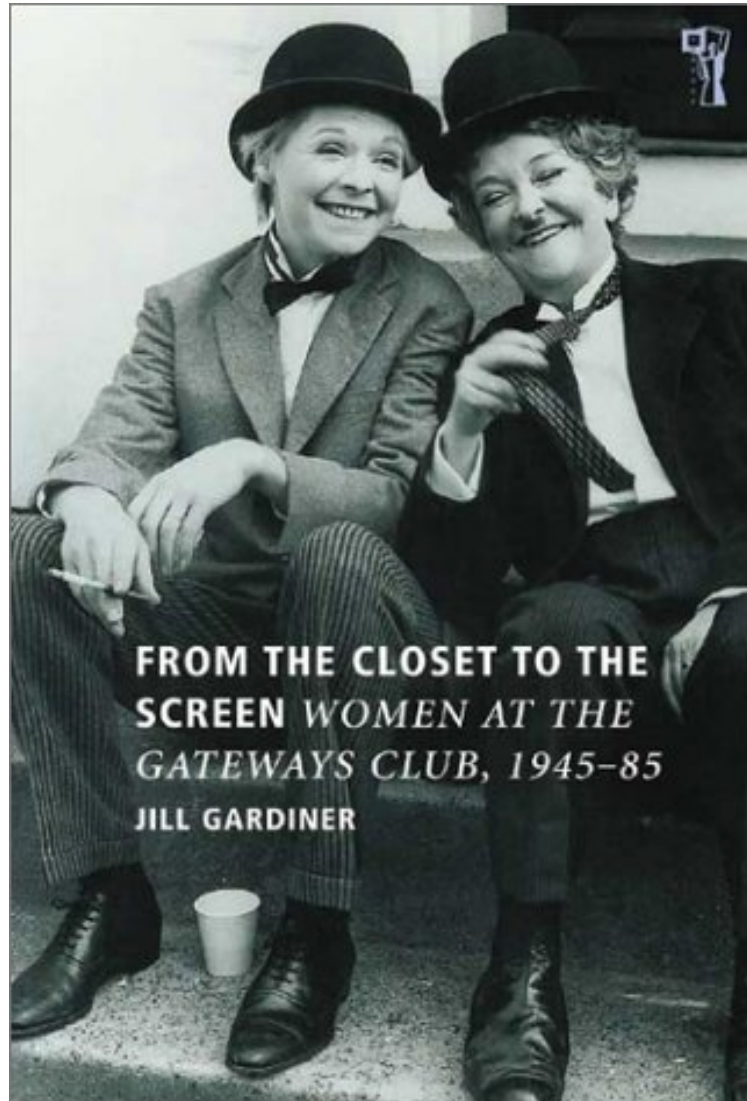


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From the Closet to the Screen: Women at the Gateways Club 1945-85

Jill Gardiner

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Jill Gardiner : From the Closet to the Screen: Women at the Gateways Club 1945-85 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From the Closet to the Screen: Women at the Gateways Club 1945-85:

The Gateways Club, at the heart of 1960s Swinging London, was one of the few places where lesbian women could meet openly. This book tells its story, from its rise in the 1950s to its closure in 1985, as a secret world of escape-new clientele often found the club only by following likely members to its anonymous exterior on the Kings Road, Chelsea. Celebrities, straight and gay alike, from Diana Dors to Dusty Springfield, relished its bohemian atmosphere, and the club reached a wider audience when it was featured as a backdrop in the 1968 film *The Killing of Sister George*. Included are interviews with 80 of its members, famous and not so famous. Their accounts-humorous, tragic, and erotic-reveal how life has changed during the half century since the Gateways began.

"An impressive oral history of . . . the most famous lesbian club in the world . . . a fascinating account of lesbian history." -- Charlotte Cooper, Rainbow Network.com, June 22, 2003
"An interesting look at lesbian history and each story captures moments of excitement, fear, desire, and revolution." -- THREE60, July 2003
"It's the stories that bring the club back to life [and] fabulous snapshots of the regulars holding each other up." -- Time Out, May 7, 2003
"Loving and superbly crafted book . . . a tribute to our culture, our past . . . describes acutely the 1960s." -- Kenric, June 2003
"This fascinating and sometimes hilarious book about the heady days when coming out just meant going out." -- Observer, May 11, 2003

About the Author: Jill Gardiner trained as a historian. Her work combines thorough research with a readable style, appealing to the general reader as well as to the academic. She developed an interest in oral history as a member of Brighton Ourstory Project in the 1990s, when she was one of the editors of *Daring Hearts: lesbian and gay lives in 50s 60s Brighton*. The stories of contributors to this book first inspired her interest in the Gateways Club.