

# LA MARCH LA MARCH SOLIDARITY

Friends Stand Together  
against unjust prostitution laws!

2019  
June 8, 1984

Anglican Church  
(at Pendrell corner)

WEST END



SHAME  
THE  
JOINS

DO IT  
EAST OF  
BURRARD



# CELEBRATION OF 1980s SEX-WORKER ACTIVISM IN CANADA

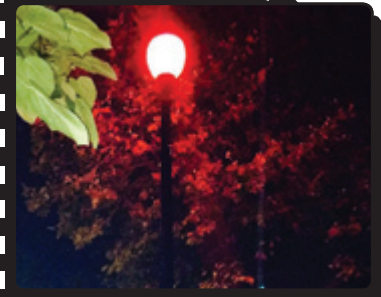


## MEET ME AT THE LAMP POST

SEPT. 16, 2016 – City unveils Sex Workers Memorial, Vancouver Police apologize

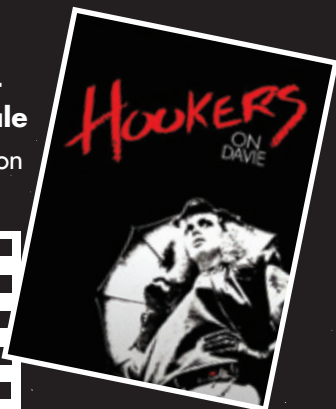
- Vancouver Police Superintendent Michelle Davy apologizes for VPD actions against sex workers in 1980s.
- Jamie Lee Hamilton (left) and Becky Ross speak about the history that led to the memorial.
- Event drew over 100 people. Speakers included Vancouver City Councillors Elizabeth Ball, Adriane Carr, Canadian MP Jenny Kwan and Vancouver Mayor (1993-2002) Philip Owen.
- Yes, it's a red light!

Photos: Bill M. Powers



The Red Umbrella March acknowledges the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples.

**"HOOKERS ON DAVIE," 1984**  
**Film by Janis Cole & Holly Dale**  
 Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes on  
 Broadway Ave., April 20, 1983.



## FIRST PROSTITUTES' PROTESTS

**APR. 20, 1983 – Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes' March to City Hall**

In December 1981, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in two Vancouver cases (Whitter & Galjot) that "soliciting" not only means "pressing and persistent" (Hutt 1978) but, that "pressing and persistent" means repeatedly soliciting the same person.

Police forces in major cities stopped enforcing the soliciting law, their hands having been tied by the Supreme Court. Police, using a community-policing model, advised citizens to form residents' associations for the purpose of reporting neighbourhood crime which could then be used to pressure politicians to address the street crimes and nuisance associated with street prostitution. Citizen groups started taking things into their own hands. Vancouver West End resident, Gordon Price founded "Concerned Residents of the West End" (C.R.O.W.E.).

By early 1982, Calgary, Halifax, Montréal, and Niagara Falls had enacted municipal anti-loitering bylaws used to target prostitutes to address residents groups' complaints. In April that year, Vancouver City Council passed the "street activities" bylaw that imposed fines from \$350 to \$2,000 for buying, attempting to buy, selling or attempting to sell, sex. The city collected \$28,000 in fines in the first six months.

In January 1983, the Supreme Court ruled (Westindorp) that all city bylaws used to prohibit sex workers from "loitering" were unconstitutional and against the law.

C.R.O.W.E. then submitted a request for the federal government to amend the Criminal Code. Police claimed they needed a new law to deal with the concentration of street prostitutes in the area.

On April 20, 1983, the Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes (A.S.P.) marched along Broadway and up to Vancouver City Hall to protest C.R.O.W.E.'s request for a new soliciting law. A.S.P. member, Michelle made a speech and carried a sign that



They handed out leaflets and chanted  
 "Hookers Unite! Fight for your Rights!"



said, "Harcourt is our pimp," referring to the city's fines. Mike Harcourt was Vancouver's mayor. A.S.P. handed out leaflets and chanted "Hookers unite! Fight for your rights."

In May 1984, C.R.O.W.E. started the "Shame the Johns" campaign. Shame-the-Johns tactics included photographing vehicles, writing down licence plate numbers and posting this information on neighbourhood poles and billboards. Their campaign quickly turned into picketing and verbally harassing sex workers. Shame the Johns also provided B.C. Attorney General Brian Smith with 40 affidavits complaining of loitering, littering, fighting, screaming, use of insults or obscenities and public sex.

On June 8, A.S.P. held their own counter-demonstration to protest C.R.O.W.E.'s harassment. On June 11, 1984, B.C. Attorney General Smith filed an application for an injunction that named 30 people as prostitutes and "public nuisances." A week after copies of the application for the injunction appeared on street lamps, a large protest of sex workers and supporters descended on the West End with whistles and noise-makers, proclaiming themselves the thirty-first "public nuisance."

On June 20, 12 members of A.S.P. entered the Anglican Christ Church Cathedral in the middle of the afternoon service and began a four-day occupation. They were welcomed by Archbishop Douglas Hambridge, who invited A.S.P. spokeswoman Sally de Quadros to address the congregation and explain the prostitutes' need for protection from police harassment.

On July 4, 1984, B.C. Justice McEachern granted B.C. Attorney General Smith the injunction, to be served on anyone on the street "apparently" for the purpose of prostitution or any form of "carnal copulation." Police served the injunction to stop soliciting to more than 300 Vancouver sex workers. Those served with the injunction could later be charged with breaking a court order (and if convicted, serve up to two years in jail) if the police saw them so much as "crooking a finger, stopping guys in cars, waving a car down or hitch-hiking."

## FIRST PROSTITUTES' PROTESTS

JUN. 8, 1984 – Peaceful prostitutes' parade ties up Friday night West End traffic

- April 20, 1983: members of A.S.P. marched along Broadway and up to Vancouver City Hall to protest C.R.O.W.E.'s request for a new soliciting law.
- June 8, 1984: A.S.P. counter-pickets the Shame the Johns protest, Friday night.
- June 8, 1984: "Demonstrators protesting efforts to clear prostitutes from the West End tied up traffic with half-hour parade Friday night. Vancouver police described the march as 'peaceful.'"  
~ Vancouver Sun
- May 1986: Prostitute confronts man with "Make Mount Pleasant a Hooker Free Zone" sign.  
~ Vancouver Sun



"Just 'cause the courts are on your side.  
Women won't be locked inside."

## FIRST PROSTITUTES' PROTESTS

TORONTO – Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes (C.O.R.P.)



- Feb. 6, 1981: Right to Privacy Committee organizes protest against the Toronto Police.
- March 8, 1985: Canadian Organization for Rights of Prostitutes at Toronto International Women's Day March.
- March 8, 1985: Peggy Miller (left) and C.O.R.P. at International Women's Day March.
- March 8, 1986: Peggy Miller (right) and C.O.R.P. at International Women's Day March.

Photos: Konnie Reich



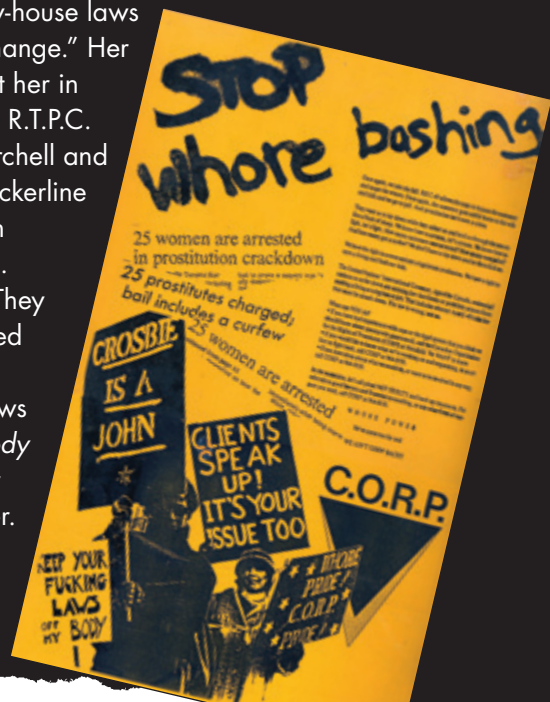
## FIRST PROSTITUTES' PROTESTS

TORONTO – Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes (C.O.R.P.)

On February 5, 1981, Toronto police simultaneously raided four downtown Toronto gay steam baths. Called "Operation Soap," police harassed, searched, fingerprinted and jailed 309 men. Lesbian and gay rights group, the Right To Privacy Committee (R.T.P.C.) organized a protest at 10 p.m. the next night. Disobeying police orders, more than 1,000 angry protesters spilled into the streets. Their chants rang through the corridors, "NO MORE SHIT!"

In October 1981, R.T.P.C. decided that rather than challenge the "indecent acts" section only, they should challenge the entire bawdy-house law and make allies with other "indecent activists, namely hustlers, hookers, swingers and sexual revolutionaries."

Sometime in 1982, a veteran street sex worker named Peggy Miller was arrested and charged with keeping a common bawdy house. She had picked up an undercover cop on the street and took him back to her apartment. Peggy Miller pleaded "not guilty," but lost in court. Her lawyer explained that an appeal would be pointless. "If you want justice, the bawdy-house laws have to change." Her lawyer put her in touch with R.T.P.C. Chris Bearchell and Danny Cockerline worked on the R.T.P.C. together. They also worked together writing news for *The Body Politic* gay newspaper.



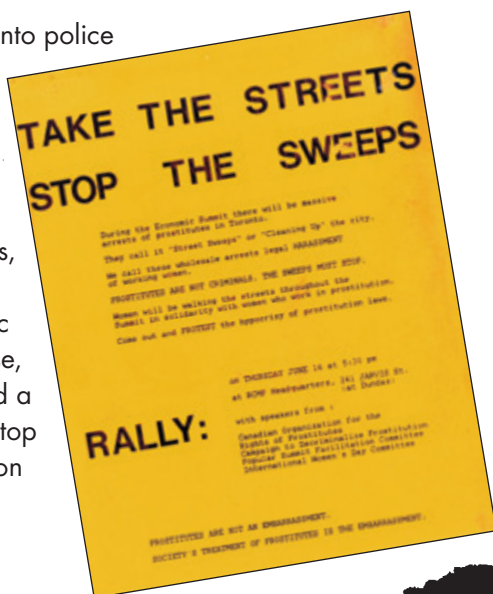
In 1983, the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes (C.O.R.P.) was founded by Peggy Miller, with Chris Bearchell, Danny Cockerline and Feather.

In December 1985, the Canadian government replaced the soliciting law with Bill C-49—the communicating law, which stated that:

*“Every person who, in a public place or open to public view, stops or attempts to stop any motor vehicle, blocks any pedestrian traffic going into or out of any building, stops or attempts to stop any person or in any manner communicates or attempts to communicate with any person for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or of obtaining the sexual services of a prostitute, is guilty of an offence punishable on a summary conviction.”*

On Saturday, January 18, 1986, street protests across Canada called for the review and repeal of Bill C-49. A.S.P. organized “wave-ins,” to show support for prostitutes with more than 100 supporters. (“Waving” could be considered “communicating” and result in arrest.) There were protests in Toronto, Calgary, Montréal and Ottawa. By February 19, 1986, 117 women and 57 men had been arrested in Vancouver; 180 women and 53 men in Toronto; and 22 women in Calgary. That summer, C.O.R.P. members, Valerie and Ryan were arrested for putting up “Stop Whore bashing” posters.

In June 1988, Toronto police announced that they were “cleaning up” the city, by sweeping the streets and arresting prostitutes, in preparation for the 1988 Economic Summit. In response, C.O.R.P. organized a “Take the Streets Stop the Sweeps” rally on June 16.



## FIRST PROSTITUTES' PROTESTS

MAR. 8, 1986 – C.O.R.P. at Toronto International Women's Day March

- March 8, 1986: Chris Bearchell (left) and C.O.R.P. at Toronto International Women's Day March.
- March 8, 1986: Members of C.O.R.P. at International Women's Day March.
- March 8, 1986: Members of C.O.R.P. at International Women's Day March.
- March 8, 1986: Members of C.O.R.P. at International Women's Day March.

Photos: Konnie Reich



Campaign to Decriminalize Prostitution (C.D.P.) – Originally the Citizens Organization for the Repeal of Prostitution Related Laws (C.O.R.P.L.), the C.D.P. was a sister organization for non-sex workers who supported prostitutes' rights. (c.1987)

Campaign to  
Decriminalize  
Prostitution





# AIDS & SAFER SEX

## Prostitutes are Safe Sex Professionals

In summer 1986, C.O.R.P. took AIDS prevention into their own hands and began creating pamphlets and distributing condoms and clean needles. They called it the Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project.

In September 1986, A.S.P. published its first safe sex pamphlet, with both English and French in collaboration with Montréal General Hospital and Health and Welfare Canada.

April 1987, amendments to B.C.'s Health Act (Bill 34) were introduced by Minister of Health Peter Dueck that enabled Medical Officers of Health to order HIV-positive individuals whose sexual practices were considered "unsafe," into "isolation, modified isolation, or complete quarantine." The legislation was met with well-organized protests at the Vancouver Art Gallery organized by the Vancouver Persons With AIDS Society, the Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes (led by Jamie Lee Hamilton) and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. This would be the last public appearance of A.S.P. In the end, the bill never passed the legislature.

In December 1987, C.O.R.P.'s Prostitutes' Safe Sex Project (P.S.S.P.) teamed up with the AIDS Committee of Toronto and produced their first "Safer Sex: Make It Your Business" pamphlet.

In September 1988, P.S.S.P. received its first funding from the Ontario Ministry of

### SAFE SEX FOR HOOKERS

### RUBBER SEX IS SAFE SEX

- Use condoms with all your tricks — there's no way of telling if he has the AIDS virus by the sticking him
- Only buy condoms made of latex — the stretching kind
- Only buy condoms made of latex — the stretching kind
- Use lots of lubricant, but only use water-based lube (like K-Y or Lubefast). Never use Vaseline, Cream, butter, or other oil-based lube — they weaken condoms made of latex
- Make your trick want to see them... "Oh, it turns me on when you wear one of these," etc.

For more AIDS info, call the AIDS COMMITTEE OF TORONTO 926-1626

### AVOID AIDS

- LOW RISK**
  - fucking with a condom
  - blow jobs — stop before climax
  - getting head
  - kissing
  - water sports — external only
- HIGH RISK**
  - fucking without a condom
  - swallowing semen
  - sharing sex toys
  - sharing needles

Health making it the first sex worker peer project in Canada to receive government funding. P.S.S.P. produced a revised pamphlet, "How to Have Safer Sex." P.S.S.P. also produced buttons, business cards and more leaflets.

## 5th International AIDS Conference

In June 1989, C.O.R.P. met with prostitute activists from the U.S. and Australia at the 5th International AIDS Conference in Montréal.

They protested the communicating law, strolling the conference trade floor announcing loudly their services for sale. In the words of Valerie Scott:

*"Whores are safe sex pros. We're the ones who put the condoms on the guys. We're the ones who do the education. And what do we get for it? At conferences like this all we get is shit on."*

WHAT AIDS IS: AIDS is a fairly new, and active fact. Those that can be prevented. It can also be transmitted when sharing needles — so if you about to, make sure you're the only one who ever uses your needle.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT: When AIDS first came to North America about five years ago, it seemed to only hit gay men. But very soon after that it became obvious that it affects other groups of people. It's clear now that AIDS can be transmitted through heterosexual activity. It's also clear that AIDS is just going to increase over the next five or ten years. The higher the rate of infection, the more people you'll see. The more people you'll see, the more chances of getting any sexually transmitted disease, including AIDS. But there are things you can do to cut down your chances of getting AIDS. AIDS is a dangerous way, and probably the most important, is using condoms.

## Safer Sex

Make It Your Business



### AIDS. WHAT IS IT?

- AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a fatal condition.
- The cause of AIDS is a virus which enters the blood stream.
- The virus breaks down the immune system (the body's defense system).
- The body then becomes more susceptible to certain infections which normally wouldn't affect healthy people.
- Having come in contact with the virus does not mean you will necessarily develop AIDS but you could still transmit it to others.
- AIDS is primarily a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

### HOW DOES AIDS SPREAD?

- The virus — is transmitted by semen and by blood.
- can be transmitted during sex with someone infected.
- can be transmitted by sharing needles or syringes.
- A pregnant woman carrying the virus can infect her unborn child.

There is no way of telling if someone has the AIDS virus unless they tell you. The virus does not enter the blood stream.

### WORK SAFE!

#### NO RISK

- Masturbation
- Flagging, massage
- Swimming
- Body-to-body rubbing

#### LOW RISK

- Fucking with a condom
- Blowjobs with a condom
- French kissing
- Water sports — external only (not in the mouth or anal)
- Trick going down on you — getting head — cranialling

#### HIGH RISK

- Fucking without a condom
- Blowjobs without a condom
- Sharing needles or syringes
- Needling urine
- Sharing sex toys

There is no way of telling if someone has the AIDS virus unless they tell you. The virus does not enter the blood stream.

### GET TO KNOW A CONDOM

- Condoms help prevent the spread of the AIDS virus as well as diminishing the risk of other STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases).
- Latex condoms are the strongest. Use water soluble lubricants (K-Y, Lubefast, Wetness, etc.). Oil-based products (Vaseline, Cream, etc.) damage latex and should not be used.
- Squeeze the air out of the tip of the condom and roll it down the base of the penis.
- It's a good idea to use condoms with all your tricks.
- Find ways of making your tricks want to see them.
- "It turns me on..."
- "It protects us both..." etc.

### KEEP HEALTHY

- Excessive use of alcohol and recreational drugs weakens your immune system.
- Sleep, diet, exercise and relaxation contribute to general health and can improve the body's resistance to infection.

There is no way of telling if someone has the AIDS virus unless they tell you. The virus does not enter the blood stream.

### INFO

For more information on AIDS:

- Medical experts
- Testing
- Other sexual practices
- Treatment, etc.

Contact: C.O.R.P.  
 4000 Keele St. Suite 1000  
 1012, rue Saint-Denis  
 Montréal (Québec)  
 H3A 2Y1  
 (514) 282-8888

This pamphlet was produced in collaboration with A.S.P. (Alliance for the Safety of Prostitutes), the STD of the Montréal General Hospital and Health and Welfare Canada.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official policy of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

September 1988  
 Created by: Peter Scott and Lisa Macdonald



Work Safe: A.S.P. published its first safe sex pamphlet September 1986.



On April 25, 1990, C.O.R.P. took part in a demonstration organized by AIDS Action Now! at the Toronto Westbury Hotel protesting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Richard Shabas, who had recommended to Ontario AIDS Advisory Committee that HIV-positive people who continue to have sex—even with condoms—or who share needles, be quarantined.



## AIDS & SAFER SEX

### Prostitutes are Safe Sex Professionals



### Anyone Can Get AIDS

While this illness has struck mostly gay men, it's a growing threat to straight people as well—especially women. Prostitutes, like gay men, have responded to this threat by having safer sex. If we all follow this example we can take the steam out of the AIDS epidemic.

AIDS is caused by a virus carried in the blood, cum and cunt juice of infected people. You can only be infected if you get these fluids directly into your body, through your sex or cunt or breaks on your skin. The virus can't penetrate unbroken skin.

Men and women are most likely to be infected by getting fucked without a condom or by sharing drug needles. Men who do the fucking could be infected through scratches or sores on the skin of their cunts.

People carrying the AIDS-related virus can look perfectly healthy and not know they're infected. But they can still give it to you.

There's no way of knowing for sure who's infected. The best way to avoid AIDS is to avoid risky practices. Repeated unsafe sex with a regular partner who's infected is particularly risky. If you can't be sure, then be safe, not sorry.

### Condom Tips

Intact condoms, used properly, block the transmission of the AIDS-related virus. They also protect both partners from syphilis, herpes, venereal warts, chlamydia and gonorrhea. But condoms can break or leak, though the chance of this is small.

- Pulling out before coming, while using a condom, is safer. Using two condoms is safer still.
- Use latex rubbers. Lambskin are not safe.
- Use water-based lubes like K-Y or ForePlay. Oil-based lubes like vasoline, hand cream, butter and Cocoa break latex condoms.
- Nonoxonyl-9 spermicide with a condom may provide better protection, since spermicide can kill the AIDS-related virus. If you have an allergic reaction, switch brands. Spermicides are not a substitute for condoms.



**1987:** P.S.S.P. "Safe Sex Make It Your Business" produced with assistance from AIDS Committee of Toronto.



### GOING DOWN

There may be a chance of getting AIDS if you get cum, blood or cunt juice into cuts or sores in your mouth. If you have cuts or sores, try a condom for sucking cock. A condom can be cut up the side and spread over a cunt or asshole before licking.

If you don't have cuts in your mouth, you may still want to use condoms for going down. You can get STDs like herpes and syphilis from cocksucking, cunnilingus, and rimming (licking an asshole). Rimming can also give you parasites and hepatitis B. (Hepatitis B can be deadly; ask a doctor about the hepatitis vaccine.)

If you don't use condoms for going down, you can lower the chance of getting an STD if you:

1. Do not brush your teeth before going down. This makes openings germs can get in through.
2. Wash cocks, cunts or assholes with soap and hot water first.
3. Do not lick anything that has sores on it. Yuck!
4. Gargle with mouthwash after to kill germs.

### SAFE STUFF!

**Kissing:** You cannot get AIDS from spit or sweat. It is safe to kiss and lick mouths, nipples, areolas, nipples, breasts, butts, ass cheeks, feet...

**Hugging, touching, massage:** All safe!

**Jacking off and fingering:** Safe. But don't get cum, blood or cunt juice into cuts or sores.

**Dildos:** Go for it. But don't stick a dildo, finger, or cock into one person and then into another. Don't even stick something into one hole then another on the same person without washing it.

**Interpenetration:** You cannot get AIDS from pins.

**Oral sex with a friend after sex is fun and may wash away germs.**



**1988:** P.S.S.P. "Happy Hooking" and "Men at Work" leaflets produced with support from Toronto gay newspaper, Xtra!

- June 4–9, 1989: Danny Cockerline (left) and Valerie Scott (right) advertise their services through the AIDS Conference trade fair.

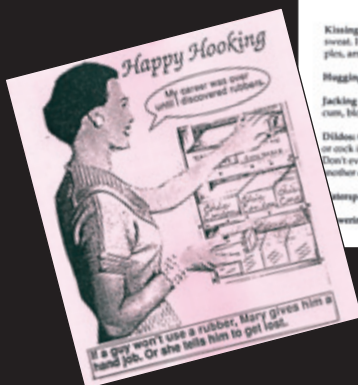
- June 4–9, 1989: Toronto Activist Tracy Tief makes a speech about sex workers being scapegoated for HIV at a demonstration outside the International AIDS Conference in Montréal.

Video: "Our Bodies Our Business," 2016 by George Stamos.

- April 25, 1990: P.S.S.P. members at the AIDS Action Now! protest after Medical Officer of Health Richard Shabas calls for quarantine.

- April 25, 1990: Chris Bearchell (right) with P.S.S.P. protesting at the Westbury Hotel in Toronto.

Photos: Konnie Reich



# NOT A LOVE STORY

A Motion Picture About Pornography  
National Film Board of Canada, 1982



"Not a Love Story offers insights and perspectives from men and women who earn their living in the porn trade, and from some of pornography's most outspoken critics."

- Directed by Bonnie Klein.  
Run-time: 69 minutes.
- Originally banned by the Ontario Censor Board as pornography when the film was released, June 11, 1982.
- Film opened in New York on 57th Street, a few blocks from where the film was shot.
- Features interviews with feminist writers including Kate Millett, Kathleen Barry, Susan Griffin, Andrea Dworkin, Laura Lederer and Margaret Atwood.

# IS PORNOGRAPHY HATE?

Hate Speech vs. Freedom of Expression

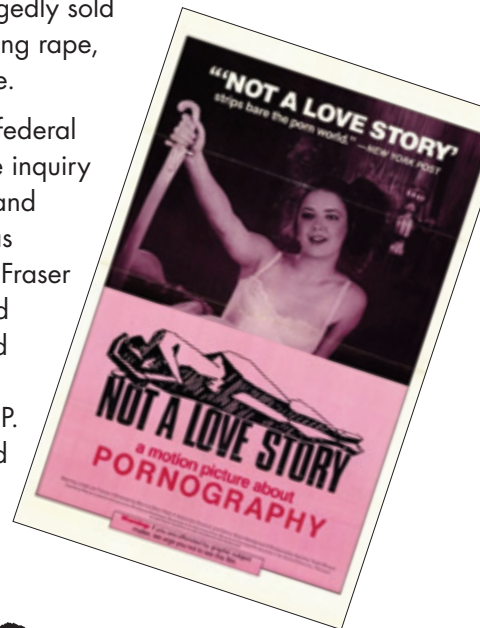
Just as the prostitution wars were heating up, so were the porn wars. Many feminists saw pornography as a form of hate propaganda that portrays women as sex objects who enjoy being abused.

On June 11, 1982, the National Film Board of Canada released its controversial film, Not a Love Story, by director, Bonnie Klein. The film follows stripper Lindalee Tracey on an odyssey through the sleazy sex districts in Montréal and New York. Tracey opens the film, accusing feminists, "the party line is that I'm stupid and I'm being used." Tracey ends the film tearful about how sick she feels about sexual objectification. The film was banned in Ontario by the Censor Board for graphic depictions of sex. The film premiered in July on 57th Street in New York.

In June 1982, 500 protesters, the Feminist Coalition Against Pornography, marched in Montréal. In July in Toronto, 200 protesters with Pornography Oppresses Women (P.O.W.) picketed the Zanzibar stripclub on Yonge Street. Police charged six women in the fray.

On November 23, 1982 in Vancouver, a group calling itself the Wimmin's Fire Brigade bombed three Red Hot Video stores. The chain, with 14 outlets across B.C., allegedly sold material portraying rape, incest and torture.

In June 1983, a federal justice committee inquiry into prostitution and pornography was announced. The Fraser Committee would tour Canada and conduct public hearings. C.O.R.P. members testified before the committee, and





both C.O.R.P. and A.S.P. submitted briefs. *The Report of the Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution* was released on April 23, 1985.

Under the obscenity law (Criminal Code s.163, then s.159), any depiction — words, pictures, sculptures “or any other thing” — is obscene if its chief characteristic is the “undue exploitation of sex” (realistic cock-like dildos were considered obscene); or if sex is depicted in conjunction with crime, horror, cruelty or violence.

With the new *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (1982), courts determined that the ban on importing “immoral” and “indecent” material in the Customs Tariff infringed on freedom of expression. In response, Bill C-38 defined “obscenity” in the Customs Tariff and became law in April 1983.

On June 10, 1986, the government introduced Bill C-114 to repeal the Criminal Code section on obscenity, and introduce new more strict and objective provisions rather than tests of community standards. The bill died that August.

On May 4, 1987, the government introduced Bill C-54. Erotica was defined as nudity (such as in popular adult magazines). That would be legal, but not for minors. Pornography was defined as the portrayal of “masturbation or ejaculation or vaginal, anal or oral intercourse.” Manufacture, distribution and sale of pornography would be a crime, however a defence of artistic merit or scientific or educational purpose would be allowed. No such defence would be allowed in cases involving child pornography or pornography showing physical harm (violence or degradation). The bill would have incorporated the new pornography standards into offences dealing with theatrical performances (then s.167: “immoral theatrical performance”) and into the provision of the Customs Tariff that deals with prohibited imports.

Bill C-54 fuelled the already bitter debates between anti-censorship and anti-porn activists. In September 1987, anti-censorship activists including sex workers and artists organized a march through the streets of Toronto to protest the bill. Marchers wore black

blindfolds, led by the arm by guides. The bill died when the government dissolved in October 1988.

On August 21, 1987, Winnipeg police raided Avenue Video Boutique on Main St. and confiscated merchandise. The owner, Donald Butler was charged in October. Donald Butler then reopened his store and continued business in the same location. He was arrested ten days later, along with employee Norma McCord. Both were charged with 73 counts of possessing obscene material for purpose of distribution, two counts of selling obscene material, and one count of possession for the purpose of sale. The trial, held on June 22, 1988, found Butler guilty on eight charges only, and McCord guilty on two. They each had to pay \$1,000 fine per offence.

Organizations such as Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and Group Against Pornography (GAP) were appalled that Butler got off so easily. Meanwhile, Butler had to return to court in July 1991 where he was found guilty, and he appealed the verdict to the Supreme Court.

In 1992, the Supreme Court of Canada found Butler guilty, and modified Canada’s obscenity laws. While the obscenity laws were found to infringe on freedom of expression, the Supreme Court also found that material that degrade women are a form of hate speech and can therefore be banned to protect society from harm. The Butler decision outlines that material portraying explicit sex with acts of physical violence or threats of physical violence are prohibited. Portrayals of explicit sex without violence may also be banned if participants are subjected to treatment that is “degrading or dehumanizing.”





# FILM CENSORSHIP BOARDS

## Community Standards vs. Artistic Merit

In September 1986, Lizzy Borden's film, *Working Girls*, was set to premiere at the Toronto Festival of Festivals when the Ontario Censor Board rated the film "Restricted" and insisted a short scene of a sex worker masturbating a client be cut. Lizzie fought back, but in the end was forced to comply. She put a piece of tape over it.

The Ontario Censor Board, (later called the Ontario Film Review Board) was the government agency responsible for rating motion pictures for the province.

Borden had been up against the Ontario Censor Board before. In 1984 the Board rated her film, *Born in Flames*, "Restricted," and insisted on the removal of scenes allegedly depicting terrorism. With the film set to run for a week including several benefits for community arts organizations, the decision was appealed on the grounds of political censorship.

When *Working Girls* premiered in Vancouver, the B.C. Film Classification Office rated the film "Restricted." "Restricted" under the *B.C. Film Classification Act* meant persons under 18 years were not permitted. As "Adult motion pictures," films that contain explicit sexual scenes or violence or both, must have themes or subjects that are artistic, educational or scientific in order not to be obscene.

In 1997, the B.C. government revised the province's film classification ratings in order to be consistent with the new Canadian Home Video Rating System. The "Restricted" rating was replaced with "18A" rating.

Today, Consumer Protection B.C. is the provincial agency established by the *Business Practice and Consumer Protection Act*. They are responsible for regulating a variety of sectors and specific transactions that includes classifying all motion pictures exhibited in B.C. and overseeing all retail adult video products sold or rented to consumers through listed licensed establishments. Enforcement inspectors review and investigate complaints.

- The "Restricted" Cougar symbol was designed for use in B.C. in 1960.
- "Restricted" meant persons under 18 years were not permitted. "Adult motion pictures" contained explicit sexual scenes or violence or both.
- B.C. Film Classification Office launched a series of animated trailers.
- The trailers, that informed viewers of the "Restricted" rating assigned to the movie they were about to see, resulted in a significant drop in audience complaints.
- The "Restricted" Cougar symbol and trailers were discontinued in 1997.

Thank you to Consumer Protection B.C. for loan of the 35mm reel of the "Restricted" trailer, "Bijou," and permission to use the "Restricted" Cougar trademark.

## "BIJOU" RESTRICTED TRAILER Consumer Protection B.C.

B.C. Restricted Cougar became a registered trademark in 1966.



NO ADMITTANCE TO PERSONS UNDER 18

## WORKING GIRLS

DIRECTOR: Lizzie Borden. Released by Miramax, 1986. Run-time: 90 minutes



- Director of photography: Judy Irola.
- Marusia Zach plays Gina.
- Dawn is played by Amanda Goodwin.
- Louise Smith plays Molly.

Thank you Lizzie Borden for permission to hold a public screening of Working Girls. Thank you Contemporary Films, London UK, for loan of the 35mm reels.

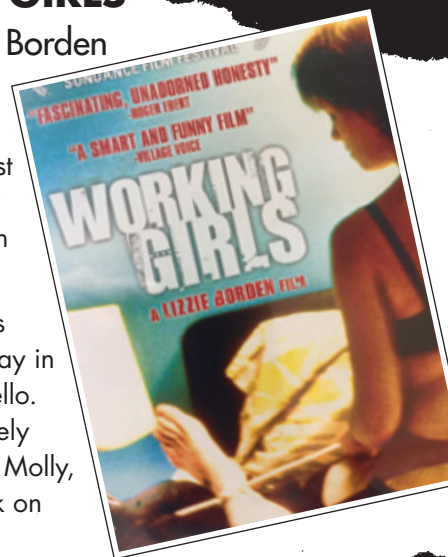
"Lizzie Borden, has created characters who seem close to life, and her movie helps explain why the world's oldest profession is, despite everything, a profession." ~ Roger Ebert

## WORKING GIRLS

A film by Lizzie Borden

Working Girls is Lizzie Borden's second film. Her first is the 1983 feminist sci-fi classic, Born in Flames.

Working Girls takes place during one day in a Manhattan bordello. The film is told largely through the eyes of Molly, who arrives to work on her ten-speed bike.



Before co-writing the script with Sandra Kay, Borden researched diligently, talking to more than 300 working women, hanging around the middle-class "houses" that, according to Borden at the time, accounted for most of the prostitution in America.

Working Girls cost about \$300,000 to make. The film set was Borden's loft located near New York's Chinatown. The film grossed over \$1-million during its first year.

Thirty-five years later, this film remains remarkable for still feeling absolutely real and normal. The brilliant script, verité style and superb acting bring Working Girls' characters truly to life.

Molly is played by Louise Smith; Lucy is Ellen McDuff; Amanda Goodwin is Dawn; Gina is Marusia Zach; April is Jane Peters; and Mary is Helen Nicholas.

"Working Girls" has a lot of fascinating stuff in it, but most of it has to do with management and capitalism, not sex. We learn a great deal about clean towels, birth control, disease prevention and never putting the phones on hold." ~ Roger Ebert

# CANDICE VADALA

Candida Royalle, Femme Productions

Candida Royalle is considered today to be the godmother of feminist porn. Candice Vadala chose the name Candida when she became an adult movie star in 1975. She starred in 25 adult films including 1976 *Easy Alice* (infamous laundromat rape scene), 1978 *Hot and Saucy Pizza Girls* (first-ever pizza delivery plot), and *Blue Magic*, her final film in 1980 which she co-wrote. Candida also wrote regular columns for adult magazines, *High Society* and *Cheri*.

But according to Vadala, "It was kind of confusing. It gave us our right to say yes but took away our right to say no." It dawned on her that she could challenge patriarchy in porn by making her own adult films.

In 1984 she set up Femme Productions to make erotica based on female desire, as well as adult films aimed at helping couples. Her productions are aimed more to women and couples than to the standard pornographic audience of men. Royalle stated that she tried to avoid "misogynous predictability in which scenes end when the male actor ejaculates." Her films set sex acts within the broader context of women's social lives and have been praised by therapists for depicting healthy and realistic sexuality.

Vadala became a favourite guest on TV talk shows. She also gave lectures at Smithsonian Institution, the World Congress on Sexology and numerous universities and professional conferences.

Femme Productions made 18 films and ran until the early 2000s, when Candice first became sick with ovarian cancer.

In 2004, Candace wrote the book, *How to Tell a Naked Man What to Do: Sex Advice from a Woman Who Knows*. Candice Vadala passed away from ovarian cancer in 2015.



# CANDICE

DIRECTOR: Sheona McDonald. Dimestore Productions, 2018. Run-time: 90 minutes

- Candida Royalle, Femme Productions. Photo: Annie Sprinkle.
- Candice on the train.
- Candice visits her childhood home in Brooklyn.
- Candice and her brother Jimmy look at family photographs.

Thank you Sheona McDonald for permission to hold a public screening of Candice.



"Candice is ultimately a tribute to a resilient woman who unapologetically carved her own path." ~ DOXA





## RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

### Origins

Ombrelli Rossi Marciano  
Venice, June 8, 2001



Pia Covre from Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute with megaphone at the Red Umbrellas March in Venice 2001, part of the 49<sup>th</sup> International Biennale.

PHOTO: <http://www.parasite-pogacar.si>

### Padiglione delle Prostitute

At the 49<sup>th</sup> International Venice Biennale, June 6-8, 2001, Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute from Pordeon—one of the leading organisations for the protection of sex workers in Italy—co-organized the first World Congress of Sex Workers and New Parasitism as an art installation created with the Slovenian artist Tadej Pogačar. *Padiglione delle Prostitute* — Prostitute Pavilion—was a tent in the public space at Giardini, where groups and activists from Taiwan, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Italy, Germany, U.S.A. and Australia presented the current situation of the sex market, strategies of



Scarlot Harlot, aka Carol Leigh from San Francisco, USA, at the 49<sup>th</sup> International Biennale, Venice 2001.

the fight for civil rights for sexual workers, and the principles of organization, education, self-help and protection. There were conversations, video projects, exhibitions, documentary publications, performances and activist street theatre. The Red Umbrellas March was an example of a manifestation, which actively and publicly demonstrates its presence. To be better heard and seen megaphones and red umbrellas were used to loudly draw attention to its situation. The march with the Congress participants, local organizations and accidental sympathisers started at the pavilion and went to the A+A Gallery, going through the city centre on its way. The march crossed the city in order to cause an interruption, a sound and visual disturbance in the routine and continuity of the city panorama.

The manifestation also had an important symbolic side. With the joint walk the new geographic points of the city were defined, the points that are otherwise forgotten. This is the geography of the social history of sex workers, from the famous Venetian courtesans Veronica Franco and Gaspara Stampa right until today.

REFERENCE: <http://www.parasite-pogacar.si/theorytadej.htm>



# RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

## Origins

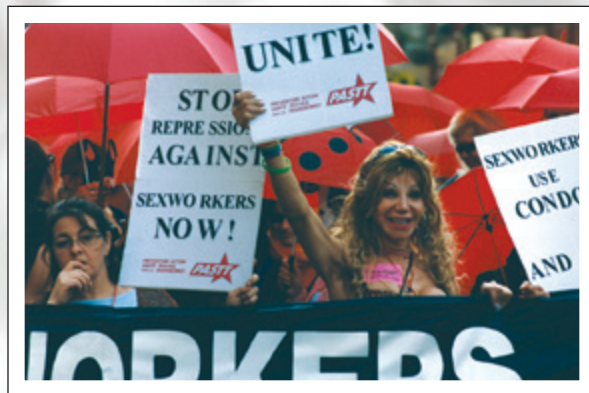
Manifestation dans la rue  
Brussels, October 17, 2005



The Red Umbrellas March in Brussels, October 17, 2005  
PHOTO: Andrew Sorfleet

In 2002, a small network of Dutch sex workers and activists gathered in Amsterdam to organize a conference that would give sex workers an opportunity to respond to the proliferation of repressive new legislation and policies being enacted throughout Europe. In 2003 the group, Sex-work Initiative Group Netherlands approached sex workers and allies across Europe and invited them to join an organizing committee which would raise funds and host a European Conference on Sex Work, Human Rights, Labour and Migration.

The organizing committee consisted of 15 members from several European countries, including female and male sex workers; migrant sex workers; former sex workers; and some people who had never been sex workers.



French activist Camille Cabral leading the Red Umbrellas March in Brussels, October 17, 2005. PHOTO: Andrew Sorfleet

On October 14, 2005, approximately 200 delegates arrived from all over Europe to represent the concerns of sex workers in 28 European countries: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland (Eire), Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. As well, a handful of sex workers travelled from the United States and Canada to witness this unprecedented event.

On October 17, following a press conference at the European Parliament where the top ten points of a Sex Workers' Manifesto were presented, delegates met at the Place de la Bourse, (the stock exchange) for an hour-long march with red umbrellas through the streets of Brussels.







## RED UMBRELLA MARCH FOR SEX WORK SOLIDARITY

### *Origins*

Red Umbrella Rally

Vancouver, June 8, 2013



Triple-X First Directors at Vancouver Art Gallery for inaugural Red Umbrella March for Sex Work Solidarity, June 8, 2013

Sex workers and their allies, families and friends were asked to come out and support sex workers in their Supreme Court challenge, *Bedford v. Canada*, to be heard on June 13.

This event was organized to show public support for Bedford, Lebovitch, and Scott in their courageous fight against Canada's unjust prostitution laws. In March 2012, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld Ontario Superior Court Justice Himel's 2010 decision that the Criminal Code's bawdy-house provisions were unconstitutional. Justice Himel also struck down Canada's pimping and communicating laws.

The Red Umbrella March was part of a national day of action, with events taking place in cities across Canada, including: Kingston, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria.



Sex Workers United Against Violence leads the inaugural Red Umbrella March down Hastings Street, Vancouver, June 8, 2013  
PHOTO: Esther Shannon

The event was organized by Triple-X Workers' Solidarity Association of B.C. and co-sponsored along with Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence, Pivot Legal Society, PACE Society, B.C. Coalition of Experiential Communities, FIRST: Feminists Advocating for the Decriminalization of Sex Work.

Many years ago at a meeting of the Sex Workers Alliance of Vancouver (SWAV), a successful longtime sex worker and trans activist regaled other SWAV members with stories of Vancouver's sex work history. At the SWAV meeting, Andrew pondered modern-day Hookers' Parade. A public event where participants arrayed in fancy dress and period costume would march for their rights; a fun way to harken back to a bygone era when sex workers were publicly prominent in the social fabric of Vancouver.







**June 1988:** Campaign to Decriminalize Prostitution at the Toronto "Take the Streets Stop the Sweeps" protest. Photo: Konnie Reich



## CELEBRATION OF 1980s SEX-WORKER ACTIVISM IN CANADA

**TRIPLE-X**

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### Thank You ♥ RUM2019 Donors:

Rob & Diane; Triple-X Directors, Howard, Will & Andrew.

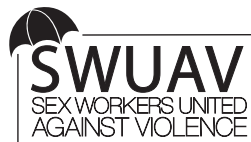
Thank you also: Pacific Cinémathèque; U.B.C. Humanities 101, Terence Lui, & the Carnegie Community Centre; Lizzie Borden, Sheona McDonald, Consumer Protection B.C., National Film Board of Canada for films; the *Georgia Straight*; and our fabulous volunteers!

Partners in organizing:

**TRIPLE-X<sup>®</sup>**  
WORKERS' SOLIDARITY  
ASSOCIATION OF B.C.



B.C. Coalition of Experiential Communities



**PIVOT**  
equality lifts everyone





**RED UMBREL**

**FOR SEX TRADE**

**Hookers, Allies, Family & Friends**  
**Join the fight against Canada's**

**SATURDAY**  
**Friday, June**  
**1 p.m. St. Paul's A**  
**(1130 Jervis Street, a**

