

# Ask the Sexy Religious Studies Majors

by George and John

*What is God's gender and who were God's parents?*

- Q. Frank

The traditional Catholic response to this question would be that God transcends gender. As a spirit, God is not limited to the same gender constraints as most of His animal creation. However the Kethuvim (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament) speaks of God in gender terms, because that is the easiest way for men (and to an unfortunately lesser extent, women) to relate to God. The New Testament sees Jesus, one aspect of the Trinity appear in human form as a MAN. However, the authors of these scriptures also speak of God as a mother figure (e.g. Isaiah 42:15, Luke 13:34).

There have been, of course, many other approaches to peg down the gender of God, or the gods. Egyptian, Greco-Roman and other religions had pantheons full of both gods and goddesses. Also the Gospel of the Egyptians (not in the Bible-but part of the Judeo-Christian heritage) also contains a Trinity. However its

aspects are Father, Son and Mother, instead of the Holy Spirit. Other Gnostic books like this speak of Sofia as one of the mothers of creation.

These Gnostic scriptures provide also an answer to who God's parents were. Typically God, whom is named Yaldabaoth in these scriptures, is an accident creation of Sophia. The Gospel of the Egyptians makes him one of about a dozen offspring.

**As a spirit, God is not limited to the same gender constraints as His animal creation.**

In mainstream Christianity these scriptures have attained the status of heresy, as they tend to paint God in a negative fashion. They are not the norm. But they do reveal an intense longing for knowledge of, and relationship with, the divine. They have hence continued to survive as important religious texts and are studied to illuminate the thought of the early Christians.

## THE RIOT DIARIES A NEW PLAY ABOUT CANADIAN PROTESTS

Three actors bring to life a variety of young characters all involved in a contemporary large scale anti-globalization protest. The characters are all there for different reasons and have different views on what is happening: from an average Joe caught in the middle, to a journalist covering the action, to a protestor who would go to any extreme.

The Riot Diaries is simultaneously a documentary and fictional account of the Canadian protest movement and its relationships with government, media and society. Utilizing both video projection of actual events and live performance, a variety of perspectives will be delivered in an educational and original contemporary

The play is written/acted/produced by Dean Constable, Evan Brown, and Jonathan Stewart who were all in Quebec City for the FTAA protest in April of 2001. The Riot Diaries is based on this (and other) protest(s) and incorporates footage from a documentary shot by a group of independent film makers that included two of The Riot Diaries authors.

The play runs April 5 and April 6 at Duffy Amphitheatre on the UPEI Campus, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. All tickets are \$8.00 and are available at the door. [www.riotdiaries.com](http://www.riotdiaries.com). The Riot Diaries is presented by The Dichotomy Group and the production is sponsored by The PEI Council of the Arts and The UPEI Theatre Society.

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