the community of gays and lesbians that blossomed around the cabaret during an age before the Stonewall rebellion in New York and other uprisings made gay consciousness a public issue. A wealth of arresting photographs from the collections of Jackie Starr, Skippy Larue, and other headliners at the club during the ten years it thrived, breathe life into the personal histories centered around this oasis of gay and lesbian culture. Through interviews with former patrons and performers, Don Paulson and Roger Simpson capture the joyful evenings where those on stage proclaimed to the gathered audiences, "Come out and be yourselves". Here are the lives of the female impersonators, the Prima Donnas and the Dames, singing ballads to the accompanying roar of the Garden's old theater pipe organ. Dressed regally or garishly as their stage personas demanded, their bravado helped others to affirm and take pride in their lesbian and gay identities. These precursors of today's drag queens blast many deeply rooted assumptions about gender as they detail the excitements, tragedies, and complexities of their day-to-day lives. Here too are the stories of lesbian and gay audience members who found a home at the Garden, the soldiers and sailors who patronized the club, the fashionable Seattleites slumming on notorious First Avenue, and the tourists who came to be photographed in the Garden's atmosphere of debauchery and abandon. In its moving portrait of a little-explored chapter in America's gay and lesbian past, An Evening at the Garden of Allah takes readers back in time with a vivid oral history of this special cabaret. Paulson, Simpson, and their informants present the story of a place where ideas about repression, identity, and resistance were beginning to be openly discussed, where hopes and dreams of liberation took shape. About the Author Don Paulson is an artist, researcher, and writer of local history in the Seattle area. Roger Simpson is Associate Professor of Communications at the University of Washington. He is the author of Unionism or Hearst and a number of articles on First Amendment issues.