Preface: Revelations and Disidentification  ix

Introduction: Definitions and Methodologies  1

1 Burlesque as Popular Performance: MsTickle’s Explicit Body as Palimpsest  54

2 Burlesque as Monster/Beauty: Beautiful Monsters and the Monstrosity of Beauty in Dita Von Teese  72

3 Burlesque as Unruly: Dirty Martini and the Political Efficacy of an Invisible Wink  94

4 Burlesque as Pretty/Funny: The Comedic Stylings of Little Brooklyn’s Burlesquing Burlesque  118

5 Burlesque as Parodic Pageantry: The Agitprop Theatrics of Bambi the Mermaid’s Miss Coney Island Pageant  147

6 Burlesque as Camp: Gender Becoming in World Famous “BOB”’s “One Man Show”  170

7 Burlesque as Revolution: The Ridiculous Theatre of Julie Atlas Muz  193

Conclusion: Nasty Women and Female Chauvinist Pigs  226

Acknowledgments  233

Notes  237

Bibliography  265

Index  277