

# SINCLAIR SEXSMITH

WRITER, SPEAKER, PERFORMER



2017-2018

# WORKSHOPS

## Fucking with Gender

SEX AND GENDER  
AND GENDER AND SEX

Sinclair's signature and most demanded workshop. Now with coloring pages!

## Non-Binary in Theory and Practice

BREAKING THE BINARY

Go beyond gender roles. Explore the singular they pronoun and beyond.

## No Limits

WHY PEOPLE PLAY  
WITH EDGY SEX

Why do some people like what they like?  
What are the ethics of playing with taboo?

## The Sexual Politics of BDSM

CONSENT, AGENCY, & FEMINISM

Dig deep into the theories, communities,  
and politics behind BDSM




BILL WADMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL WADMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER



A person is writing in a notebook with a pen. In the background, there is a glass of iced whiskey and several books. The text is overlaid on the image.

**THERE'S A  
REASON SINCLAIR  
IS IN ALL THE  
BOOKS, WINS ALL  
THE AWARDS,  
SPEAKS AT ALL  
THE PANELS AND  
READINGS,  
KNOWS ALL THE  
STUFF, AND  
WRITES FOR ALL  
THE PLACES.**

— AUTOSTRADDLE, 2011

# FUCKING WITH GENDER

*Presented at Drew University (NJ), Brown University (RI), Northwestern University (Chicago), Smith College (Northampton, MA), Swarthmore University (Philadelphia), Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), and more.*

Sure, we can theorize gender down to a non-existent social construction — but that's not the only way to define gender. Our bodies are part of almost everything we do, and humans use gender as a major categorization — why not have some fun with it? While the everyday sexism and stifling gender roles can tie us in knots, finding liberation in expression and interaction can be freeing. Changing the sexist and heteronormative systems of sex and gender is going to take a while, but we can make changes in our own personal relationships to those systems now. This workshop explores different components of gender, internal and external, and encourages us to break our eyes open to the myriad human gender expressions. Partly strategizing to mess with the gender binary, and partly validation of each other's gender expression as a piece of our erotic lives, we'll dive deep into the intersection of sex and gender, and all the complexities they arouse.





# NON-BINARY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

“Non-binary” is a noun, label, and identity, sure—but it’s also a subset of skills and awarenesses that queers can harness and use as tools for liberation. In insular communities like radical college campuses or small queer groups, it’s possible to create and have our non-binary identities validated. But when we get out into the “real world,” it’s often totally different. In this workshop, we’ll dive into pronoun usage, coming out as genderqueer to friends, family, and institutions, navigating legal forms, arguing with the reality of the gender binary system, and day to day microaggressions (like groups of AFAB genderqueer folks being called “ladies” in every restaurant cafe ever). Everyone can queer up the gender binary system—let’s use it for liberation, elevating intersectional activism, and deep acceptance of ourselves and others.

## NO LIMITS: WHY PEOPLE PLAY WITH EDGY SEX

Blindfolds. Handcuffs. Ice cubes and hot wax. Spankings. Obeying or giving orders. From the simplest display of something like being pushed up against a wall, to the more elaborate contracts and safewords in films like *Fifty Shades of Grey*, kinky sex is gaining more and more visibility. But explorations of edgy sex date back as far as we have history, and the roots of the current kink culture are with rebels, outlaws, and activists. There are safe, sane, and consensual ways to explore all sorts of new erotic terrain — let’s discuss the hows and whys of sadomasochism, power exchange, fetishes, and more.

# CONSENT & BDSM

Consent & BDSM Pop culture depictions of BDSM rarely capture the nuance that happens behind the scenes — consent and negotiations in the kink communities that are taught, encouraged, and applied. Often, BDSM fantasy scenes seem coercive, fearful, or even damaging, but these practices attempt to keep everyone involved safe. Negotiation techniques, safety tips for playing with new people, and concepts such as safewords encourage personal empowerment and are built with everyone's best interests in mind. While safety is never guaranteed, concepts like "RACK" and "SSC" are widespread, and the communities, conferences, and clubs are constantly striving to orient new members and deepen the conversation as it continues. Come talk about how to apply consent and equal negotiation — regardless of whether you are part of the kink communities or not, they are useful tools for everyone.

## THE SEXUAL POLITICS OF BDSM

We all have some ideas about what it means to be a top or a masochist, but what does it mean to be a feminist dominant or an empowered submissive? And why do we assume that submissives are unempowered, anyway? What's the difference between BDSM and abuse? Is it healthy to engage in kinky sex play? Sinclair thinks so. BDSM is the pursuit of giving and receiving pleasure through bold sensation, the consensual exchange of temporarily giving up power or taking on authority over another. In this workshop we'll explore how consent and agency are key issues in feminism, and how they work in the exploration of BDSM. We'll discuss different kinds of topping and bottoming, as well as theories to to enhance your personal BDSM skills.



# SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE & WRITING WORKSHOP

## Writing Our Stories

### TWO-HOUR WRITING WORKSHOP


Supportive, interactive writing workshop where participants discuss writing theory, practice writing through prompts and share work. Incorporating the AWA method, we discuss what stays with us and what works in the writing, encouraging the brilliance to rise to the top. Focused on marginalized lives and stories, this workshop encourages us all to share our inner worlds.

## Queering Desire

### 2-HOUR OPEN MIC PERFORMANCE

An evening of queer spoken word, storytelling, and open hearts. A 30-minute set of Sinclair's best love poems, dirty stories, and performative theories combined with an open mic for students of the writing workshop and the broader community, producing a stage where the hidden can be revealed and we can all rejoice.



A person's hands are shown writing in a spiral-bound notebook. The notebook is resting on a dark, corrugated metal surface. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

**MX. SEXSMITH IS  
THE BEST-KNOWN  
BUTCH EROTICA  
WRITER WHOSE  
GROUNDBREAKING,  
KINKY STORIES  
HAVE TURNED ON  
COUNTLESS  
QUEERS.**

—AFTERELLEN, 2016



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