

## Sinclair Sexsmith's Workshop Offerings in 2011

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*SINCLAIR SEXSMITH is a writer, teacher, and performer focusing on the subjects of sex, gender, and relationships. She has run the award-winning and well-known personal online writing project "Sugarbutch Chronicles: The Sex, Gender, and Relationship Adventures of a Kinky Queer Butch Top" at [sugarbutch.net](http://sugarbutch.net) since 2005. Her work has been published in various anthologies and websites, including multiple editions of the Best Lesbian Erotica series and 2011's Persistence: All Ways Butch and Femme. She lives in New York City and travels widely to talk to visit sex store, bookstores, talk to interesting folks and teach.*

### QUEER WORKSHOPS

#### **It Gets Better: Surviving High School as a Queer or Gender Outlaw (1.5-2 hours)**

*Any level, ideal for teenagers in a group of 25-35*

The process of growing up, of becoming who you are at your core, of figuring out where you fit in the world is full of tribulation for everyone, but occupying marginalized identities such as queer or genderqueer can make it even more complicated. In this supportive, explorative workshop, we'll talk about where we as queer and gender outlaws come from, what our lineage and heritage is like, how to find other people like us, how to feel less alone, and how to build a strong, supportive circle of community around us as we continue forging our paths in this world. Bring a paper and writing utensil, we will be doing writing exercises.

#### **Making Queer & Kinky Relationships Work: Things They Should Have Taught Us**

*Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 people.*

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 will explore 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.



*"Fucking With Gender" in Chicago at Northwestern University, spring 2010*

## **GENDER WORKSHOPS**

### **Fucking with Gender (2 hours)**

*Presented at Duke University (NJ), Brown University (RI), Northwestern University (Chicago), Smith College (Northampton, MA), Swarthmore University (Philadelphia), Harvard University (Boston), and more. Ideal for a college classroom or community center; beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 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.

### **Gendering Power: How to Spice Up Your Role Play (2 hours)**

*Presented at the Lesbian Sex Mafia (New York City), Conversio Virium (New York City), and others. Ideal for a sex-positive explorative setting in a classroom. Intermediate level; ideal for 20-30 people.*

Perhaps gender roles are just a construct. But that doesn't mean they're not hot! Lots of queers come to our own unique expressions of gender, and it can be a powerful way to explore many sides of ourselves with each other. Adding gender dynamics to sex play can encourage self-discovery, to solidify or express identities which are budding, or to further express identities already in progress. In this interactive workshop we will explore the addition and power of gender roles in sexual role play scenarios to increase desire, vulnerability, self-knowledge, and intimacy. Bring a pen and your notebook, we'll do some writing exercises to get us thinking.

### **Radical & Responsible Gender: Feminism, Masculinity, Misogyny, & Femininity (1.5-2 hours)**

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

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, then cover basic gender theory, breaking things down into small parts, in order to build them back up again "responsibly," by which I mean thoughtfully and intentionally, 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.

## WRITING WORKSHOPS



*Photo by Syd London*

### **Steamy: How 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.

### **Steamier: How to Write About Sex (Professionally)**

*Intermediate to advanced; ideal for 20-30 people.*

Building on part 1 of this same workshop, this second workshop is for writers who are interested in deepening their writing through discipline, schedules, long-term goals, and submitting pieces for publication. Learn how to edit your own work, how to unstick yourself from writer's block, how to dissect calls for submission to submit pieces that stand out and get accepted, where to watch for new opportunities, and how not to self-sabotage. Bring a paper and writing utensil, we will be doing writing exercises.

### **Writing Ourselves into Existence: Queer Stories (1.5 hours)**

*Presented at Butch Voices Portland (OR). Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 people.*

Traditional publishing through books, magazines, and literary journals have 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 continues to say 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!

### **Social Change Through Writing – Online and Offline (1.5 hours)**

*Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 people.*

Can writing encourage individual, personal growth? Absolutely. Following one's emotional landscape in words (or other art forms) can lead us to new and profound revelations about how we work. But can writing encourage social change? I believe it can. With a deep belief that the personal is political,

writing about our own lives, worlds, feelings, emotional landscapes, and cultural contexts can encourage personal, social, and political empowerment in our subcultures and in our lives. Come to this interactive writing workshop and we will discuss what social change is, how it has been achieved in the past, the history upon which the current social change movements are built, and the media that is revolutionizing social change activism: The Internet. Bring paper and a writing utensil, please!

## SEX WORKSHOPS

### **Kink 101: Enhancing Our Sex Lives with Toys, Sensation, Power, and Intensity** (1-1.5 hours)

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

Are you interested in enhancing your sex life with kinky play, but don't know where to start? Do you want to find partners to engage in that delicious dirty little fantasy that keeps playing over and over? This workshop will explore the basics of kink, some of the most common concepts and play, including topping/bottoming and domination/submission, role play, ways to explore percussion (hitting), sensation (stings, temperature, and more), and basic bondage. We'll learn what parts of the body are safe for hitting and which to avoid, which toys are the best to invest in, how to make your bedroom more kink-friendly, how to negotiate, and where to go to look for what you want.

### **Cock Confidence: Strap-On 101** (1-1.5 hours)

*Presented at KinkForAll New York City, Fascinations (Portland, OR), Butch Voices NYC, Good Vibrations (Boston), and others. Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 people.*

Many of us have experience with strapping on, packing, and playing, but there are lots of new products out there on the market that might be exciting and that you haven't encountered yet. Writer and sex educator Sinclair Sexsmith talk about what cocks are good for packing, what options are out there for pack-and-play, which harnesses are the most loved, and which to avoid. Plus, she'll delve into some cock confidence, getting into the psychology of penetration, and discussing what it's like to shoot from the hip. If you're a butch, a stud, an AGs or anywhere on the masculine side of center, come get the nuts and bolts of strapping it on and fucking. You'll learn about positions and lube, how different products work, what "cock confidence" means, and the psychology behind strapping on and playing with a cock with a partner, or with oneself.

### **Talk Dirtier: How to Let Your Tongue Go** (1-1.5 hours)

*Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 people.*

Talking dirty in the bedroom can be terrifying at first, but once you unlock your tongue, you'll find yourself saying all sorts of delicious things! Come to this workshop and we'll figure out what's tying our tongues in the first place, what's holding us back from being more free with our language in the bedroom, and what the heck we should say to enhance our sex and intensity our sensation. The brain is the biggest sex organ, after all, and the more we can turn on our minds, the better our experiences will be.



*Cock Confidence at Butch Voices NYC, Fall 2010. Photo by Syd London*

**Combating Bed Death: How to Keep the Passion in Long Term Relationships** (1.5-2 hours)

*Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 people.*

New relationship energy can propel a couple into a phenomenal experiential phase of sexual energy—bursts of passion, exploration, and intensity. Long term relationships, however, face the day-to-day life navigation of bills, scheduling, job and career difficulties or changes, disappointments, changes, and grief. How do we build a long term relationship that keeps the passion alive? How do we ensure we have enough time for our partner(s), and for ourselves? How do we both separate from our partner to have our own rich inner life and come back together to build a loving bond? And what kind of kinky play can be used to keep the fire going? We'll explore all of these concepts and more at this interactive workshop.

**“Can I Be Kinky and Still Be Feminist?”** (1.5-2 hours)

*Beginner to intermediate; ideal for 20-30 people.*

Many of the varied theories behind feminism have torrid positions on sexual expressions through kink, BDSM, bondage, sadomasochism, and other non-vanilla sex acts, often coming down on the side that they are inherently harmful to women. But are they? Come to this interactive workshop where we'll explore some of the origins of these sexual theories, and discuss the sex-positive movements that have been burgeoning in the last twenty years. We'll discuss the foundational basics of kinky sex, including top/bottom play, power dynamics, domination/submission, and what it looks like to reconcile our deeply held feminist beliefs with our urges for consensual, intense play.

**Mommy/Daddy + Boy/Girl Dynamics In a Queer Context (1-1.5 hours)**

*Intermediate to advanced; ideal for 20-30 people.*

All relationships have power dynamics and age dynamics, and all of us have within us a version of ourselves at every age. Playing with age and power in a consensual, loving relationship can enhance certain parts of ourselves, relieve pressure, alleviate anxiety, and help us to navigate the larger world with more empowerment. This advanced kink workshop explores power, gender, and family play in a queer context, where we'll discuss bringing a power exchange relationship of any sort from the bedroom into a 24/7 lifestyle, what the benefits are for both, and how to go about navigating long term fulfillment for all parties within the relationship.

**A Dyke's Secrets of Cunnilingus (1-1.5 hours)**

*Presented at Purple Passion in New York City*

Straight from a dyke's mouth: the secrets of cunnilingus from someone who loves to give and get it. We'll talk about the anatomy of the vulva, and the anatomy of the mouth, and the dozens of ways we can use our lips and tongues to stimulate, arouse, and tease. Join writer, educator, and pervert Sinclair Sexsmith for techniques, how-tos, and exercises to strengthen just the right muscles in this fun workshop.

**IN ADDITION ...**

*Custom workshops and spoken word performances are available upon request.*

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)
- Gender Architecture