



Some of the tools of the trade for Sue Johansen. Photo by Lisa Sutt.

Makin' it right

Sue Johansen takes an honest approach to sex

BY GREG MCFARLANE

"Do I encourage pre-marital sex? No. Some would say that if I say the word 'penis', I'm encouraging pre-marital sex. I don't have to encourage sex... sex is the one thing that encourages itself." — Sue Johansen.

Sex is a dominant aspect of our culture. Let's face it, a large portion of our actions, thoughts, and emotions are determined by our position on sex. It causes lapses of reason, and, often, a lack of communication and understanding.

The time in which we live, however, does not allow for errors. One wrong decision could result in consequences that are difficult to handle — pregnancy, STDs, even death.

This is why people like Sue Johansen are valuable. She, like many other sex education and therapy counsellors, provides a bridge between parents and children when it comes to the issue of sex. In many cases, she provides a bridge between two distinct versions of morality.

What is more interesting is that she does not choose a side in the struggle between differing value systems. She knows she doesn't have to.

"I don't decide [when people have sex]," said Johansen after a recent discussion at Dalhousie's McInnes Room. "They decide. I give information, but I'm not going to be there when people have sex."

In effect, her talk should begin with "If you are going to have sex..." Inevitably, this category will include almost all of the populace.

The hush-hush approach to sex usually starts in the home, but as a mother of three daughters, Johansen knows the difficulty related with talking about sex.

"As a parent, I'm not openly receptive to my own kids. It's easy talking to students; my kids, that's a different story."

This common lack of understanding, as well as the fact that there was very little sex education during Johansen's high school, university, and post-graduate years, prompted her to research the subject.

"I became interested in human sexuality because I had no sex education. I knew nothing; I learned it myself, and gradually decided that I better teach this to others, too."

Johansen acknowledges that sex education has improved, but not to an adequate level.

"People have more basic knowledge about physiology, but not about sexuality. They know about STDs. When AIDS first came out, people became scared, and condom use went up," she said. "But now people are numb. They've been AIDed to death. Condom use has gone way down. People still fig-

ure it won't happen to them."

This is one reason why Johansen stresses chlamydia during her lectures. During a recent study at an affluent Toronto college, twenty-five percent of all females tested had undiagnosed chlamydia.

The odds are against women when it comes to AIDS as well.

According to a pamphlet handed out by the Women and AIDS Project, more than ninety percent of all new AIDS cases diagnosed by the year

2000 will be women.

When considering the statistics, one can understand Johansen's position. One can also understand the position of the moral right-wing, lauding the virtues of family values and abstinence. Johansen just takes a more realistic approach, and her realism is the reason she connected well with those who attend her show.

Condom use has gone way down. People still figure it won't happen to them.

Atlantic Film Festival set for seventeenth year

BY MARK REYNOLDS

The Atlantic Film Festival is set for its seventeenth year of celluloid based entertainment. The festival, which showcases some of the best in film from the Atlantic Provinces and around the world, is scheduled to be the biggest ever, with over 211 films from 11 different countries.

"We have something to satisfy all tastes," said artistic director Johanna Lunn Montgomery. "Shorts, features, workshops, panels, parties and guests."

The festival opens September 19 with *The Hanging Garden*, directed by Thom Fitzgerald. The plot

has a young gay man who has transcended his family background, return home ten years later only to find that nothing has changed. It features music by Ashley MacIsaac, the Rankin Family, Holly Cole, and others.

Jason Priestley (of *Beverly Hills 90210* fame) appears with John Hurt in the locally shot, *Love and Death on Long Island*. Don't let the pretty boy scare you off, it looks really good, and John Hurt is always a delight.

This year's festival also features *The Industry Series* — a collection of talks given by industry insiders. Directors Clement Virgo and Richard Kwientowski will be speaking, as will film critic David Gilmour, of *Gilmour on the Arts*. These talks are a good grounding for those who wish to pursue a career in film.

Returning for the fourth year to the festival is the *Screenscene* series. These are features and films geared to a younger audience. No *Pocahontas* here, but there is no shortage of singing rodents. They sing in Danish, but don't worry, the subtitles are spelled phonetically.

The festival closes on the 27th with Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter*, a look at a small town coping with disaster. Egoyan's films have won plaudits from critics around the world.

Despite all the big names and must-see films, you might actually be better served going out on a limb and seeing some of the lesser known and lesser advertised flicks. The 211 films to be shown this year were selected from over 500 entries, which means that you are sure to be seeing the cream of the crop.

Tickets for the festival can be purchased at City Center Atlantic, 5523 Spring Garden Road, 12-6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

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TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
VANCOUVER	18:35	16:00 20:10 ²	19:45	14:00 ¹ 18:35 ²	10:30	---	---
EDMONTON	---	16:00 20:10 ²	---	---	10:30	---	---
CALGARY	18:35	---	19:45	14:00 ¹ 18:35 ²	---	---	---
TORONTO	10:35	14:10 23:15 ²	13:55 ³ 14:40	15:40 ² 20:40 ¹ 23:15 ²	12:00 23:25	10:10	18:30
ST. JOHN'S	---	18:20 ² 19:50 ¹	---	18:20 ² 18:35 ¹	---	---	---

¹ Week of Sep 1 only ² Begins 8 Sep only ³ Ends Sep 21

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