

generation studio and AIDS Vancouver Island present

"BLOOD BROTHERS"

A gay men's outreach workshop

- community service
- supporting youth
- revisioning our relationship to HIV/AIDS

July 4, 5, & 6, 1996
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

THE CONCEPT

Blood Brothers, an intensive three-day workshop, brings together gay men and youth, community activists, health care workers and representatives from local AIDS service organizations. During this workshop, they will confront the issues and concerns of those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, within our diverse community. Participants will carry out an in-depth exploration of gay culture, while developing inter-personal training and creative communication skills. Facilitated by the artists and trainers of **generation studio**, this program provides an opportunity for sociological research into the collective stories of gay culture and represents a much needed community assessment for men who have sex with men.

Blood Brothers creates a vital bridge between the XI International Conference on AIDS and British Columbia's local gay communities. Stepping out of the arena of politics and science, this workshop puts a human face to the issues affecting us all. **Blood Brothers** inspires a renewed awareness of the necessity for both individuals and organizations to take a stronger, more dynamic role in the leadership of our Community.

THE BENEFITS

With a deeper understanding of the forces behind group and individual behaviours of the gay community, participants will discover alternative strategies of support and communication with and for the people we serve. Organizations ultimately benefit from the diversity of skills and tools their staff, volunteers and/or clients receive over the period of the workshop. More importantly however, a higher level of intent of purpose brings new energy and creative drive into the work environment. A profound understanding of service to community and the potential for providing enhanced community leadership will make its influence felt for years to come in support of our rapidly evolving gay culture.

THE FORMAT

The three-day intensive workshop will focus on a number of issues of vital importance concerning the manner in which the gay community and individuals are evolving with the AIDS epidemic, how community is created and how individuals and organizations can be effective in modifying and changing culture. Spontaneity will be encouraged as we explore theatre-related techniques of creative conflict resolution, role playing, and physical movement in pursuit of clearer individual objectives and personal motivations.

FOCUS (1): THE HIV/AIDS RESPONSE

(Coming Out) 2: Outing shame, prejudice and silence

- constructing new meanings of the coming out process, from both the gay and HIV/AIDS perspectives

Living Hosts: As the virus "outstays its welcome"

- creating a personal relationship to HIV/AIDS

A Deafening Silence: Anger, Addiction & AIDS

- why do a high proportion of gay men continue to participate in unprotected sex?
- exploring the connections between suppressed anger, grief and shame and compulsive, addictive behavior

FOCUS (2): YOUTH

Net Worth: HIV and Youth

- developing a more effective model for self-education, from a queer youth perspective

Chicken Hawks and Boy Toys: Opening the lines of communication

- exploring the negative effects of ageism and generational misunderstanding in our community
- creating values through mentorship programming

FOCUS (3): REVISIONING COMMUNITY

Spirit of Community

- discovering the effects of our beliefs and attitudes of one another on one another
- moving beyond the syndrome of "us and them", creating a collective vision for our immediate future

"Playing It Straight": Healing the basher within

- stepping out of our heterosexual conditioning
- exposing the "swallowed lies" of internalized homophobia and the "force-fed lies" of externalized homophobia

FOCUS (3): REVISIONING COMMUNITY (CONT'D)

Baths, Bushes & Other Sacred Places: a Dionysian dissection of man to man sex

- celebrating sexual choice and freedom of expression and their impact on our culture

FOCUS (4): SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

De-Institutionalizing Service: Moving Out of Bureaucratic Trenches

- promoting creative grass roots initiatives and community activism
- deconstructing fear-based relationships between organization and client

TOPICAL ENGAGEMENTS

Complementing the workshop environment, three presentations will be made to the participants to provoke thought and promote discussion within the group.

- 1) AIDS: A Cultural Overview/A personal perspective, presented by Harry Grunsky

Harry Grunsky is a local business owner (Harry's Café), and queer sociopolitical activist.

- 2) The HIV(-) Crisis, presented by Michael Botnick

Michael Botnick is a Phd. candidate. AIDS Educator, group discussion facilitator, and former Outreach Coordinator of AIDS Vancouver.

- 3) Uncertain Futures Made Certain: Youth Living with HIV, presented by Patrick McIntyre

Patrick McIntyre is an actor, HIV/AIDS Activist, and co-founder of YouthCo, Vancouver.

GENERATION STUDIO: ARTISTS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

A professional team of artists, researchers, therapeutic healers and community leaders will work together to facilitate this intensive three-day event. The men and women of generation studio have spent more than a year researching and exploring with gay artists and community leaders, the issues affecting the gay community.

Artistic Director, **Robert Osborne** has more than 12 years' experience in creative group facilitation and community building efforts. Last summer, with the assistance of the Canada Council, **generation studio** produced Victoria's first gay theatre festival, "**As deep as your throat**". The follow up project, **Latex Café**, was produced in Victoria during March and sponsored by AIDS Vancouver Island and Health Canada. Both projects explored the effects of internalized homophobia and the influence of HIV/AIDS on gay culture in Victoria, B.C.

BLOOD BROTHERS

Daily Schedule

July 4, 5 & 6, 1996

08:30 - 08:50	Registration
09:00 - 10:30	Session One
10:45 - 12:50	Session Two
13:00 - 13:50	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Session Three
15:45 - 16:45	Topical Engagement
16:45 - 17:30	Wrap - Up
