



[Gargoyle home](#)

[Table of Contents for Issue 44](#)

[Index of Published Work](#) ▾

[Back issues](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Gargoyle's history](#)

[Last words & epigraphs](#)

[People say...](#)

[Buy Gargoyle online](#)

This work first appeared in Gargoyle, issue #44. Please respect the fact that this material is copyrighted. It is made available here without charge for personal use only. It may not be stored, displayed, published, reproduced, or used for any other purpose without the

How to Be a Gay Literary Icon

Michael Gregg Michaud

Say you knew Tennessee Williams.
 Say you slept with him.
 He's dead, who'll know?
 Enter your latest book
 in the annual Lambda Literary Awards
 and vote for yourself.
 Be sullen.
 Be fat with a receding hairline
 a 44 inch waist
 and a mother complex.
 Frequent hustler bars.
 Be photographed with Sandra Bernhard, Madonna,
 or Jeff Stryker.
 Dedicate your books to dead people
 or your analyst.
 Be photographed for your book jacket
 tightly clutching a pet cat.
 It doesn't need to be yours.
 Pretend to know Camile Paglia.
 Accept every party invitation
 but never go.
 Tell engaging anecdotes
 about radical writer groups in the 1960's
 and imply you were there.
 Mope.
 Heckle at Republican rallies
 but only when covered by network news.
 Have a handsome young boyfriend,
 preferably a college gymnast.
 Pay him if you have to.
 If you pay him,
 call him your research assistant.
 Cough a lot.

Smile sadly when you talk about Stonewall.
 Fill your home with autographed books
 but never read them.
 Pay your friends to be shills at your readings
 and tell them to laugh very loudly.
 Cue them with a telling nod.
 Apply for grants you will never receive
 and blame it on homophobia.

**express consent of the author
or artist.**

Come from a broken home.
Speak in hushed tones and wear glasses.
Tell each young male fan he, too, can write,
with the proper instruction.
Give him your phone number.
Talk about "gay sensibility"
and sound like you know what it means.
Affect an accent.
Any accent will do.
Claim to be an abused child.
Be co-dependent
and never politically correct.
Have compulsive addictions to drugs,
alcohol and/or sex.
Be in recovery.
Don't quit your day job.



paycock catalog gargoye lucinda mondo richard atticus links

| [Paycock](#) | [Catalog](#) | [Gargoye](#) | [Lucinda](#) | [Mondo](#) | [Richard](#) | [Atticus](#) | [Links](#)