

Singing your way to better sex

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Instructional ukelele ditties about cunnilingus may seem pretty unusual, but Vancouver duo the Wet Spots have been titillating audiences for the past two years with polite but scandalous songs about threesomes, sex toys and naughty neighbours.

Now, the husband and wife duo of Cass King and John Woods are amping up their nightclub act with "Sing Your Way to Better Sex," a musical comedy debuting at the Victoria Fringe Festival later this month.

King promises a more blatantly educational show, with diagrams, sketches, sing-along songs, and even exercises to improve pubic muscles.

"The premise is it's a night school class, kind of like Basketweaving 101. But this is our night school college class for the sex education class you never got."

Those familiar with the Wet Spots' nightclub act—which has garnered rave reviews all over Canada's west coast and in the New York Burlesque Festival—know the colourful clothing, spanking, playful audience interaction, and general naughtiness that run rampant in the duo's performance and music. The upcoming Fringe gig is a way of taking that to the next level, they say.

King describes "Sing Your Way..." as a quantum leap for the Wet Spots. Their dedication is evident even in our interview time. At 9 a.m., the pair have already been up for hours working on the show. They are, to say the least, excited.

"This show is going to get the audience up around and moving," explained Woods. "We're going to be doing similar things to the nightclub act, like polling the audience, but we're also interested in what

our audience's experience has been like. When was the last time they had any sex education?"

Several new songs, including "The Masturbation Sing-along Song," will be debuted, and the pair has put together sketches with titles like "Uncle Scroty's Field Guide to the Pervs." It's certainly enough to put the "adult" in adult education.

"People are uncomfortable talking about sex," explains King, also a writer and former sex columnist, "even though it surrounds us all. [Most people] don't talk about that in polite conversations. But we do, so it's liberating for us in a sense, and it's fascinating when people come up after a show and tell us what they think, complete with personal anecdotes."

For instance, at the end of a show in the States, a drunk man stumbled up to the stage, looked at Woods, and slurred "I can take four fingers, man, but five's too much."

Another time, three college kids came up to Woods and King after a show and said that they had been inspired to have a threesome. By the time the Wet Spots were back in Vancouver, webcam shots of the tryst were waiting in their e-mail inbox.

Inspiring? Certainly, but not only for the young 'uns. The last couple of shows held at the Comedy Celar were packed with more over-30s than under-30s, and even a few seniors crowded in near the front of the stage. Woods said it's all about promoting a healthy attitude towards sex for people of any age, and getting a few laughs, too.

"Whenever we're talking to the audience, we're like, 'You know how it is when you have a big orgy at your house?' and we just assume the audience does all of these things. We don't portray sex or hot



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King and Woods bring sex education to the masses, including your Grandma.

sex as being the exclusive territory of young, hard-bodied 19-year-olds," he explained.

"I think a lot of the time people who are a bit older are saying, 'I still like to get it on. I like to get a little crazy and have a good time,' but the only references to sex they're seeing in the media ... you'd think that only people 19 through 24 are having sex. We're coming out and go-

ing 'Grandma likes to get crazy too, ha ha!'"

It was a shock to discover that their music goes over equally well in a punk-rock bar or a conservative, suburban room, adds King. "We went out thinking we were so cool and edgy. But it was a shock that we could play this for people who are elderly. And they get it. Most of the time, they get it."

After the Victoria Fringe the pair will be making their way to the Vancouver Fringe Festival, then embarking on a university tour through central and eastern Canada. "Sing Your Way to Better Sex" starts Aug. 26 and continues through until September 6.

Check show times at www.victoriafringe.com or www.wetspots-music.com.