

EVERYTHING TO DO WITH SEX SHOW

PRESS RELEASE 2011-08-04

Western Fair not to host 2011 Sex Show

On Friday July 29, 2011 we received a letter advising us that London Western Fair District had decided not to host The Everything To Do With Sex Show in 2011. Other than a brief warning a couple of days before that the matter was being revisited, we were totally blind sided by this decision. We believed that the Western Fair had committed to the show, and we have been planning, selling booths, and promoting the show in good faith for months. This was to be our fourth year at Western Fair, and the previous two shows had come off without any problems or issues, after some minor issues at the debut show in 2008.

In a news release that was issued on the same day, Hugh Mitchell, Chief Executive of the Western Fair District, said, "In light of our new strategic direction and the re-branding of our organization we have reviewed our menu of shows and events and concluded that this particular show is not a good fit."

We don't understand the above comment. The Western Fair District's new tag line is "be entertained". We are entertainment. We have reviewed their menu of shows and events and concluded that we are much more suitable than many of the events listed. We were one of the top attended shows held in the Progress Building, and thousands of attendees, as well as hundreds of pictures, are evidence of our ability to not only entertain, but educate and inspire as well. Attendees and exhibitors come from all across the province, and further afield. We purchase goods, services, occupy hotel rooms, hire local people, and contribute to the London economy and entertainment scene in a myriad of ways.

In an article published in the London Free Press on July 29, 2011, comments were made by a member of the public about one of our sponsors, who is in the pornography industry, and a number of extremely negative comments and observations were made about pornography in general, linking pornography to sexual assault, sexual violence, post-traumatic stress disorder, disease, physical injuries, and further implying that the performances by woman in porn were non-consensual. There was also a comment that Western Fair is supposed to be providing entertainment and fun for the whole family, including children.

We have many sponsors and exhibitors, some of whom are in the pornography industry, or sell pornography. However this is only one element of the show, and is not a major element by any means. We have many more exhibitors selling everything from health products to travel, including educational institutions, fashions, lingerie, corsets, furniture, fitness, makeup and personal hygiene, as well as what you might expect at an adult themed show. We have educational seminars presented by knowledgeable professionals. While some have questioned the topics, judging by the packed crowds in the seminar room they are what the public want to learn about. We have a demonstration area featuring the BDSM community, and other exhibits devoted to alternative lifestyles. While this is not for everyone, the areas are also educational, and are staffed by enthusiastic volunteers that are there to provide information, answer questions and serve the curious. We have a main stage with quality entertainment, ranging from a fashion show,

and dance routines, to a performance by one of the world's top burlesque performer, as well as contests, and a variety of entertainment. In short, we are all about entertainment.

We do not condone in any way abuse or violence, sexual or otherwise, against women or any other person. We promote healthy and consensual relationships between consenting adults, who are in many cases committed to each other, and are looking to improve their sex life. Intimacy is a fact of life, and a basic requirement in a healthy relationship. We support many charities, and have provided free booth space and support to a range of charities from breast cancer to the Sexual Assault Center. We have mainstream sponsors. In short, we try to be good corporate citizens.

With respect to the comments in the London Free Press article regarding the evils of pornography, which seem to stop just short of blaming all of the world's evil on pornography, we have no doubt that bad people may be linked to pornography, but that does not mean that pornography creates bad people. Many, many, normal, law abiding people, including women and couples, enjoy pornography as part of their sex life. Perhaps money should also be banned, as it too is the root cause of all evil, or so we have been told.

As far as the comments in the article regarding the Western Fair District being for families and children, it is difficult to reconcile this with the existence of the horse racing track, the slot machines, the serving of alcohol, and the ownership of the wine and food show. Western Fair District is not eliminating any of these activities as a result of their new direction. A Western Fair District News release dated 2011-06-17 "How Western Fair's Changes Affect Racing" states their re-branding includes substantial improvements and updates to the racetrack and the slots, including the conversion of the infield into additional parking spaces with underground access to the slot machines. How convenient. Now maybe there will be convenient parking available for attendees of the few viable remaining consumer shows held in the Progress building, instead of being forced to the far end of the lot by the legions of gamblers playing the slots.

Our comments above should not be construed as criticism of gaming or alcohol, but as an observation of the hypocrisy of the position of the Western Fair District Board of Governors with respect to the Everything To Do With Sex Show.

We have our own opinions as to the relative merits of sex, alcohol and gambling, however we believe such opinions should be expressed through legitimate campaigns and lobbying, in an effort to change laws we disagree with. We respect the rights of others to disagree with us, and to undertake and engage in legitimate and legal activities, which we might not personally approve us. These are civil liberties and are our rights in a democracy. All of the activities at The Everything To Do With Sex Show are consensual and legal. No one is being coerced into coming to the show. It is your choice. If you don't like sex, stay at home.

We now know that pressure was brought to bear on the London Western Fair District Board of Governors. The following announcement is currently posted on Facebook:

"The London Abused Women's Centre, Stop Porn Culture and Men Against Sex Trafficking will

be presenting Pornography-its Impact on Community to Neighbourhoods and Community Committee of City Council on Aug. 16 at 4:30 - 2nd floor of city hall. This is the presentation that would have been presented to the Western Fair Board had we not been denied. Please plan to attend to show your support for a porn free community”

There are other postings on the LAWC facebook page encouraging people to protest the Everything To Do With Sex Show.

There are societies in the world where things such as pornography, gambling, alcohol, and other so called vices are illegal and participation in such activities is punishable by extreme punishments. It is no coincidence that these same societies tend to be dictatorships with few civil liberties, discriminate against many disadvantaged groups and minorities, and in many cases treat women as property. There are consequences to living in a society where a small number of people dictate the laws and morality to the rest. Be careful what you wish for.

We believe the efforts of the London Abused Women’s Center to have The Everything To Do With Sex Show canceled and to promote a porn free society, are misguided and have nothing to do with helping abused women, and urge those who feel the same way to attend the above presentation and show their opposition to these efforts.

We also urge you to show your support for the show by writing, e-mailing, or calling the Western Fair District and your favorite media outlet. The Western Fair District contact information is:

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And feel free to contact us as well at info@everythingtodowithsex.com. We want to know how you feel.

For more information contact:

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