

Couple wants to sex you up

By Ron Soltis



“The music is the kind of stuff that your grandparents would listen to and enjoy. What we do with that is marry it with really direct lyrics about kinky sex, bi sex, group sex, you name it. It’s all in there.”

That’s John Woods talking when asked to describe his music. Woods is half of The Wet Spots, a performing duo who sing such bossa nova and jazz originals like “Threeway Rendezvous” and “Do You Take it (in the Ass)?” Along with his partner and wife, Cass King, they have wowed burlesque and comedy festivals in Vancouver and its surrounding areas. They are now taking their act on the road and have been booked for the New York Burlesque Festival in May.

Before that, The Wet Spots will hit Winnipeg on April 10. It will be a sort of homecoming for Woods, who was raised here. He was involved with several local punk bands (most notably Guy Smiley) before his love for Brit-pop took him to London, England before settling in Vancouver. That’s where he met King during poetry night.

He ended up playing guitar while she read her poetry. The two then decided to work together even more and found out they had more in common besides music and poetry.

Both are “not exclusively homosexual” and they eventually became a couple. They didn’t start writing material together until about a year and a half into the relationship. Once they did collaborate professionally, they wrote about things they know best.

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“The subject matter that appealed to both of us were stuff that were polysexual and kink-positive,” Woods elaborates. “Some of the first shows we played were in some of the fetish clubs out here and some of the burlesque shows up here. Then this fellow who ran just a regular run-of-the-mill stand-up comedy club saw us playing at one of these shows and invited us down to his club.”

Both were apprehensive at first about playing somewhere so mainstream, especially with a show involving audience interaction and spankings. To their surprise, the show went well. Since then, The Wet Spots have continued playing both underground and “suburban” venues, generating great

reviews in both settings. Not surprisingly, their audience are very diverse.

One of their favourite numbers in the show is a song called “Texas Annie.” The two wrote it after discovering that sex toys are banned in five states in the U.S., including Texas. It’s based on a true story and tells of a big butch lesbian charged with conspiracy to traffic sex toys. Woods explains:

“The neat thing about this song is when we play in some of these suburban clubs where the people are a little bit more... I hesitate to say redneck, but you can’t really get around it. They’re usually a little bit more truck-driver-baseball-hat-wearing redneck types. The sort of people who might be yelling, ‘Hey you dyke!’ out of their truck as they drive by. [But during the song], they’re cheering for this woman because she’s like the old-school American outlaw. Just for that moment, these more redneck people are on the side of the big butch lesbian and her trunk full of dildos.”

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Woods also tells of a young straight trio (two men and one woman) they corresponded with who decided to have a threesome after seeing the show, complete with some man-on-man action. With stories like that, Woods says he’s proud to be bringing taboo topics to middle America. This includes his unusual marriage to King, which they are both happy to share with the world.

“By normalizing polysexuality, for a lack of a better term, we get to dance on the line between comedy and advocacy,” Woods says. “Despite the content, we’re not out to shock. It’s more like a down-home, friendly, kinky polysexual hootenanny. People in the suburbs laugh because they think we’re kidding, and people downtown laugh because they know we’re not.”

Local drag performer Cassandra Crossing will emcee The Wet Spots show (with special guests Vav Jungle) at The West End Cultural Centre on Saturday, April 10 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$8 in advance available at Ticketmaster and \$10 at the door.