

I stumbled across this image on the same day that we were looking through the images in the classroom. I thought this image was interesting because in a 1970 issue of Ebony I did not expect to see a man dressed as a woman especially because this image follows the era of the male dominated black power movement, which emphasized the black male as the macho and leader of the household. In this time where black males were building themselves as super masculine and dominate within the household, how should we understand a black man dressing up as a woman and being placed on a cover of a magazine in relationship to the idea of the super masculine and black macho? What is interesting about this image is that it is of a heterosexual black male comedian who is dressing like a woman for his show. What does it say about the time in which the picture in published and the show existed that it was able to be placed on the cover? In a way, although unintentionally, as a push against what it means to be a black heterosexual male and what is required to be considered male. He is able to step outside gender norms for a period of time, but still be considered male and masculine with a wife and children. However, because he is playing a character I am left with the question, what role can comedy have in rethinking how we understand classic roles? Can a cross-dressing heterosexual black male exist outside of comedy or even in today's society?

