

Sins Invalid

April 28, 2010

I am writing on behalf of *Sins Invalid: An Unshamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility* to thank you for your generous support and to share with you some of the exciting successes we've had in 2009. *(Enclosed/attached please find a packet with photos, performance footage and information about some of our activities in 2009, along with reviews and articles about our organization.)*

We seek to challenge dominant misperceptions about people with disabilities and offer a vision of beauty and power that is inclusive of all communities – so a key element of our work is in its impact. We would like to share some information about who we reached and how they were impacted:

Our 2009 performances at Brava Theater were again filled to capacity, for a total of over 900 people. This year, 84% of audience members surveyed said that the performance had changed their perceptions on disability and sexuality. Of those surveyed, 31% identified as disabled and 75% identified as LGBTQI.



Audience responses in 2009 included:

“I have no words that describe how moving and powerful this was!”

“One of the most powerful shows I have been to ever. The creativity and expression and depth literally took my breath away. Thank you.”

Artist responses were equally powerful:

“We created sacred space, liberated territory, room for our own beauty and brilliance and rage and love to shine. Being in the green room, watching the show three nights in a row, made it possible for me to locate buried stories in my own history that there just wasn't enough affirmation for me to face before this.”

“*Sins* made it possible for me to be a public artist again – not just possible – I was thoughtfully and unambivalently supported.”

Our impact and reach extend past the performance nights to our educational work, through which we reached nearly 2,000 others:

- Facilitating three trainings at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference (Jan. 2009)

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- Facilitating two trainings and being the featured presentation at the *Intersecting Identities Conference* at City College of San Francisco (Feb. 2009)
- Facilitating a training and presenting in the Queer People of Color Conference at UC Davis (April 2009)
- Being the featured presenter at the San Francisco Sex Workers Film, Art and Music Festival as part of the National Queer Arts Festival (June 2009)
- Facilitating a social issues workshop at the National Sexuality Resource Center's Summer Institute (July 2009)
- Co-sponsoring a book reading with Modern Times Bookstore of Eli Clare's award winning work *Exile and Pride* (Oct. 2009)
- Participating in the Bioneers Conference on the panel "*Across Differences: The Real Value of Social Diversity*" (Oct. 2009)
- Provided the performance workshop: *Writing the Body*, a creative writing workshop for community members by Elaine Beale (Nov. 2009)
- Presenting at UC Berkeley's Gender and Women's Studies Colloquia Series on *Intersectionality: disability, Gender and the Implications for Cross Movement Organizing* (Nov. 2009)

This past year offered Sins Invalid many rich opportunities for our development as an organization as well – we launched our new website incorporating our WordPress blog, YouTube vlog, photos, and performance footage to share our work with at least 200 new viewers a month; piloted a major donor campaign and an in-kind donations campaign for our annual performances; expanded our Advisory Board to include organizers Mia Mingus and Sebastian Margaret – and we could not have done any of it without your support.

We would like to thank you again for your generous support. We are able to realize our vision and fulfill our mission only with the support of our communities and funders like you.

Please contact me at any time with questions about *Sins Invalid*.

We hope to see you at the theater Oct 8th, 9th or 10th 2010!

In Gratitude,
Patty Berne
Executive and Artistic Director
Sins Invalid