Every episode of RuPaul’s Drag Race ends with RuPaul’s exhortation, “If you can’t love yourself, how the hell you gonna love someone else? Can I get an amen up in here?” RuPaul’s call and response “amen” signals religion. Perhaps there is a connection between Drag Race and religion that goes beyond the use of religious language and imagery on the show. Is it possible that for a racially and ethnically diverse queer community of viewers and queens, Drag Race functions like religion? Using Drag Race as a starting point, this panel explores the boundaries between popular culture, religion, and the experience of being LGBT+ in the South.

Panel followed by a brief show featuring panelists, local performers, and MTSU students.

Hosted by Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, and MT Engage