Video Viewing: Drag

Recommendations from drag king Johnny Blazes:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWEbL133hP8
This is one is great-- chock full of drag tropes (lots of theatrical splits and layouts, nameless muscle boy, huge hair being whipped around, techno/dance tune, campy concept and execution, the only thing it's missing is the big costume reveal) although with the understanding this piece is a lot more tightly choreographed and better danced than most drag you find in the bars and clubs.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lk71vhSDo&feature=related
A better example of how drag goes down-- also great camp facial expressions. Her outfit is also a great example of drag extraction-- she's not actually trying to look like a "hippie", but she extracts the symbology we all commonly understand (smiley faces, peace signs, flowers) and appliques them to an evening gown.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Pb9ThVkYKQ&feature=related
Example of classic drag queen parody-- misogynist and graphic. (This particular case is an interesting experiment in post-modernism-- the track is recorded by a rather problematic performance artist named Wendy Ho, who in some respects is a "queen" herself in that she performs a heightened femininity. Then Kris is lipsynching to Wendy's parody-- an interesting debate ensues often between me and my fellow performers about relying on someone else's parody rather than one's own.)

http://vimeo.com/4292182
Joey Arias, perhaps the second-most famous drag queen (after RuPaul) and arguably the most talented vocally. The role of the emcee of Cirque du Soleil's Zumanity was written for her. It's hard to see, but she actually sticks her microphone in that audience member's pants and sings through his pants-- one of funniest schticks I've seen live.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY5OjAWKk-Q
Probably the most famous drag king-- Murray Hill.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXNvZ12Cig&feature=related
Pretty classic current performance of masculinity

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kY8IF_g7z9U&feature=related
A king troupe out of SF that I adore-- size positive, playing with imagery of gay masculinity specifically in this piece

For some more stereotypical king imagery: http://www.dckings.com/About_us.html
Click on the individual kings profiles