



ROMANCE, RELATIONSHIPS, & RIGHTS

A Community Creation

April 17, 2019
For Immediate Release

[Community Living Society](#) and [UBC Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship](#) present

ROMANCE, RELATIONSHIPS & RIGHTS

May 15 @ 7:30 PM

Special Matinee May 16 @ 1:00 PM

May 17 @ 7:30 PM – Reception Night

Anvil Centre Theatre, 777 Columbia St, New Westminster

Join us for this theatre performance created by and with self-advocates supported by the Community Living Society and based on research from the UBC Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship.

The performance confronts misconceptions about adults with intellectual disabilities and challenges audiences to think differently about how we value, respect and support self-advocates' rights to romance and intimate relationships.

“Whether or not people live with a disability or limitations, we all have the right to a relationship, to say no, to take action, and the right to friendships and to romance.”

~ Larissa Gunkel, Actor & Co-Creator

This company's theatre based approach brings together self-advocates to develop scenes based on themes and issues they face in their lives. Dr. Leyton Schnellert, Co-Director and Co-Producer described the experience as “social justice theatre by the community, for the community.” In the Fall, workshops were available for self-advocates to develop their acting skills and then in January they identified the key topics and issues they wanted to address. Through facilitated activities, the Company created scenes, the dialogue within them, and *Romance, Relationships, and Rights* was born!

Undergraduate students, graduate students and theatre professionals co-facilitated the development of the theatre piece and mentored self-advocate actors and technicians. UBC student and Assistant Stage Manager Catherine McLaren noted, “*this invigorating collaborative experience has shown me how accessible and adaptable theatre can and should be.*”

Actor/co-creators viewed *Real Talk* films (www.real-talk.org) to clarify the direction of their scenes. The films also serve as transition pieces within the production.

These shows are expected to sell out quickly. All performance are Relaxed.

Tickets on sale at www.anvilcentre.com.

This project, under the banner of *Sex, Lies and Citizenship*, is funded by the Vancouver Foundation in partnership with the Community Living Society, UBC Centre for Inclusion and Citizenship, Anvil Centre and is supported by the UBC Department of Theatre and Film and Real-Talk.

Links:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Community-Living-Society-238302502939935/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CentreForInclusionAndCitizenship/>

Twitter: @CLS_BC and @CICUBC

Website: <https://cic.arts.ubc.ca/sex-lies-citizenship/>

Media Contacts:

Ross Chilton, CEO, Community Living Society (604-961-4121)

Leyton Schnellert, Co-Director and Co-Producer (c/o 604-313-1753)

* Interviews with Company Actors and Co-Creators are encouraged. Please contact Cindy Chapman (604-313-1753) to make arrangements.



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