

## August Program:

# Topping and Bottoming: Finding your Groove

## Presented by Randi and Zed

Friday, August 16, 2013, 8-10 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)

Center for Sex and Culture (1349 Mission in SF, between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>)

What does it mean to be a top or a bottom? How do I find a play partner who is a good match for me? How do I find a date at a play party? What if I'm a bottom who is learning to top?

This class is designed to help you find your inner top or bottom, then find a date and keep the energy hot for your scene.

Please join Randi and Zed for a program that is part discussion, part demonstration, and part presentation. We'll start with definitions of terms, discuss ways to meet play partners, review negotiation strategies, explore ways to create a hot scene, and wrap up with after care. There will be demos to illustrate main points and time for discussion as well.

Beginners and seasoned players are encouraged to attend this program to share experiences and strategies.

"In any S/M exchange there is a sharing of power – the bottom lends [her] power to the top for the duration, the top adds power, and together they make a lot of voltage. The top gets to wield all this power, a form of extreme empowerment that is exciting, thrilling, hot, erotic, and, as we said before, very, very sexy."

— From Dossie Easton and Janet Hardy's *The New Topping Book*

### About Our Presenters:

**Randi:** Evil Top, sweet Daddy, and dirty Uncle. Randi identifies as a leather dyke who is butch and gender queer. She is a top who was drawn to BDSM to make her sadistic and dirty fantasies come true. A member of the Exiles, she has been exploring kink and leather for about six years. She has 20+ years of experience teaching and facilitating in her professional life and now brings those skills to a BDSM context.

**Zed:** Queer. SadoMasochist. Girl. Zed identifies as a sadoMasochist (heavy on the masochist). Loud, proud member of San Francisco girls of Leather and volunteer coordinator for SF Citadel. She has been various places and done various things. Most of all, she really hopes you have awesome scenes!

### Program Meeting Information

- All women (and those whose gender self-identity is other than male) who are over 18 are welcome.
- We have sign language interpreters at all of our meetings.
- Members \$4; non-members \$10. Please have membership card or ID ready to speed entry.
- Visit our [website](#) for more information.
- **Directions to the Center for Sex & Culture:** The Center for Sex & Culture is located at 1349 Mission Street, between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, in San Francisco. It is 2 blocks from the Civic Center BART station and the J, K, L, M, and T MUNI Metro lines. There is ample street parking in the area.

## Club News

- The September Exiles Business Meeting will be September 8 at the Women's Building in San Francisco (Room A, 3543 18<sup>th</sup> St., San Francisco).
- Want to meet lots of kinky women in a casual environment? Volunteer to help at an Exiles event! We need extra hands at our monthly programs, the bimonthly orientations, and special events like the forthcoming Folsom Street Fair and our 15th Anniversary Bash. Events like these require hands, presence, and energy to produce. If you can pitch in at any events, please contact [cocos@theexiles.org](mailto:cocos@theexiles.org).
- Donations to the Exiles, a 501(c)3 organization, are tax-deductible and may be made online with PayPal. Just click the big *Donate* button in the left-hand column on [our website](#). Please let us know if we may thank you publicly for your donation or if you would prefer for it to be anonymous.
- Find new play partners, friends-with-benefits, a mentor, and/or true love by placing a free business-card sized personal ad in the *Fringe*! Email the ad to [fringe\\_editor@theexiles.org](mailto:fringe_editor@theexiles.org) by the 15th of the month to appear in the next month's *Fringe*. [cocos@theexiles.org](mailto:cocos@theexiles.org).
- What would *you* like to see in the monthly *Fringe*? Help make it happen! Send suggestions, column ideas, etc. to [fringe\\_editor@theexiles.org](mailto:fringe_editor@theexiles.org) by the 15th of the month.
- **Note that this is the last newsletter you will receive if you do not renew your membership this month. Visit <http://theexiles.org/membership/renewal/> to renew.**

## Save the Date!

**Friday, September 27:** The Exiles will again be hosting a Meet and Greet event the Friday before this year's Folsom Street Fair (Sunday, September 29) with a play party to follow. Details to come, but in the meantime, please save Friday, September 27 on your calendar as a night of fun and debauchery with the Exiles!

## July Program Report

### Novice Night

Our July program is an annual tradition, “Novice Night,” where newcomers are welcomed into the scene, have their questions answered, and get to try out new experiences.

Our panelists included Allison, Bennett, Lamalani, Lou, Ramsey, Randi, and Terra, with Angel capably serving as our Moderator. The group included both butches and femmes; older and younger; Tops and bottoms and switches; sluts, girrlz, bois, and Daddies; and people of almost every gender identity, so as to represent as broadly as possible women’s experiences in the scene.

After brief introductory remarks from each person, we opened up the floor for questions. And did they come! Some were simple, but most were more in depth, about negotiation, how people got into the scene, trust issues, and emotional as well as physical safety.

The second half of the program featured a range of sampler stations, where people could try out new activities. The booths included rope bondage with Deborah, flogging with Tracy, pervertables with Lou, spanking and paddling with Randi, violet wand with Loren, and play piercing by Ms. Cat.

Deborah demonstrated basic knots, ties, and rope harnesses, emphasizing the safety requirements of bondage. Tracy showed flogging from both Top and bottom perspectives, and Ms. Cat did her usual beautiful piercings. People were fascinated by the violet wand, and Randi warmed up both her hands and her paddles. The pervert-ables were a big hit, with people trying out plastic swords, Ping-Pong guns, tire thumpers, and a variety of other items which can be put to nefarious uses.

All in all, it was a wonderful night both for the novices and the more experienced.

### Upcoming Programs

- September 20: Lessons Learned from the Animal Kingdom – with Liza & Jody (WB)
- October 18: Takin' It – with tomo (CSC)
- November 22: Mapping Shadowplay: Making Room for Our Deepest Inner Villains and Victims in Role Play – with Dossie Easton (CSC)
- December 20: Carnal Carnival – the kinkiest carnival ever! (CSC)

CSC: Center for Sex and Culture, 1349 Mission Street, San Francisco

WB: The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, San Francisco

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Please note that the minutes from the June business meeting will be published in next month's edition of the Fringe.

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## Exiles Officers

<http://theexiles.org/contact/>

Co-Coordinator:	<b>Rio and Lou</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Angel</b>
Membership Officer:	<b>Marilyn</b>
Recorder:	<b>Ray</b>
Orientation Officer:	<b>Val</b>
Website Manager:	<b>Countess</b>
Sergeant-At-Arms:	<b>(open)</b>
Doorkeeper:	<b>(open)</b>
Newsletter Editor:	<b>Suzanne</b>
Outreach/PR Officer:	<b>Randi (acting)</b>
Volunteer Coordinator:	<b>(open)</b>