



# Enjoying and Hosting EROTIC EVENTS

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## Introduction

This guide to enjoying and hosting erotic events originally served as the set of handouts to a seminar on the subject which we hosted on May 31, 1998. The intent of this guide is the same as the intent of the seminar: to empower others to host



their own erotic events. The authors of this guide have found their explorations in this area to be so empowering and fun that it seemed a pity not to share this information with a wider audience.

This guide is available online on the Society for Human Sexuality web site at <http://www.sexuality.org/>, so feel free to visit that site if you received this guide via print or e-mail and would like to read a fresh copy with hyperlinks.

Have fun!

## Seminar Outline

*This seminar begins with a discussion of the various types of erotic events and spaces that occur on a regular basis, and continues with a discussion on how to be emotionally comfortable in and enjoy events hosted by others. The conversation then turns to practical guidelines and considerations associated with hosting your own events, and concludes with a guided exercise which leaves each participant with a personalized blueprint for an event he or she might like to create at some point in the future.*

### I. Types of Erotic Events

#### A. Erotic Event Continua

1. Gender/sexual orientation of attendees (mixed, men-only, women-only, etc.)
2. Type of sex ("anything consensual goes," masturbation only, erotic massage only, Tantric sex focus, fetish clothing focus, BDSM focus, etc.)
3. Presence or absence of "spiritual intent"
4. Degree to which event is driven by or encourages the formation of ongoing friendships/relationships/community
5. Level of erotic intensity ("sensual but non-sexual" to "sensual and highly-sexual")
6. "Formal" to "informal"
7. "Regular" to "spur of the moment"
8. "Completely open to the public" to "just inviting two close friends home at the end of an evening"
9. "Three attendees" to "thousands of attendees" (the [Sex Maniac's Ball](#), the [Lifestyles Convention](#), etc.)



## B. Examples

### 1. Erotic Massage Events

- a. Generally allow each participant a set amount of time on a massage table to receive (possibly erotic) massage from the other attendees at his or her table before rotating. There are generally three or four people at each table.
- b. Since each person gets to talk about what they're comfortable with and not comfortable with when getting on the table for their turn, these events are a good opportunity to practice "asking for what you want"
- c. Can be done informally with a bunch of people or just a few, and nobody feels left out because everybody gets a turn
- d. Visit <http://www.sexuality.org/erotmass.htm> for more details.

### 2. BDSM Play Parties

- a. Can range from private and informal events at someone's home to events the size of the annual [NLA](#) "Living in Leather" parties
- b. Negotiations are generally carried out clearly and verbally, and traditionally any rules or points of etiquette that the guests are expected to follow tend to be clearly articulated in lists of rules provided by the event hosts
- c. Intercourse or oral sex may be allowed, encouraged, discouraged, or not allowed, depending on the event
- d. The book [Alternate Sources](#) by Trevor Jacques contains local BDSM community resource listings, covering most of the world.

### 3. Body Electric Workshops

- a. Occur on a regular basis all over the country
- b. Hosted for men only, women only, and mixed groups (generally, you have to take a same-gender course before taking a mixed-gender course).
- c. Have brought the concept of "emotionally safe erotic space" to a fine art
- d. Are an excellent way for het-identified folks to initially explore being comfortable erotically with members of



- the same gender. This level of comfort can enhance one's experience of many other types of erotic events.
- e. Introductory courses are focussed on erotic massage
  - f. Visit <http://www.bodyelectric.org/> for more information
4. Erotic Campouts ("A.R.," "Radical Faeries events," etc.)
    - a. Having erotic space in a natural setting, over a period of days, can be fun and inspiring (especially for community-building events or events with a spiritual focus)
    - b. The shared experience of preparing for the campout can increase the sense of participation and trust among the attendees.
  5. Weekend Getaways
    - a. Can involve as few as two partners; the only difference between these events and regular sexual interaction is that the weekend is specifically planned for and devoted to sex
    - b. If you want to extend this idea out over a period of time, something like those sets of "[sex checks](#)" might be a good way to do so.
    - c. The idea of planning for sexuality consciously may be a good stepping stone for some couples to hosting events involving more people than just each other
    - d. Read Pepper Schwartz's [Great Sex Weekend](#) book for details on this concept
  6. Large Community-Building Events ("Winter Gathering," etc.)
    - a. Involve renting a large space, often an on-premises swinger's club or large men's sex club
    - b. Participants from many different local and regional sex-positive communities are invited and encouraged to network and learn from each other.
    - c. Some organizations, such as Network for a New Culture (<http://www.nfnc.org/>), have community-building as one of their primary goals.
  7. Sex Ritual Gatherings ("Queen of Heaven," etc.)
    - a. Generally involve an opening and closing circle of some kind; other characteristics may be present depending on whether the event was designed to fit within some specific spiritual tradition or not



- b. Focus is on the spiritual/personal growth of attendees through shared sexuality and intimacy
  - c. Elements of these gatherings (such as the opening/closing circles) can make people feel comfortable even in events without an explicitly spiritual focus
8. Swingers' Events
- a. Generally for male/female couples to meet other male/female couples for recreational sex and possible friendship
  - b. Male/male sex may be taboo depending on the club
  - c. Can be "on-premises" or "off-premises"
  - d. Negotiations for play are often carried out by the women in male/female couples; single men (if allowed to attend at all) probably aren't going to have a good time
  - e. The swingers' community holds an annual "Lifestyles" convention; smaller regional ones are also held annually
  - f. A few hotels, such as Edgewater West (Oakland, CA), serve as swinging resorts and may allow single men to attend
  - g. Read <http://www.sexuality.org/mgswing.htm> for more details
9. Jack/Jill Offs
- a. These are masturbation-only spaces (no intercourse or oral sex)
  - b. Jack/Jill Offs are a popular form of completely safe group sex, especially for people who are voyeurs or exhibitionists
  - c. Read "Inside the Safe Sex Clubs" by Carol Queen (published in [\*Real Live Nude Girl\*](#)) for more details
10. Men's Bathhouses and Sex Clubs
- a. These are men-only spaces
  - b. Depending on the club, latex barriers may or may not be used for oral sex
  - c. Sex is generally completed by each man masturbating himself to orgasm
  - d. Very little verbal interaction takes place; it's common not to exchange names
  - e. Look in a current edition of [\*Damron's Address Book\*](#) for local listings of bathhouses and men's sex clubs. Web

pages

at <http://www.cruisingforsex.com/> and <http://www.sexuality.org/l/seattle/seabath.htm> may also be of value to you.

11. Other Private Events

- a. Can be as simple as three people realizing they are all turned on to each other, one of them having enough courage to propose group play to the other two, and the other two agreeing.
- b. The imagination of the hosts and the attendees is the only limit!

II. Being Comfortable Attending Erotic Events

A. Think About Why You Might Want to Go...

1. To meet other people for sex in a safe, sex-positive environment?
2. To socialize and network with other sex-positive folk?
3. To break down personal shame around sexuality?
4. To pick up on synergistic arousal caused by other folks playing with each other around you while you have sex with your partner?
5. To expand your horizons and learning new things by watching others play?
6. To be seen?
7. To get over body-image issues by being able to see a variety of differently-sized and shaped folks enjoying themselves?
8. To learn how other people host events so you can eventually host your own?
9. To meet potential partners?
10. To just have fun and maybe get laid (which is a perfectly valid reason...)?
11. To grow spiritually?
12. To be adventurous?

B. Communication Skills

1. Negotiation skills and other verbal communication skills are very important
2. If you aren't used to saying "yes" when you want to say yes and saying "no" when you want to say no, doing some exercises along these lines might be a valuable use of your time before committing to attend an erotic space
3. Be prepared to hear "no" respectfully without getting weird about it.



4. If you're going to say no to someone, "I'm flattered you asked, but no" or "Not right now, but check in with me later" may be polite ways to phrase it (depending on the situation and depending on whether you really might be interested later).
5. Approaching someone can often be as simple as introducing yourself (if necessary), conversing for a while (if in the social area), and asking, "Would you like to play?" Negotiation (if necessary) can follow from there. Again, this may vary depending on the type of event you're at. However, even if the event you're attending allows or traditionally uses non-verbal cruising (such as the bathhouses), it's still a good idea to have good verbal communication skills to fall back on if things get confused for some reason.
6. With regard to other people's scenes, keep a respectful distance unless you're invited to join in or based on the social context it's clear that joining is OK. If in doubt it's a good idea to ask (waiting for a time when you wouldn't seriously be disturbing anything by asking).

#### C. Pre-Attendance Tips

1. Taking a shower, meditating, and/or "decompressing from the day" can be helpful in terms of preparing yourself to be in a different sort of space
2. Especially for non-profit events run by volunteers, look for ways to help somehow. Perhaps bring snacks, have an interesting or entertaining story to tell the host, offer to help clean up afterwards, etc.

#### D. Social Tips

1. Note that these tips may be more or less applicable depending on the event; conversation skills may be much less relevant at bathhouses, for example.
2. Keep in mind that any new people you might meet are just people; the only new element is that open sexuality is one of their interests. The regular social skills surrounding friendly conversations and basic social interactions are just as welcome and important as in everyday life. Courtesy never goes out of style...
3. If you're attending with a (monogamous?) partner, deal with any relationship fights and strife before showing up so you don't cloud the event and your own good time with minor or major squabbles; be clear on what's OK and what's not OK for



you and your partner (in terms of your relationship). Imagining (together with your partner) many different scenarios that you think might happen and agreeing on what your mutual response to them should be might help.

4. If it's appropriate to do so thank the hosts as you leave, and if you had a good time at their event tell them so; this is especially appropriate for community events where the volunteer hosts are potentially subject to burnout.
5. Leave gracefully if you need to leave, in a way that won't disturb others or make them wonder where you went.
6. Don't engage in potentially distracting non-sexual conversations where they might distract folks who are playing.
7. Tolerance is almost always an asset; try to make an effort to appreciate or at least be accepting of sexual preferences other than your own
8. At the majority of erotic events (with the notable exception of bathhouses and other men's sex clubs) the quality of your experience may be determined by the quality and quantity of your connections, friendships, or relationships with the other attendees. If you don't have a good time the first go-around as you do the second time, this may be the reason. As in any other community forming social connections can take time.

#### E. Emotional Tips

1. If you're worried about feeling left out, try to arrange a play date for the event with someone you are bringing or know will be there.
2. Try to have as few expectations as possible. Give yourself credit just for being brave enough to go, for being courteous, and for following the rules. If anything else happens it's then just icing on the cake.
3. Everyone feels left out every once in a while. Feeling of alienation can arise for no discernable reason, and it doesn't have to be anyone's fault. The only question is how you handle these feelings; communicating that you're feeling left out, taking a break, finding something to do to help the party, or leaving gracefully (explaining to someone that you're tired, had a good time, etc. but need to go) are all options. If you really need to leave then leave, but keep in mind that situations can change very quickly, sometimes leaving you wondering why you ever wanted to leave in the first place...



4. Dealing with jealousy
    - a. It helps to think about what might make you feel jealous or anxious and look for good solutions ahead of time.
    - b. If you have a primary partner, one approach might be to only play with other couples or other people as a couple; then neither of you can feel left out. Jealousy issues tend to arise less often when everyone is having a good time.
    - c. If your jealousy issues center around a partner, perhaps a clearer set of agreements and expectations with that person might help.
  5. If in doubt step away from things for a moment and take a deep breath.
- F. "Spiritual" Components
1. Non-Denominational Consciousness-Raising
    - a. It can be worthwhile to consider how erotic events might help you grow as a person.
    - b. As Marco Vassi put it, "Casual sex is a great way to get to know people."
    - c. One possibility might be experiencing "group sex" as an antidote to the sense of "scarcity" that often tends to be associated with this basic human drive.
    - d. Another possibility might be using erotic events as a way to learn to accept yourself as a whole person, regardless of your shape or size (it's a myth that only people of a certain body type attend erotic events; a variety of shapes, sizes, and ages have been present at every such event I have attended).
    - e. Putting on an event of your own may be very empowering for you. In general, we as humans tend to think of life as being less sloppy than it is; often the only reason a particular type of event doesn't exist is because nobody has bothered to try to create it. I challenge you to ask yourself, the next time you think of an event that would be fun to attend, "Why haven't I created an event like this?" instead of asking "Why isn't there an event like this?"
    - f. Yet another possibility might be learning to experience "love" as something other than a zero-sum game.



2. Rituals and Ceremonies
  - a. Typically "sex rituals" that spring from specific spiritual traditions and which involve complex liturgies are only open to folks who are participants in that tradition, so you don't have to worry about complexities of this nature.
  - b. However, a type of "non-denominational" spiritual vocabulary appears to be arising with regard to more open erotic events that have a spiritual component, so it's valuable to have a basic understanding of what the commonly-used phrases (i.e. "erotic energy," "grounding and centering," etc.) might mean to you.

### III. Hosting Erotic Events

- A. Think About What You Might Like To Create...
  1. Just as it's helpful to reflect on what you might be looking for before you attend an erotic event, it's also helpful to reflect on what you might like to see happen at your event while you're planning it; questions of this nature will help you with many of the decisions you might make.
  2. If you can, it's helpful to attend an event or two put on by others before throwing your own; this gives you a good first-hand sense of what might work and what might not.
  3. Think about whether you want to have a theme. Themes works well if you want to keep a festive atmosphere and will be inviting folks who actually like dressing creatively.
  4. Whatever you may WANT to have happen at your event, be sensitive to what is ACTUALLY happening and work within that: "You can't push the river."
- B. Creating the Guest List
  1. Choosing your guests carefully is probably more important than any other single decision that may go into your event, especially for the first time you hold it.
  2. If you can, invite at least one exhibitionist (or even better, an exhibitionistic pair or set of partners) and possibly talk to him/her/them about being willing to get things started if the event gets off to a slow start (perhaps by playing with each other, dancing erotically, etc.)
  3. Try to invite some folks who are experienced at this sort of thing, if you can.



4. It's helpful to talk to prospective guests personally about your first event. After the first event the folks who attended who want to attend more events can be sent invitations by mail or e-mail.
  5. If you're planning a mixed-gender event, you may want to think about whether the women attending would be more comfortable if they knew the event would be roughly gender-balanced. If in doubt, ask the some of the people you want to invite.
  6. If you're in a coupled relationship (especially a male/female one) you're not apt to have much success unless both you and your partner are both in on the inviting.
- C. Impromptu Events
1. Small-scale events (in cases where you and the friends you are with are obviously turned on to each other) can often be initiated merely by one person taking the emotional risk to suggest it.
  2. "I'm feeling turned to all of you, and I think it would be a shame to let all these good feelings go to waste. How would you all feel about going back to my place and having fun together?" might be a good way to phrase this delicate request.
- D. Safety Decisions
1. Should you make safer-sex precautions universally-required at your event?
  2. Should you require barriers for oral sex?
  3. Should you require latex gloves at all? Just for penetration? Or in all sexual contexts where hands could come into contact with body fluids?
  4. Should you provide safer-sex supplies (possibly asking the guests what they use) or let guests bring their own supplies?
  5. Do you have a place where the guests can wash their hands? Can they use your shower if they want to?
  6. Do you want to have paper towels/baby wipes available?
  7. Do you want to have lube packets, a little bottles of lube, or whatever the guests bring?
  8. Do you want to ask folks to kick in a few dollars to the safer-sex supplies fund, if the host is providing supplies?
  9. For BDSM events, will there be one universal safeword?
  10. Do you want to have "DM's," "Facilitators," or "Safer Sex Fairies"?



11. Will your rule be to "ask before touching" unless something different is arranged, or is this not strictly necessary due to all the guests knowing each other, etc.?
- E. Selecting a Space
1. If you're just having friends over, your home or apartment is probably the best choice. It's a myth that large spaces are necessary; one of the authors of this outline regularly hosts erotic events involving a dozen or more folks in the room he rents in his shared home. If even one of the prospective attendees has a space such as this with sufficient privacy, your space concerns are solved. Having the guests help decorate and prepare the space to make it more inviting will involve all of them in a productive way.
  2. Big spaces may be necessary for large or semi-public (community building) events; possibilities including renting bathhouses, private resorts, or on-premises swing clubs. Renting a space usually creates a large amount of additional expense which would have to be recovered through charging admission to the event.
- F. Rules and Agreements
1. Having clear rules when necessary (on issues such as safer sex, confidentiality, use of the space, etc.) can help in many circumstances; after all, it does save time in negotiations if you don't have to negotiate whether or not to use latex, etc. Many parties have the rules printed up and have the guests sign something saying they read and agree to them.
  2. Keep the list of rules brief if at all possible. Try to state them as positively as you can so they don't become so much of a "downer."
- G. Orienting New Folks
1. For regular events it might be helpful to have a "tips for new folks" sheet of some kind that you either give to new folks or summarize for them. For small events it should be sufficient for the host to talk to the new person about the event beforehand or as they invite them, possibly conveying some of the "Emotional Tips" mentioned in the previous section.
  2. If possible, emphasize that nobody is going to look down on them for using the chill-out area (or in general for not choosing to play that evening or for not having the opportunity to play that evening). Emphasize they're your guest, and the only thing



expected from them is courtesy and following the common rules.

3. Emotional issues sometimes arise during sex. Hopefully, your guests will understand (or it can be explained to them) that nobody is going to look down on them for it, though some folks may ask if they're OK and if there is anything they need in the way of support.

#### H. Setting the Space

1. Setting your space nicely makes the guests feel cared for, keeps your space clean and safe, and makes any safer sex precautions easier for the guests to follow.
2. Room temperature is important: if it's too cold nobody will want to take their clothes off, if it's way too hot they won't want to play. It's probably better to err on the warm side than the cold side, however; cranking up the heat is the best way to help people be comfortable being nude.
3. Candles can be a great mood-setting form of illumination; just be sure to get ones that can't be tipped or knocked over
4. Turning off the house telephone ringers (if possible) is a good idea
5. Sexy [music](#) can help; put the CD player on repeat play unless someone is assigned to change CDs as necessary.
6. Have plenty of soft places for people to lie down and play; mattresses and pillows help a lot.
7. It's a good idea to have coverings for furniture, etc., which people might want to play on.
8. Unless you're using a very big space with a separate TV room in which erotic videos can be shown, leave the TV off. It generally kills the party unless it's kept separate.
9. Having light snacks and beverages of some kind (generally brought by the guests in the case of informal events) is a good idea: fruit, juices, chocolate, etc. are good choices.
10. It's helpful to have a "chill-out area" for folks who want to take a break or are feeling left out. For larger homes, etc., it's helpful to have social space (generally around the food) and erotic space.
11. For some larger events or theme parties, it might be fun to have different play spaces clearly labelled in different ways: "Ask Before Touching", "Feel Free to Jump in!", etc. It might also be helpful to have the open play areas located between the



bathroom and the food area, so nervous folks can get accustomed to things in passing by the play areas on their way to the restrooms or the snacks.

#### I. Opening Activities/Circles

1. Involving the guests in the setup for the space can be a good way to involve everyone in a productive way that gives them time to socialize and get comfortable with each other.
2. For events in which attendees can straggle in at any point, opening circles, etc. aren't as easy to do. However, if the event will start at a specific time, at which the guests are expected to be there, it's helpful to start the event in some formal way.
3. Having an opening circle is a good idea. After a period of socializing and chatting, ask everyone to sit or stand in a circle, facing each other. Each person can go around and say hi, maybe their name, and something they're looking forward to that evening (their "intention"). This sort of thing can be very helpful for folks who want a space to say something everyone will hear, such as that they won't be having any sex that evening and not to take it personally, that they're in a monogamous relationship and are there just to socialize and chat, that there's some fantasy they'd love to live out that evening, etc. This also gives the host a chance to welcome everyone.
4. Feeding each other, passing objects between each other without using hands, or exchanging back-rubs can be nice ice-breakers; they also give everyone a chance to feel involved, whether or not they end up being able to play with anyone that evening. Of course, if everyone already knows each other this sort of thing might still be fun, but may not be strictly necessary.
5. Having everyone get out of their street clothes somehow, perhaps by ritually undressing each other, can also help them make the transition to erotic space.
6. Having an explicit safer-sex demo can be a mood-enhancing and educational opening activity.
7. Another thing that can be fun and productive is to have one of the icebreakers be an exercise in communication. Many difficulties which people have with erotic events center around worrying about experiencing something they are uncomfortable with, or worrying about feeling left out and



unsure how to ask for what they would like. Sometimes new folks may not feel as if they know enough of the other attendees. Here are some suggestions for icebreakers which address these concerns:

- a. Arrange the attendees into two circles of equal numbers, with the inner circle facing the outer circle. Each person has some sort of interaction (hugging? kissing? sharing something verbally? saying something that's real? "the thing that I'm most afraid to tell you about myself is...") with the person they are facing, and then the inner circle rotates.
  - b. Have people pair up (or rotate in circles as above) and do the following exercise: one person of the two asks the other (as flirtatiously as he or she likes) to do something sensual with him or her. The other person should reply with "No, thank you" or "No, but is there something else we could do together?" This sounds strange as it's described here, but it's actually fun and is wonderful practice in being able to say no without the other person getting weird about it. If you do this exercise, you should do a similar exercise where one person asks specifically for something fun and innocuous that they would like (such as a backrub or a handrub or something like that); the intent here is to learn to associate good feelings with asking for what you want. Anyway, if you do exercises that concern being able to say and hear "no" from an emotionally neutral space, as well as exercises that concern asking for what you want, it's likely that the communication and hence the play will be better in the event itself.
8. Getting together in small groups and slowly (ritually) undressing each other can be a fun way to get started.
  9. Laughter is a great icebreaker. Should you ask everyone to bring a joke?
- J. Helping Guests Feel Comfortable and Safe
1. When new folks feel lost or alienated, they may be additionally worrying that other attendees might be judging them for not playing (which is almost never really the case, of course). This can form an uncomfortable mental feedback loop. The only way to break it is for them to either get them involved



- somehow (even in a simple chore such as preparing more dip or whatever) or for them to remember that it's OK to chill out for a while. This is usually only a problem with very inexperienced folks.
2. It's helpful if there are some things which everyone can participate in so nobody feels completely left out. For events which have an opening circle or icebreaker of some kind, this may be all that is necessary.
  3. It's pretty common at erotic events for the hosts to be clear with the guest about the rules (what they shouldn't do). It's less common, unfortunately, for hosts to be clear with guests about what they CAN do and on how to have a good time. Any tips you can give your guests along these lines will be listened to and appreciated.
- K. Specific Considerations for Threesomes
1. Threesomes usually work best when one person of the three is the focus of attention at any given time. Who this is can shift during the course of the evening (or morning); the only point is to avoid having one person of the three feel left out, which can happen if two people "pair off," leaving no clear role for the other person.
  2. Another comfortable way for this type of experience to get started and develop is for the two partners who are the most familiar with each other to take the initiative and "seduce" the third.
- L. Miscellaneous Considerations
1. It's probably not a good idea for the host to provide alcohol, especially for events that have been advertised (in any sense of the word). Other than this whether to allow intoxicants is your choice: there are pros and cons in both directions.
  2. Noise may be a consideration; there are few things more annoying than having an erotic gathering disrupted by a whining housemate pounding on the ceiling (or worse, knocking on the door) or the neighbors yelling at you. Check this out and make any necessary agreements with your housemates (if any) ahead of time. In general, take care that party won't be interrupted by sex-negative folks, roommates, etc.; that's not fair to anyone and can be a definite mood-killer.
- M. Fantasy Bulletin Board



1. These are fun, especially at big events where everyone might not know each other or get to have in-depth conversations with each other.
  2. Folks can tack up (on the bulletin board) descriptions of things they would like to do, and folks interested in doing those things can get in touch with them at the event.
- N. Bringing the Event to a Close
1. If there's a definite closing time you need to have (or if there isn't one and guests can stay overnight) it's good to let the guests know this at the start of the event or before.
  2. If it's time for everyone to leave, thank the guests for attending and helping create a good time; saying you would like host a similar event again (if you indeed would) is also a nice gesture.
  3. For events which began with an opening circle and which end at a definite time, it can be nice to close them with a closing circle that gives everyone a chance to speak.
- O. Avoiding Burnout
1. It's important that you as the host feel taken care of. If you want your guests to help you out in some way, ask for what you need.
  2. One critical tip is for hosts to have co-instigators for events, especially bigger ones, and/or co-hosts who can be responsible for things while the host socializes or plays.
  3. Asking for help when you need it is critical for not burning out, as is having folks around you whom you can depend on (if it becomes clear that the events won't go on without more support these folks will often come out of the woodwork).
- P. Finding New Potential Guests
1. Through having existing regular guests invite friends they think are appropriate, and whom they are willing to take responsibility for
  2. Through existing sex-positive events and community you already participate in
  3. Through friends
  4. Through personal ads

## Event Creation Worksheets

This section is intended to help you in brainstorming as you plan your event. Its intent is to provide questions and hints that might apply to a wide variety of events,

including very large public ones; for a small event (such as having a few friends over for an erotic evening) only a few of these considerations may apply to you. You might want to follow through this section with pen and paper, answering questions, brainstorming, and planning as you go.

**Purpose/Intention: What is your purpose, intention, or expected outcome for the event you want to sponsor?**

This is the starting point. A clear purpose will help you with the next step of finding a creative collaborator and creating the invitation list. This is a time for reflection.

**Creative Collaborators: Who is collaborating with you on this project?**

If you don't have a co-creator at this time, make an effort to enlist one. Three co-creators or more is best.

**Event Description: Will the event be public or private? Large or small? Gender/orientation specific? Friends only? Clean and sober?**

Do this with your collaborators. Describe this event using the questions as a guide. Ask each other questions to form a working concept for your event. Your concept will guide your decisions along the way.

**The Guest List: Who will you invite? Why? How many?**

Begin with a broad list and narrow it down to fit your purpose; greater numbers will require a larger space. Who do you want to play with? Will this be a fun group, a supportive group, etc.? Your purpose can help guide you here.

**Setting a Date and Time: When do you want to have this event?**

Give yourself enough time to promote your event. A small, spontaneous gathering might not take much lead time at all. A larger event, with a theme might need more than a month's lead time. Your event site might need to be reserved months in advance.

**Choosing a Location: List your site preferences for hosting your event. Your previous decisions should help you with site selection.**

The number of guests, the event theme, the event purpose, whether it is private or not, budget constraints, etc. will all help you chose the most appropriate site. Some things to look for (depending on what type of event you are envisioning): water on site, toilets on site, showers on site, kitchen on site, ability to control temperature and drafts, noise control, adequate parking, easy-to-find location, adaptability to

multiple environments, accessibility, easy of exit in emergencies, phone on site (if no attendees have a cell phone), and reasonable personal and site security. Of course, for small to medium sized events your house or room might work just fine...

**Create an Event Budget: How much will this event cost? How will you pay for it? Will you charge a fee? Will you enlist volunteers?**

A small potluck gathering at home with close friends who bring their own safe sex supplies has very little cost. A catered party at a private club will cost more. Depending on the event, some costs might be site and equipment rental, vehicle rental fees, catering, food, beverage, cleaning fees, flowers, decorating, promotional materials, insurance, etc. Start with general categories and add detail as you go along. You can use this information for creating your event fee if your goal is to share the costs with the participants.

**Safer Sex Requirements: Are there any safer sex requirements for this event? Will your guests know of them? How will they know?**

It may be important that you know the answer to this question before you invite your guests. Some of your guests will ask. Some have clear preferences and agreements with partners. If safer sex guidelines apply, will you be providing safer sex supplies or will each participant need to bring some? Will barriers be required for all fluid exchange or just some sexual acts? Will barriers be required for everyone? Everyone except "couples"?

**Promoting Your Event: How will you let people know they are invited? Is this a public event? A private event? Some considerations: Cost, timeliness, ease of access.**

E-mail is by far the least expensive way to promote events, provided your guests all have e-mail accounts. Newspaper/newsletter ads, posting/ mailing flyers, etc. are possible alternatives. A phone call is a warm way to invite someone, as is a face-to-face invitation. This may be all that is needed for a small event. Involve participants in volunteer activity as much as possible. If you are concerned about excessive "no-shows," you might consider having folks pay any event fees in advance.

**The Participants: Do you know who will be coming to the event? Do you really need this information?**

If you want to know who is coming to the event you can require an RSVP, a deposit, or an event fee paid in advance. Some reasons for knowing might include food and beverage planning, space considerations, gender/orientation considerations or balance, relationship dynamics, etc.



**Setting/Ambiance: How will the event environment be conducive to encouraging sexual/sensual/intimate expression?**

Can you decorate to have the event reflect a central or fun theme? A healing circle may be supported differently than a disco theme... Will you need distinct areas for promoting different activities? Quiet spots for alone time, a buffet area for food, a hot tub area, puppy pile zones, an area for viewing videos, etc. are all possibilities. Will you have a band, or will a CD changer be sufficient? What is the room temperature like? A hot room will encourage folks to discard clothing...

**Beverages, Snacks, Food: Will you be providing snacks and beverages? Will you ask people to provide a potluck dish or item? Where will food be prepped? Can you store and handle food safely?**

Some snacks and beverages are necessary for managing blood sugar and energy levels. Will you need a kitchen? Will you use disposables? Will participants bring their own dinnerware? Who will clean up? Can you have a separate area for eating and socializing? Will you serve alcohol? Are you aware of local laws governing the dispensing or sale of alcoholic beverages, and host liability for same? Will your event be a sober event? Are some of the participants vegetarian? Vegan? Sensitive to some foods or ingredients? Will food be used in the play area?

**Safe Space (The Facility): Ensuring a safe play space may involve considerations such as fire, allergies, hot tub and pool safety, sufficient parking, food storage and handling, carpets, stairs, first aid, CPR, emergency exit and aid summons.**

Guests should know of any hazards to be avoided, the location of fire exits and the location of the phone for emergency use. Fire extinguishers should be nearby if open flames are involved such as fireplaces, fire pits, candles, etc. A first aid kit should be available for minor emergencies. Food needs to be stored at adequately low temperatures and cooked to sufficiently high temperatures in some instances. Let folks know ahead of time if the event location has cats, dogs, or other sources of common allergic reactions.

**Safe Space (Personal Safety): Creating an environment that respects personal boundaries and emotional vulnerability can be planned for. A social area can be designated for casual non-sexual interactions. A meditation zone or "safe zone" can be set up for "chilling out" or for alone time.**

Personal safety of the participants begins with the guest invitations being directed to appropriate individuals. Next is the communication of behavioral expectations to all participants and verifying that each participant is informed of these



requirements. The host and/or designated assistants can be available to intervene in the event of inappropriate behaviors. And finally each of the participants is responsible for communicating personal boundaries, for saying "no" to propositions that are inappropriate at the time, and for clearly stating their own needs.

**Expectations and Agreements: Communicating behavioral expectations before the event and verifying that each participant understands what these expectations are.**

This is a major component to ensuring a safe play space. Samples of event agreements are included in this document. Some assumptions in safe play spaces may include "No means no" (hear this respectfully), "Ask before you touch", etc. Consent needs to be clear, along with any safer sex expectations. Tolerance should be expected for others' sexual orientations and practices. Transfer of communications of behavior protocols are verified by the signing, by each guest, of a liability waiver where expectations are clearly stated and agreed to by the signor.

**Storage: Where will guests put their outerwear and clothes?**

Storage can be as simple as requiring each guest to bring a shopping bag with their name written on it, for holding clothes and loose items. Bags can be put under a table, in a hallway, or a closet. More elaborate storage could include lockers. Some reasons for providing storage include: keeps the play areas clean, cleaning up afterwards is easier, loss of personal items is kept to a minimum, etc.

**Getting Started (Arrivals/Opening): Greeting guests, agreements, site tour, food storage, outerwear storage, do's and don'ts.**

Arrival times can be hectic. Ensure that all necessary communications take place with each guest. This is a good time to have agreements read and signed. If host wants to participate in the fun, the greeting task can be rotated between the collaborators and other volunteers. Consider instituting an arrival hour, a time period set aside for greetings after which the doors are closed to new guests, allowing those present to be fully involved in the event activities, etc. Other considerations might be the creation of introductory icebreakers or an opening circle.

**Getting Started (The Erotic Charge): Initiating group sexual play might include one or more of these considerations: your overall purpose, your guest list, the environment, etc. Your invitation and subsequent communication should have been clear about the sexual nature of the event and activities.**



Anticipation is one cornerstone for erotic beginnings. Greeting guests can include a dose of erotic charging using costume, talking about the do's and don'ts, pointing out the safer sex supplies, the toys, and perhaps accessories like swings and slings and harnesses. Other folks openly engaged in kissing and touching add an air of sexual excitement. Erotic games and icebreakers can be helpful. A "set" of folks who begin sexual activities in the central play area can be arranged ahead of time.

### **Ending the Event: How will participants know when the event is over?**

Closing circle or closing event can be planned for the ending time; this is a good time for group announcements, arranging rides, etc. Announce the ending time (if any) when the invitation is extended. Begin closure activities on time: putting away food, initiating clean-up, turning on lights, changing the music and environment to encourage guests to leave, thanking them for attending, etc.

### **General Concerns: Have you given thought to possible nuisances such as noise, parking, age constraints, alcohol control laws, property damage liability, personal injury liability, etc.?**

Ask your guests to observe any parking restrictions in your area. Ensure that the noise of your event is contained; you don't want activities interrupted due to a complaint from a neighbor to authorities. Take personal responsibility for the site, and ensure that the property is returned to its original condition. Remember that laws protecting sexual behavior between consenting adults apply to adults only and not to minors and adults.

## **Group Sex Tips**

**Start slow, but for heaven's sake, do start.** Most people aren't going to be comfortable stripping off their clothes immediately and fucking, but nothing makes people feel shy than sitting around staring at each other and not knowing what to do next. Backrubs and footrubs are wonderful icebreakers - try suggesting them. Silly party games can work pretty well, too.

(Actually, there are a lot of somewhat gimmicky things that can help break the ice. Undressing is sometimes awkward - wearing togas, or appearing in some other state of semi undress or at least not standard dress can get past it. Eating strawberries and whipped cream off one person can get things moving. The list is endless - imagination can be a wonderful thing.)

If you have a somewhat large group of people, sitting in a circle with one person (which one is alternated, usually) in the center can be a good way to have fun and



still keep the group together. It's very important the central person, in particular, expresses what is and what isn't okay with them - getting all that attention can be nice, but it can also be a little overwhelming. (in my experience, such arrangements usually break up into less formal clusters of people after a certain amount of momentum is achieved - but it's a great way to get moving.)

Remember that the other people there are probably just as shy and insecure as you are. Try to make them feel welcome, and cut everyone some slack. When people are nervous, it can be easy to say the wrong thing.

If two or more of the people involved are established lovers, it can work well for them to seduce the other(s), taking the initiative, and kind of acting as hosts. Having an established relationship, they probably have more room not to be paying attention to each other every minute - if they are secure enough to be comfortable with this, it can take the pressure off other people a lot.

**Make sure you have plenty of supplies on hand.** This list will vary depending on what you are doing; mine includes appropriate latex, both paper and cloth towels, ice water to drink, a waste paper basket with a waterproof liner, lube, massage oil, extra sheets, toys, good firm pillows, and a bathroom that you don't have to get dressed to use.

**Talk. And be honest.** Spend some time talking before you do anything - maybe in a neutral space. Talk while you're having sex - about what you like and don't like, try different things, etc. Talk after, too. Maybe a little while after - sometimes people need time to process.

**Be careful about your expectations.** Things often develop best if you aren't too attached to a particular outcome. I've seen a lot of people who were too caught up in "let's go have intercourse" to enjoy what was more readily available, and what was more comfortable to their partners. I've seen the same sort of situations arise from people whose expected outcomes were something more like "I want to be involved in a perfect polyfidelitous triad where no one ever gets their feelings hurt or feels jealous and we all live happily ever after". Don't miss out on what the world actually has to offer because you're too hung up on your ideal situation. There can be quite a gap between theory and practice.

**On the other hand, of course, do your best to be aware of any hard and fast requirements that you have.**



**Do be prepared to be surprised - we don't always respond to new situations the way we expect to.** And if you are surprised, either by things that you like or things that you don't like, try not to spend a lot of time beating yourself over the head for not knowing ahead of time. It can be a little hard to roll with self revelation.... but it's part of the game.

**Keep an eye on group dynamics.** Be aware of people who might be feeling left out. Just because you are feeling completely blissed out and attended to doesn't mean that everyone else is feeling the same way. (On the other hand - if you are feeling left out, it's okay to speak up about it, and remember that sex is distracting, and probably people weren't ignoring you on purpose.)

I've noticed that it can be hard to incorporate intercourse into larger groups. It can be pretty dyadic, triadic at best. This isn't a bad thing, especially if the group doesn't mind breaking up into smaller subgroups from time to time, or having people at various different levels of involvements at different times. But in a nervous group, it might not be something to pursue right off the bat.

**Give yourselves lot of time.** Deadlines really suck.

**Be as clear as you can be** (to yourself, anyway) *about how you feel about the other members of the group before going in.* If you think that X is really hot, and that's why you're there, but that Y is really gross, it's cruel and dishonest to get into a group sex sort of situation with both of them and then either actively or passively discourage and avoid Y.

**Mundane, boring things like organization can make a hell of a difference.** Provide appropriate supports (futon, beds, tables, whatever) for people to avoid cricked necks and numb limbs. Work with people to make sure good reliable child care is set up - and far enough away from you that it won't be a potential distraction. Serve either only a light meal, or eat a few hours before you're going to be doing anything. Make sure you know about people's allergies. Group sex tends to start with the idea of an intimate romantic evening... and still requires the skills of an event planner.

## Tips for Ceremonial Sex Events

### Introduction

Ceremony (or ritual) has been a basic part of life for peoples throughout the world, throughout history. Ritual may be defined as a patterned and symbolic expression

of one's relationship to others, the world, and/or cosmos. Rituals can mark passage of time, seasons, beginnings, endings, union, and separation. They can be dedicated to healing, creating change, reaffirming community, or nearly any other outcome.

## **Common Ritual Elements**

Effective ritual usually makes use of all available sensory receptors, and includes portions dedicated to awakening one or more of the senses. Often scents are used to activate the sense of smell (incense/aromatherapy indoors - the smell of the forest or a seashore if outdoors); small pieces of food or beverage can awaken the sense of taste; stretches and dance can awaken the sense of movement (with drums and rattles providing the rhythm); mandalas, special setting, décor, or colorful costume can awaken the visual sense; chanting, music, or poetry can awaken the aural sense. Sometimes the total experience can be recalled if parts of the ceremony are "anchored" in your subconscious by association to a specific sensory stimulus.

Effective ritual also makes use of universal symbols, "archetypes," and metaphors to access subconscious parts of our intelligence. References to the "elements" of "fire, water, earth, and air" are common, and references to polarities ("up and down," "hot and cold," "male and female," etc.) can be useful. Story-telling can create effective guided meditations.

## **Common Ritual Steps**

### ***Intent/Purpose***

The "why" of the ceremony, the specific reason for the gathering. This could include the tools and exercises that will be used to achieve the stated outcome.

### ***The Circle of Participants***

The practice of gathering participants into a circle. This allows all participants to face each other, defines the working space, and allows participants to establish initial ceremonial connection (often by the holding of hands around the circle). For sex ritual this might include a ritual disrobing of the participants and forming heart connections. It is the first step in creating focus and attention.



## ***Preparing the Ceremonial Space***

The practice of establishing a space of safety and peace for the enactment of the ceremony. It helps create the boundaries of the ceremonial space and heightens focus/attention; it can be done with words and/or symbolic activity. For sex ritual it could include the establishment of personal and group boundaries.

## ***Making Ceremonial Space a Sacred Space***

This step delineates the "space between the world" from the "mundane world." The work done in the ritual space is concentrated in the space through this step, which can be elaborate or simple. The space is often created as a circle or sphere, either imagined or outlined by a physical border (i.e. lines drawn on the ground/floor, the walls of a room, the placement of sacred or personal objects/icons, etc.). A sex ritual could include the introduction of "sex toys" to the space, erotic images, and/or reading erotic stories and poems. Often specific energies, spirits, and blessings are called upon to guard the space. Sex ritual could include an evocation of latex barriers for safe sex play.

## ***Centering/Grounding***

This is the act of putting the circle and yourself "at the center of the universe." In practical terms this means leaving behind the bustle of the day and becoming totally present in the ceremonial space. Your attention and focus is entirely on the ceremonial work you are involved in. Ceremonially, what is happening is that the group is tuning its individual central nervous systems to each other and the "pulse of life" reverberating through and around us (i.e.: preparing for "cosmic orgasm").

## ***The Central Working of the Ceremony***

The symbolic enactment of the ceremony's core purpose. In a sex ritual that includes ecstatic union with the divine as a core theme, sexual charging and discharge of that sexual energy can be part of the ceremony.

## ***Concluding the Ceremony***

Notice when the central core of the ceremony has been discharged. Notice the shift back to the centered/grounded space. After a few minutes of non-activity, the passing of food and drink is helpful for the grounding process, drawing consciousness back to the center of the circle. Facilitators clearly end the ceremony,

acknowledging all present and formally opening the circle to the "mundane" world. The conclusion can be a beginning to an especially delicious play party.

## Silly Games and Icebreakers

### The Classics

- Naked Twister
- Truth or Dare
- Passing objects amongst each other without using hands

### Rewards and Punishments

These can be used in a variety of different games or can be chosen randomly. As the evening wears on the section numbers should increase.

#### *Section 1*

1. Describe a non-sexual fantasy.
2. Answer a non-sexual question from the group.
3. Use a condom in a non-sexual way.
4. Talk for thirty seconds about pornography without hesitating and without using the word 'magazine'.

#### *Section 2*

1. Spend twenty seconds (or so!) cuddling someone.
2. Pick someone and spend twenty seconds (or so!) playing with their hair.
3. Eat a banana in a provocative manner.
4. Name (or describe) three sexual positions.
5. Keep a straight face for ten seconds while someone tickles your feet.
6. Spend twenty seconds showing off your best physical characteristic.
7. Talk for thirty seconds about your body without hesitating.

#### *Section 3*

1. Describe a sexual fantasy.
2. Spend a minute giving someone a back rub.
3. Describe something you find attractive about someone in the room.
4. Educate the room about the facts of life. You may not assume any prior knowledge of the subject.

#### *Section 4*

1. Spend thirty seconds kissing someone.
2. Educate the room about safe sex. You may use any readily available materials [provided the owner is willing!] but may not assume any prior knowledge.
3. Spend thirty seconds nibbling someone's ear, or have them nibble yours for thirty seconds.
4. With a blindfold on, and your hands behind your back, kiss three people and then say who was who.
5. Pick someone and demonstrate a sexual position [basics only!]
6. Spend thirty seconds fondling someone's (clothed!) legs.
7. Uncover your back completely, pick someone, and have them give you a backrub for a minute.

#### *Section 5*

1. Spend one minute french kissing someone.
2. Spend thirty seconds fondling someone's (clothed) chest/torso region and/or butt.
3. Spend one minute fondling someone's bare legs.
4. Remove all your outer clothes for the rest of the game.
5. Moon.
6. Educate the room about oral sex. You may use any readily available materials [provided the owner is willing!] but may not assume any prior knowledge.
7. Have someone else remove an item of your clothing.

#### *Section 6*

1. Spend thirty seconds fondling someone's (covered) genitals.
2. Spend one minute fondling someone's bare chest/torso region and/or butt.
3. Remove all your outer clothes for the rest of the game; if you are already down to your underwear, remove it for the rest of the game.
4. Fake an orgasm.

#### *Section 7*

1. Look at three women's breasts and then identify them while blindfolded.
2. Look at three penises and then identify them while blindfolded.
3. Spend one minute fondling someone's uncovered genitals.



4. Pick two other people in the room, and spend one minute in a threesome.
5. Spend a minute tied down while someone uses you for their satisfaction.
6. Spend a minute playing a different gender role in lovemaking.

### *Section 8*

1. Spend one minute attending to someone's sexual satisfaction, with no thought of your own.
2. Spend thirty seconds playing with yourself in view of the rest of the room.
3. Spend thirty seconds giving someone oral sex.
4. Have someone spend thirty seconds fondling your uncovered genitals, during which time you must remain perfectly still and quiet.

## **Sample Play Party Rules**

### **The Rules**

1. Participants must observe these "safer sex" guidelines:
  - A. No oral, vaginal, or anal penetration without condoms or latex gloves. Gloves and condoms must be replaced before each interaction with a new partner. The use of oral barriers is recommended but not required.
  - B. Any sex toys which will come into contact bodily fluids must be covered with latex before use on another person.
2. All physical interaction must have the explicit consent of the parties involved. You may not just "reach out and touch someone" without their specific verbal permission. We recommend that you use "safe words" to tell people to stop doing anything you don't want them to do. Unless you have been informed of someone's personal "safe word"(s), the word "stop" should be interpreted to mean "stop."
3. Taking pictures and making audio or video recordings is prohibited.
4. Please keep the identities of the Hosts and all Participants completely confidential..
5. The participants and activities in the party will represent a variety of sexual orientations. Please be tolerant of alternate forms of sexual behavior. If you don't like it, don't join in!
6. We hope everyone stays for the duration of the party, but if you must leave early, please do so quietly and respectfully.
7. You must sign the Participation Agreement below to take part in the party.

This Agreement concerns your participation in the Safer Sex Party held Saturday, September xx, 19xx at xxxx Avenue ("Party"). Failure to sign this Agreement precludes your admission to the Party. Please read it carefully and sign below.

1. I, the undersigned, certify that I am 18 years of age or over. I have read and understand this document and the rules it contains.
2. I understand that my attendance does not require me to interact with any persons without my explicit consent.
3. I understand that any interactions I initiate with any other Participants without their explicit consent will result in my own expulsion from the Party.
4. I release the Party's Hosts ("Hosts") from all liability concerning any consequences to my welfare, physical or psychological, that may ensue from my participation. I release the Hosts from any legal or financial obligation to me resulting from the Party at any time.
5. I agree to inform any persons with whom I interact of any communicable diseases or illnesses I may have. (Ex. sore throats, STDs, cold sores, etc.)
6. I understand that I have a responsibility to alert the hosts if I have any difficulties at the Party or if I see other Participants not abiding by the rules.

### **Commentary from the Author of the Above Rules**

For some parties I've included a note to the invitees discussing other issues that have been raised at previous parties. I let invitees know that nothing is expected of them (i.e., they don't *have* to get naked, or be sexual, if they don't feel like it). I've described a wide range of behaviors that people engage in at these parties: kissing, cuddling, dancing, eating, talking, schmoozing, playing musical instruments, singing, stroking, tickling, petting, fucking, loving, etc. etc.

I also encourage people to come with no expectations, i.e. don't expect to find your life partner, or even a recurring lover, here. Lasting relationships have been started at some of my parties, but don't assume that just because someone plays with you at a party that they're willing or available to be your lover *after* the party. Of course, don't assume that they're *not* interested/available, either. Just ask, or offer your phone number...

I've talked about my personal philosophy of why I enjoy these parties: I like to provide a space where being sexual is part of a normal interaction with people. We have gatherings where drinking, playing Bridge, watching sports, shopping or whatever is the focus. Why not sex?



It's also important to tell people what they need to bring. If you're letting people spend the night (which is fun, because often the Sunday morning post-party-party can be the most fun!) then they may need to bring bedding and a towel. I rarely have enough towels to go around. You can also encourage people to bring their sexy lingerie, their favorite toys, and their own latex.

Finally, I've said that being invited to the party does *not* mean that the hosts are hot for them. It's not a "come-on" (believe it or not, I've had people react like that to me.) Of course, it doesn't mean the hosts *aren't* interested in them either...

How do I go about inviting people? Well, I usually start by talking about the party, and explaining why I enjoy them, and why I enjoy hosting them. At first I used to ask if people would *want* to be invited to the party (since sometimes inviting someone to a party makes them feel *obliged* to accept). Many people whom I'd never expected to be interested said, "Oh, yes, definitely!!" And some people said, "No, definitely not."

When I first started with a friend to host these parties, she and I thought we'd have to put in a personal ad in order to drum up interest: we grossly underestimated the sluttiness of our own friends. Once we started talking about the concept, we got a good sense of who was interested. Our first party probably only had about 10-12 people at it, but that was fine. To date, our largest party had about 50 (that was just about too large for us.)

We started out each party with a potluck dinner, non-sexual time, to allow people time to socialize. One party I've been to had a full day of non-sexual socializing time. I think that's really cool. At an appointed time, we ask everyone to gather in a circle. Depending on the level of experience the majority of people attending have, I give a short talk on issues of consensuality and confidentiality. Then I give a safer sex demonstration, using dildos, vibrators, and latex products (demonstrating the proper way to remove a condom from a penis that's just cum, demonstrating how to make a dental dam out of a glove or condom, etc.)

I also ask if there are volunteers to be co-hosts: someone people can go to with a problem if the official host is, um, occupied. I usually pick people with lots of sex party experience, and ask them to stand up & introduce themselves so the others can know who they are.

At one party I had people write down a fantasy that they had for the evening and tape it to a wall. That way they could find people to help them fulfill the fantasy...



Someday I'd like to have a party with a slut-fashion show, with men & women dressing up and parading their stuff... At another party, a group of us began the sexual festivities by enacting a dominance/submission scene.

By the way, these are *my* rules. Feel free to alter them to fit whatever your needs and desires are. Also, feel free to copy them verbatim if you're going to have a party.

I hope this has been helpful!

## **Sample Play Party Rules II**

Welcome! We ask that you read and adhere to the following cultural conventions and protocols, which are an adaption of Pandora guidelines.

### **Assumptions and Expectations**

You are an explorer of life/sexuality and you extend reciprocal respect to others regardless of differences in ideas, personal experience, background, sexual self-expression and temperament.

You welcome responsibility for yourself and others in order to remain present in current experience, and your approach to this particular experience will be characterized by openness and honesty.

You are able to bring your personal safety with you, and you are able to experience intimacy without precipitously abandoning your agreements.

### **Manners and Protocol**

Stay on the path, do not feed the animals, report all questionable situations.

Stay fully conscious of your own and others' boundaries. Be clear that you have received consent before joining others' activities. Please accept full responsibility for refusing any request that is not appropriate for you at the time.

Practice high standards of public health, safety and welfare. Specifically, practice safer sex with everyone at all times. Do not exchange fluids between people. Use latex or barriers for every encounter involving body fluids. Safer sex supplies are available.

Use the four step hand-washing station when transitioning between people.

Know what you are doing or ask for supervision. Do not engage in any practice until you understand fully the choice you are making.

Be willing to engage in dialog with others who question your conduct.

Do your share. Look for ways to be supportive. Help out in appropriate ways.

### **Confidentiality**

Tell your own story, but allow and respect each person's right to tell their own story.

After the event you are free to discuss ideas and your actions, but do not include anyone else's name in your story.

Do not disclose names of participants to others.

### **House Rules**

Please smoke outside. Ensure the safety of this space, and do not invite others to join this space without the approval of the host.

Ask for what you want. Endure nothing.

### **Acceptance**

I am at least 18 years old. I have read and understand the above. I understand that the host of this event is not responsible for personal injury or damaged/lost property.

### **Sample Play Party Rules III**

*The party which this document served for occurred in March, 1996 to commemorate the first birthday of Society for Human Sexuality. It was held at a private home. About 50 people attended, with a 50/50 mix of male/female and straight/queer. Vanilla and kinky attendees were equally welcome, and the downstairs play area was used by various configurations of folks for most of the evening (i.e. good time was had by all). This document is being reposted here for the benefit of folks who might want to host similar events.*



## **Greetings!**

Your hosts wish to warmly welcome you to their home, and hope that you have a great time tonight. As parties such as this one which may include sex or SM play involve more care than usual in their planning and execution, we ask that you carefully read this document, sign at the bottom if you agree to it, and return this document to one of your hosts. Rest assured that these forms will be held completely confidential.

Please keep in mind that these agreements were created so we can all have a fun time, and so we can all feel comfortable and safe.

Also, your hosts intend to have a pleasant evening socializing with our guests and playing. Feel free to remind other people of these rules, or of how to be cool in general, so that your hosts don't have to worry!

## **The Big Rule**

Basically, the upstairs of this house is for socializing, and the downstairs is reserved for sexual and SM play. As it can be distracting to people having sex or engaged in SM play to have extraneous conversations going on around them, or to have people aimlessly milling around their area (and generally crowding the limited space available), we've created a very simple rule:

Please go downstairs only if you're going with someone whom you've agreed to play with, or if there's someone already downstairs whom you have previously agreed to play with or whom have an ongoing intimate relationship with. If you arrived late and you're not sure whether your intimate friend is downstairs or not, please ask one of the party hosts or a "temporary host" (see below) to check for you.

Some of you will be attending this party with intimate partners. Others are "single." It is COMPLETELY OK with us if you're "single," you meet someone here, and you two (or three) decide to play together. However, the upstairs of our home is where meeting and negotiating should take place.

## **The General Rules**

Take your shoes off when coming in the house. Don't smoke in the house, and be tidy with your butts if you smoke outside. Be sure the windows and/or blinds are shut if anything loud or "interesting" is going on. Don't use the door leading



downstairs next to the dishwasher in the kitchen. If you're going downstairs, use instead the door in the main hallway, between the upstairs bedroom and the bathroom. The upstairs bedroom is off-limits. Your hosts may designate someone during the course of the evening to be a "temporary host," so that your hosts may have more freedom to socialize and play. Should we do this, you may approach this person with any questions you have, and we ask that you respect this person's protocol reminders as you would our own.

If you have any specific questions or requests, please don't hesitate to ask your hosts.

## **The Playspace Rules**

Basically, we ask that you be tidy.

For hygienic reasons, avoid getting any body fluids on the floor or other shared areas and items. For many of you, this will be a non-issue if you practice safe sex. Discard any used safe sex supplies in the trash cans, and discard of the wrappers for condoms and other supplies in the same manner. Feel free to use our antiseptic towelettes as necessary. Due to ventilation and space constraints, we ask that you not engage in fire play or single-tail whip play.

## **How to Really Get Popular**

Let your hosts know if you have any talents, skills, ideas, or resources which you would like to contribute to events such as this. Volunteering to speak on topics you're familiar with, volunteering a space where parties like this could be held in the future (as your hosts are moving in a few weeks, and won't be able to host sex parties and sex workshops in our new house), volunteering to make/distribute flyers for more public events, etc., are all very cool things. Actually, the issue of space is probably the biggest deal; if we're going to have parties like this or informal workshops again, someone (other than the current hosts) needs to volunteer their home for them.

## **The Fine Print**

By signing this document, you are certifying the following:

That you're over the age of 18. That you freely wish to be here. That any sex or SM play you engage in with others will be mutually consensual. That you are not a member of the press. That you agree to hold harmless the party hosts from any



liabilities stemming from this event. That you will not solicit or agree to any act of prostitution. That you will keep confidential the names of anyone you meet and/or see here, unless they specifically tell you they're "out", and that you not publish the address of this event or the names of the hosts. That you not take photographs, or videotape anyone, with or without their consent (this is to protect your privacy as well as ours.) That (for practical and legal reasons) you keep this a drug and alcohol free party, including both the house itself and its surrounding property.

That's all. We hope you have a great time with us tonight!

## Sample Play Party Rules IV

The following links are to sets of rules and guidelines for various other erotic events:

- <http://www.sexuality.org/l/incoming/p2rules.htm>
- <http://www.sexuality.org/l/bdsm/links.htm>
- <http://www.sexuality.org/l/bdsm/ppetique.htm>
- <http://www.sexuality.org/l/bdsm/socorg.htm>
- <http://www.sexuality.org/l/incoming/ssupply.htm>

## Sample Men's Massage Event Outline

by [Malcolm McKay](#) for [Pandora](#)

### Intentions

1. Group bonding among the men
2. Erotic massage instruction
3. Fun

### Group Gathering

- Welcome and logistics of the space
- Announcements
- What are you looking for from this group?
- Forming an intention for this circle this evening
- Invitation
  - Look at what you hesitate/mistrust about other men.
  - What do you long for from other men?
  - How do you want to be with this group?



## Group Unclothing/Eye Gazing/Greeting Ritual

### Massage Instruction

- Touching with clear intention
- Staying focused on your receiver
- Ask for what you want/Endure nothing.
- Stoking erotic energy
  - Charging breath
  - One hand on the cock most of the time
  - Hard dicks aren't a requirement for receiving pleasure.
  - Anal play ONLY by invitation, and ONLY after beginning erotic charging.
  - Ejaculation ONLY by intention of RECEIVER.
- Sexual safety and hygiene
  - Gloves for anal play
  - Handiwipes for semen
  - For leakers, condoms are advised, not required
  - Gloves for anyone who is nervous about STD transmission.
  - Wash hands after touching each receiver before touching others or yourself.

### Setting the Stage for Ritual Massage

- Gather in groups of three and choose a table
- Decide who's first
- Set up the tables (sheets, towels)?
- Get instructions from receiver about likes, dislikes, do's and don'ts

### Induction of Masage

- Breathing together.
- Masseurs check with one another.
- Lower you hands to the receiver's body
- All-over body wake-up (Do you want your back worked on for a few minutes?)
- Oil to bodies (nipples to knees)

### Massage Notes

- Masseurs breathe fully with receiver

- One hand on the Magic Wand
- Receivers remember to breathe, stay present with your masseurs.
- Allow receiver a few moments at the end to be with his own process.

### **Closing Circle**

- Open space for comments
- Did you get what you wanted?
- Give us feedback about how we can improve it. Speak to an instigator.
- Any last words for this circle of men?

## **Sample Women's Massage Event Outline**

A wonderful [outline](#) for a women's massage event/ritual has been created by [Annie Sprinkle](#), and she is currently working with Joseph Kramer to produce a video on how to create it.

## **Sample Mixed Massage Event Outline**

Ideas for hosting mixed (men's and women's) massage events are available in a guide to erotic massage on the Society for Human Sexuality web page: <http://www.sexuality.org/erotmass.htm>

To be perfectly honest, each of these massage events (men-only, women-only, or mixed) can be facilitated and hosted in more or less the same way. The only real differences have to do with how erotic or genital massage is performed.

## **Sample Safer Sex Rules**

The focus of this gathering is pleasure. As it's never fun to have to worry about staying healthy, or to have to negotiate "what safer sex means" with every new partner, we've created six simple agreements. All attendees agree to follow them while in public space (such as our dome), whether or not they normally use safer sex precautions with a particular partner in private space (such as at home or in their tent). The intent is that by being in mutual agreement on these issues we'll be able to have a smoother and more pleasure-filled time together!

1. Use condoms for vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, fellatio, and on dildos or vibrators that will be shared.
2. Use saran wrap (or some other oral barrier) for cunnilingus or anilingus.



3. Use gloves when penetrating or massaging someone's genitals or anus.
4. Use new barriers for each new partner, or when switching from anal to vaginal play with the same partner.
5. Clean up any body fluids which are left behind after you're finished playing.
6. Should your hands come into contact with any body fluids, clean and rinse them in the provided basins before playing with anyone else (and ideally before touching your own unprotected eyes or genitals).

We'll have little baskets for you to put your new (and used) safer sex supplies in while enjoying the dome. For the sake of members of our community who are sensitive to Nonoxynol-9, the safer-sex supplies we'll be providing for you will all be Nonoxynol-9-free. Bon appetit!

## Bibliography

1. [\*The Ethical Slut\*](#) by Dossie Easton and Catherine A. Liszt (pages 251-264, 229-237, and 83-84)
2. [\*Real Live Nude Girl\*](#) by Carol Queen (pages 68-75)
3. [\*Exhibitionism for the Shy\*](#) by Carol Queen (pages 156-163)
4. [\*The New Good Vibrations Guide to Sex\*](#) by Cathy Winks and Anne Semans (pages 177-178)
5. [\*Sapphisty\*](#) by Pat Califia (pages 113-118)
6. [\*Women of the Light: The New Sexual Healers\*](#) ed. by Kenneth Ray Stubbs (pages 99-117)

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