

Celebrating Perversity and the Olympic Opening Ceremony

For the last 20 years, when it comes to LGBTQ+ people and issues, I have followed this simple directive from God: “Reach out and resist,” meaning, “Reach out to the people with compassion; resist the agenda with courage.” Or, put another way (and also in the title of a forthcoming book), we should have hearts of compassion and backbones of steel.

In keeping with that spirit, I do not attempt to demonize those who identify as LGBTQ+, as if all of them were devious sexual predators who gloried in deviant practices and delighted in displays of public perversity.

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Why, then, have gay pride events for decades been marked by these perverse displays? And why were the opening ceremonies of the Olympic games, intended by the planners to draw attention to France’s LGBTQ+ community, also marked by perversity?

We can put aside for a moment the debate as to just how offensive the ceremonies were, in particular, the degree of intentionality behind the horrible parody of DaVinci’s “Last Supper” portrait, with a drag queen, wearing a crown, taking the place of Jesus.

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I will say, though, that the ultimate, ironically tone-deaf comments have come from those celebrating the “inclusivity” of the event, as if mocking something sacred to Christians were

the same as being inclusive. To quote AP directly, “In an unprecedented display of inclusivity, drag queens took center stage at the Paris Olympics opening ceremony, showcasing the vibrant and influential role of the French LGBTQ+ community—while also attracting criticism over a tableau reminiscent of ‘The Last Supper.’”

Or, as Paris 2024 spokesperson Anne Descamps said, “Clearly there was never an intention to show disrespect to any religious group. [The opening ceremony] tried to celebrate community tolerance. We believe this ambition was achieved. If people have taken any offense, we are really sorry.”

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