

Sins Invalid

Dear Fabulous Viewers and Hosts!

Thank you for supporting Sins Invalid and viewing and/or organizing a Sins Invalid viewing party in your community!

Below, we have included:

- A list of **discussion questions** for you to think about and, if you are viewing in a group, discuss 😊
- A list of **access suggestions** to consider when planning your gathering (if you are viewing as a group) to make it as accessible as possible to everyone who wants to participate

Please also download:

- Our **2008 performance program** as a pdf. It is formatted to be printed on 2 pieces of 8.5" x 11" paper, folded and arranged as an 8-page program. Of course, the information is still there if you do not print the program, it is just a bit more scattered 😊
- The **Sins Invalid brochure**

Lastly, please know that:

- Payment is on a sliding scale from \$0, but we are asking each person to support Sins Invalid by making a **minimum \$10 donation per view**. You can pay via PayPal, by clicking on a payment button on the same page as the video.
- The streaming will occur at <http://dualpowerproductions.com/sins-invalid/>
- The performance will be available to **watch any time, day or night, on demand, Aug. 6th – 12th**. You can watch it whenever you want during that week, and you can watch it more than once if you want!
- The **live Q&A will happen once**, on Thursday, Aug. 11th, at 6 pm PST/9 pm EST. The Q&A will be on the same site as the performance video.
- During the webstreaming, there will be a **message board** on the same page as the video. That way, you can share your thoughts with other viewers if you want 😊

Happy viewing!

Your friends at Sins Invalid

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SINS INVALID 2008 PERFORMANCE POST-VIEWING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We hope these questions will lead to your thinking and discussions in new and interesting directions. Feel free to use some, all, or none. Take them in whatever directions inspire you or members of your group.

- What resonated with you from this performance? What feelings came up, and how did your feelings shift throughout the program?
- Did you see your experiences reflected by the performers? Did this surprise you? How did it make you feel?
- Did you find any of the pieces problematic? Why?
- What did you assume about the performers or about the premise of a performance about disability and sexuality? Have these assumptions been flipped or transformed? If so, how?
- The theme of sacrifice and the sacred was repeated throughout the performance. What connections do you see between spirituality, non-normative bodies, and sexuality?
- What feelings arise when you describe your body to yourself? What feelings arose in your body during the performance?
- How can the acceptance of our bodies be radical?
- Is loving our own bodies and treating them well important to building community? Why or why not? If so, what limits our abilities to do this? When is it hard or impractical?
- Is there anything you were looking for in the show and didn't find?
- What does your body want the world to understand about it?
- Are there new things you now wish to understand about your body?
- Have your understandings of disability and sexuality shifted as a result of watching this performance?

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ACCESS SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP VIEWINGS

This guide is intended to help you think through some ways to engage a spectrum of people with and without disabilities in viewing the 2008 Sins Invalid performance. Many of the suggestions are also useful beyond the webstreaming. But please note, these suggestions do not cover everything! We'd love to hear your additions/feedback at info@sinsinvalid.org.

GENERAL GUIDANCE REGARDING ACCESS

- **Access takes time and commitment.** We hope you don't feel overwhelmed by the length of the suggestions below! In general, the longer in advance you consider these issues, the more likely you can address them. Improving access is always an ongoing process, and we've got to start where we are! So wherever you are is a great place to start – and please use what you can from these suggestions and next time use a little more ☺ This is how we grow together...
- **Access needs can be talked about** ☺ We can't assume that our friends or colleagues or even our families will know our access needs. For example, we need to be warm, we like to be quiet when we are in pain, we need information given to us in this way or that, or we're feeling tired on a given day so we can't walk far....At Sins Invalid, we try to practice speaking up about what our access needs are, in the hope that others can help meet those needs. If you will be viewing this performance with others, asking folks what they need to experience the performance with you is a great place to start!
- **Access support can be shared.** Encourage people to think about what access needs they have, and also what access needs they can help meet for others. Some access needs may need people with particular skills (e.g. an ASL interpreter or some personal care), but other types of access support can be shared (e.g. taking notes or making plates of food).
- **Try to be patient in the process.** Sometimes, even with the best planning, some access needs go unmet. Again, this is how we grow together...
- **If you are hosting a gathering with people you know (friends and family),** you may already have a sense of their needs and how to set up the event. Still, reading the list below may help you think about access in new ways. **If your viewing party will be open to the public,** it is even more helpful to consider how people with all types of bodies, minds, budgets, lifestyles, and circumstances will be able to participate. Some of the suggestions below may not apply to your situation, and not all types of accessibility are listed here...
- **Consider having a person or two be the “access coordinator(s)”** on the day of the viewing party if you expect the gathering to be more than 15 people. They can handle access issues on the day, help troubleshoot, and in general think about access and be available to respond.

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SPECIFIC ACCESS ITEMS TO CONSIDER INCLUDE:

- Different forms of outreach: Some people respond best to talking, some people to reading, and some to face-to-face interactions. How are you communicating about the gathering? People often use email and Facebook, but perhaps try phone trees, texting and face-to-face invitation if you can!
- Non-Visual Options: At Sins Invalid performances, we have audio describers to describe the action on stage for folks who are visually impaired. Since the webstreaming is visual, is a trained Audio Descriptor available for your event? If not, is someone who can see and describe (without adding commentary) available to do informal audio description? Also, if you are giving directions to the event, can you think through how best to explain it to a person with a visual impairment?
- Sexual content: This performance contains some sexually explicit content. It may not be appropriate for people under 16. Is childcare available so parents can watch the show?
- Bathrooms: People may need to use the restroom! There are long histories of trans and genderqueer people being harassed and hurt when they go into bathrooms, and folks with mobility impairments not being able to access bathrooms due to architecture, and folks with chemical injuries getting ill from the chemicals used in cleaning bathrooms. If possible, it's helpful to actually go to the public site, see the bathroom and speak with the management. Is there a toilet that is in a bigger stall, that is lowered and/or with a grab bar for folks with mobility impairments? If not, make sure to let folks know in advance of the event so they can take care of business at home! Is there a bathroom that is open to people of any gender? If not, can you hang a sign on one for the day that says "Gender Neutral"? Does the site use unscented cleaning products? If not, can they do it for a week before the date of the viewing?
- Non-auditory options: Did you know you can email us at info@sinsinvalid.org for the full text of the show so folks who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing can read the audio elements? It's true, you can! It's important to arrange for ASL interpretation at public events, and to announce to folks that there is ASL interpretation in your promotion if you do have it.
- Food options: At Sins, we are big food lovers! If food is part of the gathering, it's great to have multiple options – vegetarian, vegan, high protein (including meat), gluten-free, sugar free, etc. If people have food allergies or dietary restrictions, invite them to let others know what they can eat. If possible, let people know in advance if there will/will not be food for the group so they can plan based on that information.
- Wheelchair and other mobility-related access: Good things to consider include: Is there a working elevator? Are there steps or a steep slope in the building so that access may be limited? For folks for whom distance can be an issue, is Point A far from Point B? If there are doors to open and close to enter the site, are they heavy? If there is a bell or buzzer, who

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will or won't be able to reach it? Are there enough chairs for people? Are there wide chairs? There can be a lot of elements to troubleshoot, which is a good reason to have an access coordinator on the day of the event.

- Scents and chemicals: Can guests be encouraged to avoid scented products (commercial detergents, shampoo, soap, perfume) before the event? Is the space free of air fresheners, scented soaps, and other scented products? For guidelines on how to make your event accessible to people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS), please visit <http://vanessahuang.com/fragrance-free/>.
- Lighting: Fluorescent lighting can trigger seizures and can make spaces less accessible for people with sensory issues and/or neurological differences. Are other options (like lamps) available?
- Structured schedules and awareness of time: When organizing, it's always good to be aware of time – it's important that people know the schedule and that you try your best to stick to it – for lots of reasons! Attention and information processing needs, pre-scheduled transportation, schedules with assistants, childcare schedules and more can impact people's abilities to stay for the "program." We can never assume people can stay an hour later if we're late on schedule! If there must be schedule changes, let people know and be as clear about them as possible.
- Language access: People communicate in many different ways. When you are inviting people to the gathering or having the discussion, will everyone know what you are saying? Are you using words most people will know? If not, can you explain those terms? Check in with folks – would it be helpful for people to say their name before they speak? Are interpreters (e.g. ASL, Spanish, Tagalog...) available for the event for community members who have first languages other than English?
- Access to quiet space: It can be helpful to have a space where people can go to be alone or have less stimulation (input). Do you have the space and flexibility so that people can step back if they are getting over-stimulated or tired?
- Transportation: How are people getting to the event? Can people share rides? Is there public transportation that would match with the time of the viewing?
- Identities and experiences: Are folks aware of people's preferred gender pronouns? (Not everyone goes by he/she or him/her, and we can't assume based on how people look.) Similarly, remember that not all disabilities are visible, and some people may choose not to disclose a disability.
- Be upfront about remaining known barriers. (For example, the 2008 performance video has no captions, and the ASL interpretation is cut off at times.)