

SINCLAIR SEXSMITH

writer, sex educator, gender warrior



Photo by Bill Wadman

www.mrsexsmith.com | mrsexsmith@gmail.com

Represented by PhinLi Bookings, bookings@phinli.com

Custom workshops and lectures are available upon request

SINCLAIR SEXSMITH began organizing online in 1996 around topics of identity, queer culture, feminism, and self-awareness, and now teach workshops on BDSM, gender, writing, and getting the sex life you want. Since 2006, they have produced the award-winning website *Sugarbutch Chronicles: The Sex, Gender, and Relationship Adventures of a Kinky Queer Butch Top* at sugarbutch.net. Contributing to more than twenty anthologies, including five *Best Lesbian Erotica* editions, *Persistence: Still Butch and Femme*, and *Take Me There: Trans and Genderqueer Erotica*, Mr. Sexsmith is the guest editor of *Best Lesbian Erotica 2012* and editor of *Say Please: Lesbian BDSM Erotica*, both from Cleis Press. They are on the board of the upcoming 2013 [BUTCH Voices conference](#), produce programs for the [Lesbian Sex Mafia](#) in New York City, and serve the [Body Electric School](#) as a workshop coordinator. Sinclair prefers the pronouns they/them and the masculine honorific “Mr.”

WORKSHOP OFFERINGS 2012-2013

Fucking with Gender

Sinclair's signature class. Presented at Drew University (NJ), Brown University (RI), Northwestern University (Chicago), Smith College (Northampton, MA), Swarthmore College (Philadelphia), Harvard University (Cambridge), and more. Ideal for a college classroom or community center, beginner to intermediate; ideal for 25-35 people.

Developed explicitly for students of gender studies, sexuality studies, and queer studies, this interactive, signature workshop with Sinclair Sexsmith explores gender expression, identities, labels, transcending the mutually exclusive binaries, queer culture, and hot sweaty sex. We'll explore how our culture values sex, how to get what we want out of relationships, how to turn up the heat on our own sex drive, and how to communicate better with our lovers. We'll play with concepts of how gender identity and sexual identity intersect, butch/femme roles as a language of desire, how labels can be restrictive or liberating, whether gender is a fetish or a kink, and how to have more dirty queer sex.

Radical & Responsible Gender: Feminism, Masculinity, Misogyny, & Femininity

Presented at Smith College (Northampton, MA), New York University. Ideal for a classroom, 25-35 people. Intermediate to advanced, 2 hours.



Photo by Shilo McCabe

Academics breaks down and deconstructs gender. How do we build it back up radically and responsibly? How does one adapt masculinity or femininity “positively”? How do we become responsible about gender? How do we continue to break down the gender role restrictions that are hurtful and traumatizing? In this interactive, engaging workshop, we will cover some basics about what gender is, what gender roles and stereotypes are, and how they work. We'll cover basic gender theory, breaking things down into small parts, in order to build them back up again “responsibly,” with feminist principles and anti-sexist perspectives strongly in place. Participants will go away from the workshop with a better sense of how to use labels as liberation instead of limiting, as celebrations rather than restrictions, and be able to more fully embody whichever gender roles they choose.

Butch & Femme for the 21st Century

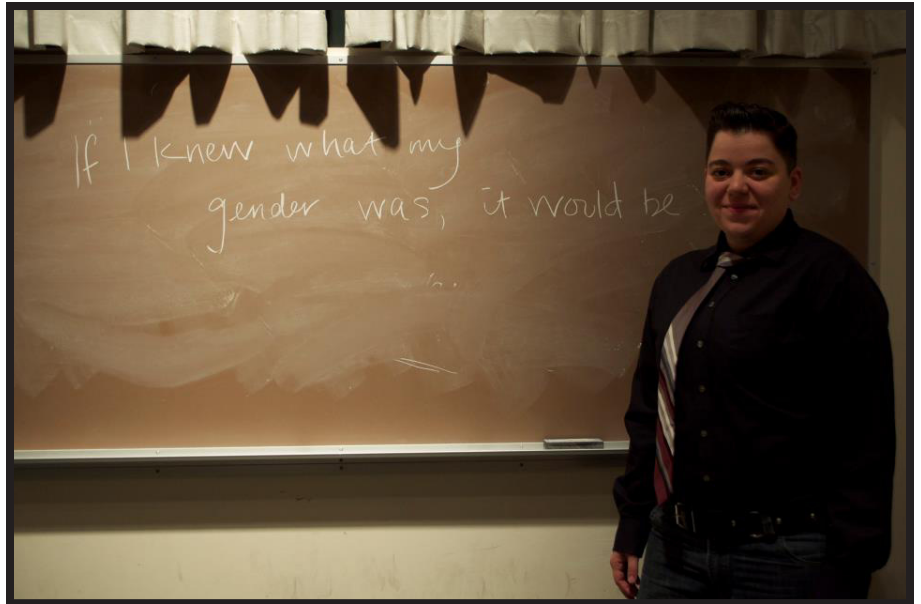
Lecture; ideal in a classroom or lecture hall for any number of students

Are the labels of “butch” and “femme” simply outdated identities based on heteronormative roles? Do we still need terms like that, or are they more limiting rather than liberating? With the BUTCH Voices and Femme Conferences, and with the rise of the internet, these identities have seen a huge resurgence—but are they still relevant? Come hear Sinclair Sexsmith chronicle the

trajectory of these identities through the 20th century, and discuss the activism around butch and femme that has been booming since the “feminist sex wars” of the 1980s. Mr. Sexsmith will discuss femme invisibility, butch flight, butch misogyny, body image issues of dysphoria and the beauty myth, competition, mentorship, sex positivity, and the complicated aspects of being in butch/femme community.

Best Sex Ever!

Ideal for a college student group or community center, beginner level, 20–35 people.



*At Mills College in Oakland, CA, 2012;
“If I knew what my gender was, it would be ...”*

You’re sexually liberated—you’re open minded—you are excited about becoming your most fulfilled sexual self. But how? How do you get more people to hit on you? How do you know what you want to experiment with? How do you develop the kind of confidence you need to ask for what you want? This workshop explores the basics of sex, sexual shame, sexual politics, kink, some of the most common power play concepts, including topping/bottoming and domination/submission, role play, ways to explore percussion (hitting), sensation (stings, thuds, temperature, and more), and basic bondage. Come explore your own landscape of sexual desires, and leave with a clearer sense of what your best sex ever will be.

From Sexual Shame to Sexual Mathlete

Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20–30 people in a classroom setting

Sex is good for you. It is okay to want sex. There is nothing wrong with your sexual hungers, kinks, or desires. Repeat those sentences over and over until you believe them—or attend this workshop. Regardless of how good our sexual education or family’s openness has been in our lives, there is a huge degree of sexual shame that we have absorbed simply by being in western 21st century culture. How do we excavate it? How do we drop down into the depths of ourselves to uncover the myths that we believe so deeply to be truths in order to dig them up and plant new ideas of sex being inherently good, pleasurable, and worth pursuing? What kind of sex do you want in your life? How can you get more people to hit on you, become a better flirt, and negotiate with more ease? What do you need to become a sexual mathlete? We’ll explore all of that in this interactive workshop, where you’ll take away new paths of sexuality and pleasure to explore.



At Rutgers Sex Week in New Jersey, 2012



with Jiz Lee and Nenna Joiner, at Smith College's panel on careers in sexuality, 2012

The Feminist Fist: Sensation, Power Dynamics, and Consent

Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 25–35 people

A critical power theory workshop for those interested in topping and bottoming, domination and submission. The “feminist fist” moment is that moment where you pull your fist back to hit someone—consensually, in an erotic context—and you have a huge grin on your face, when suddenly, your inner feminist throws a fit. “Violence is bad! Hitting someone is bad! Power over is bad!” she yells in your head. But the person under you is blissed out and trembling, waiting for your next blow, and you are totally turned on. What do you do? Is your inner feminist right? How do you make sense of these seemingly contradictory beliefs? And what if you are a bottom—how do you explore your own agency in the context of submission? This interactive workshop explores how feminist movements have been anti-sex and discuss the sex-positive movements that have been burgeoning in the last twenty years. We’ll discuss the foundational basics of kinky sex, power dynamics, and what it looks like to reconcile our deeply held feminist beliefs with our urges for consensual, intense play.

How to Change the World Through Sex: Careers in Pleasure

Beginner to advanced; primarily lecture-based, for any number of people

Do you want to be a sexuality educator? A sex blogger? A porn star? A BDSM instructor who travels the country leading hands-on skills at kinky conferences? Do you wish that “sexuality education” existed as a major? You can! Come learn what you should study in college in order to launch yourself into a sexuality career when you graduate. As the sexuality industry is exploding, all sorts of new careers are being forged. Come hear how Sinclair Sexsmith has forged a freelance writing, teaching, and sexuality career out of many different paths, weaving together skills from many aspects of life.

Relationship Skills: Kinky Queer Perspectives

Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20–30 people.

How satisfying are your relationships? We've all heard that "relationships take work," but what kind of work exactly do they take? How do we know if we're in a good one? And how can we make a good one last? This workshop explores all sorts of skills that we should have been learning all along, but that are significantly lacking in this culture. We'll do exercises on identifying cultural norms & personal values, accountability, naming & setting boundaries, strengthening support networks, and more. Bring a paper and writing utensil; we will be doing writing exercises.

Writing Dirty: Skills to Write About Sex

Ideal for beginner to intermediate writers in a 10–20 person group.

To write about sex well, you need the boldness to command and describe the dirty and oh so delicious acts we humans explore, and the basic writing skills of plot, setting, and character. In this pen-to-paper writing workshop we'll look at some examples of extremely successful and unsuccessful erotica, steamy love letters for your sweetheart, how to step up your blog to the next level, where to submit your work for publication in the erotica world, and some quick basics for editing your work. Bring a paper and writing utensil; we will be doing writing exercises.

Writing Ourselves into Existence: Queer Stories

Presented at Butch Voices Portland, OR. Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 12–20 people.

Traditional publishing through books, magazines, and literary journals has typically excluded gay stories, characters, revelations, and identity development. Navigating the world of literature can be extremely othering as a queer person attempting to write about queer lives, constantly being questioned for our cultural representations in writing. But Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard's mom, says that coming out is the most important thing we can do, that indeed it is a political act, which encourages and advocates for visibility. Telling our stories is one way to make ourselves visible. Come to this interactive writing workshop and learn about the history of queer stories, what the queer story looks like, alternate forms of publishing such as chapbooks and blogs, and begin to form your own queer story. Bring paper and a writing utensil, please!

Write Yourself A Better Sex Life

Ideal for beginner to intermediate writers in a 10–20 person group.

When Sinclair Sexsmith began their current writing project, *Sugarbutch Chronicles*, they were stuck in a "bed death" relationship and they didn't know how to get out. Now, six years later, Sinclair has become a prominent speaker and workshop leader on BDSM, power play, sexuality, and gender, and travels around to colleges, sex toy stores, and kinky conferences to talk to people about their experiences. Writing can be a powerful tool to actualize desires, both as a way of discovering what we don't know that we already know, and as reflection throughout the process. This workshop explores the self-reflection of a personal chronicle project and learning erotic actualization through sex blogging, writing, and exploring. Bring a pen and paper, we'll do some writing together.



*At Feelmore 510 in Oakland, CA, 2011;
photo by Lauren Cohn-Frankel*

WORKSHOP & PERFORMANCE OPTION



Photo by Jay Franco at Inspired Word NYC

In addition to leading workshops, SINCLAIR SEXSMITH is an experienced performance poet. They studied at Bent, the writing institute for queers in Seattle, for six years under slam champion Tara Hardy and subsequently taught performance poetry, memoir, erotica writing, and form poetry. Sinclair has self-published three chapbooks, contributed to more than a dozen others, and their 2007 chapbook *Fervor: Poems from the East Village* was published by Pleasure Boat Studio. Their 2006 spoken word record, *For the Record*, was recorded and produced by Moe Provencher. Sinclair has performed on stages across the country, from the Bowery Poetry Club and Nuyorican Poet's Cafe to Seattle Spit and the Center for Sex and Culture in San Francisco.

Sinclair's workshop and performance option includes a 2-hour interactive afternoon writing workshop (either Writing Ourselves into Existence, Writing Dirty, or Write Yourself A Better Sex Life) and a spoken word performance in the evening, in which Sinclair will do a 30 to 60 minute poetry set and participants in the workshop will be invited to read on a 30 to 60 minute open mic, MC'd by Mr. Sexsmith. Folks will get a chance to have some performance and writing coaching, and then showcase their writings in front of the larger group.

Mr. Sexsmith's spoken word performances include "How To Survive Your First Year in New York City," "The Butch Poem," aka Unsolicited Advice to a New Butch, Me In a Nutshell (an "I Believe" poem), "Love Letter to Femmes," "My Father's Son," "Gender Architecture," and more. Many examples of Sinclair's work can be found on their website, at <http://www.mrsexsmith.com/videos> or <http://www.sugarbutch.net/category/personal/poetry/>, and samples from their spoken word CD *For the Record* are available at <http://records.mrsexsmith.com>.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Download [Sinclair's press kit here](#), including high resolution photographs that can be used in workshop promotion.

Download [Sinclair's kink & BDSM workshop list for 2012-2013 here](#).

Look up [Sinclair's travel schedule here](#) and see if Sinclair is coming to your town anytime soon—they are always glad to add a workshop on to already existing travel.

Special thanks to photographers [Bill Wadman](#), [Lauren Cohn-Frankel](#), [Shilo McCabe](#), [Najva Sol](#), and [Syd London](#).

www.mrsexsmith.com | www.sugarbutch.net