Womanliness as a Masquerade

Joan Riviere
Background

- Riviere through psychoanalysis that all people were born bisexual
- Early on in child development certain experiences determine homo or heterosexuality
- This was written in 1929
- Consider the time period and certain cultural beliefs
Brief Summary

- Writes about the masculine woman who behaves extremely “heterosexually”
- These women wear a “mask” to protect themselves from incurring the displeasure and violence of men
- Examples in the article
  - Good relations with husband
  - Frequent sexual pleasure with husband
  - Successful in profession
  - High degree of adaptation to reality
Quotes

● “In effect, sexual enjoyment was full and frequent, with complete orgasm; but the fact emerged that the gratification it brought was of the nature of a reassurance and restitution of something lost, and not ultimately pure enjoyment. The man's love gave her back her self-esteem” (Riviere 307)

● What are some of the things that we view as reassuring feminine characteristics?
“if a negro came to attack her, she planned to defend herself by making him kiss her and make love to her (ultimately so that she could then deliver him over to justice).” (Riviere 306)

- Can submissiveness be used as a defense mechanism?
- Can men do the same thing?
“She has confessed to me that even with the butcher and baker, whom she rules in reality with a rod of iron, she cannot openly take up a firm straightforward stand; she feels herself as it were 'acting a part', she puts on the semblance of a rather uneducated, foolish and bewildered woman, yet in the end always making her point.” (Riviere 307-308).

Brings us back to Cartesian dualism

Can you change your embodiment based on thoughts, if you do act one way can it really change who you are?
Keywords and Artwork
Example in Today’s Society

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Wms7axv9MQ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51Y5yLmTMfc

- First displaying submissiveness
- Second mind and body contradiction
Wikipedia Game

- Start: Joan Riviere
- Finish: WWE
- Only click on blue links to get from one wikipedia page to the next
It Can Be Done

- Joan Riviere, Sigmund Freud, Psychiatry, Physical Examination, EKG, Defibrillation, University of Missouri, Collegiate Wrestling/Wrestling, Takedown, Combat Sports, UFC, Professional Wrestling, WWE
- Just goes to show everything can be intertwined