

Twisted Tryst; The Gathering, 2018

While we hope this is our final list, sometimes life has other plans and a presenter gets a little tied up. Class descriptions and educators subject to change.

Bad Kitty Bondage

Kat and Dhyana have been tying, performing, and teaching together as Bad Kitty Bondage since 2013. In 2016 we asked our good friend and bad ass rope bottom MedullaOblongata to be part of our group. Our influences come from both Japanese and Western styles of rope bondage with our tying style gravitating towards asymmetry, imperfection, and fluidity while maintaining practical and functional forms. Kat and Dhyana are both kinda sadistic so don't be surprised if we throw in some sadistic side notes and advice in our classes as well. We enjoy being silly and sharing our fun and sometimes quirky tying style with people in the community.

Non-advanced Advanced Bondage for Novice Rope Humans

Friday, 10am

Futomo-who? Takate go-where? Want to just tie someone up and do terrible and / or wonderful things to them? Come to this class to learn some fun sexy rope stuff that you can do that doesn't require a master's degree in shibari.

Interactive tying. Participants will need 5 - 6 pieces of rope. Knowing how to tie a single column will be helpful but covered.

Trans Identities in Kink

Friday, noon

This discussion is aimed at helping people learn about trans identities and some helpful information on how gender identity may impact everyday interactions as well as negotiating successful, safe and fun scenes in the kink sphere.

Suspension Basics and Partial

Saturday, 10am

This class is meant to serve as an introduction to suspension bondage. Covers the fundamentals of suspension bondage (safety, hardpoints, weight distribution, etc). We then go through a demo and run through of a simple side suspension (involving a TK or stable chest harness, waist rope, and two single columns on the legs) which can be modified for many different applications, be it impact or sadistic partials. Participants should know how to tie these basic shibari forms and instruction will be focused on putting them together into a functioning suspension.

Intermediate (Meant for people new to suspension)

Interactive tying. Participants will need 5 - 6 pieces of rope. Knowing how to tie a safe and suspension ready chest harness is required. Participants will need their own hardpoint equipment (ring, etc.)

HALP! STAHP! (Bondage for Impact)

Saturday, noon

Anyone can tie a person bent over a bed and start flogging them but there is so much more!!! In this class we not only go over a few ties useful for impact but also some of the safety concerns and sadistic treasures of utilizing rope in your impact scenes. There is plenty of overlap here by the way! We will cover ground ties as well as partial suspensions. Come prepared to tie some basic forms without guidance such as double column ties, futomomos, and basic suspension lines.

Interactive tying. Participants will need 5 - 6 pieces of rope. Knowing how to tie a double column, reverse tension, frictions, cinches and basic suspension is required.

Hobart76 (Robert)

This Southern-born kinkster loves to share all that he has managed to gather during his journey in the Pittsburgh Kink Scene and the leader of the Pittsburgh Groundhog Society. It is not just the how to do something, but it is the why we do it that way; armed with that knowledge you can choose when and how to push your art form forward.

Fireplay (and how to keep things from burning down around you)

Thursday, 2pm

If you like the idea of making your partner a little hot, or want your partner to set you ablaze, come and let's talk. We will be going over everything you need to know to make this as safe as possible: safety; equipment; techniques - fire fleshing and cupping; clean-up; what to do when things are burning down around you; and we'll talk about other fun things like blood cupping and wax.

Needle 101 and more

Friday, noon

Hey, we know that needles and play piercing aren't for everyone, but if you think it might be for you....

This class is designed for needle players wanting to get started and for needle players that maybe have not thought about some aspects of needle play. We are going to look at things that you will need to know to be successful: safety; equipment; technique; clean up, and some more advanced things, like: needle zippers; fire and needles; electricity and needles; impact and needles; structural vs artistic designs; planning designs; and corsets. There will be a demo, and hands on instruction (bring your own needle bottoms).

Daddy Kenyon and SwitchyButch

Daddy Kenyon is a queer, polyamorous, genderqueer, Leather, dyed-in-the-wool switch, and a passionate educator, who alternates between marching in spit-shined combat boots and waltzing backwards in fuck-me pumps, both literally and metaphorically (although she does not recommend this simultaneously). A covered Leather Daddy, and a self-described “omnivorous kinkster,” she enjoys complexity, connection, and pushing the psychological edge of a scene. Daddy Kenyon has been in the public BDSM/kink/leather communities since 2002, and enjoys play ranging from piercing, blood, and medical to heavy impact, bootblacking, and tea service. Her focus has always been on safety and following one’s desires. She presents locally and regionally on her diverse (and perverse) pastimes.

A queer, Butch, Leatherdyke bootblack, and Leatherboy, SwitchyButch has been fiercely kinky for nearly two decades. No matter which side of the slash he’s operating on, SwitchyButch can be found playing hard and getting up close and personal with his fists and boots. He enjoys the filthier things in life, including piercing, fisting, and piss, as well as the finer things, such as cigar service, boot worship, and anticipatory service. A sadomasochist who is a tireless learner and hopelessly curious, he particularly enjoys using his psychology education for more nefarious purposes (Skinner boxes, anyone?) SwitchyButch devotes much of his free time to serving and educating in his local kink and Leather community, as well as presenting at regional events, such as Red, Black, and Blue Ball; Spanksgiving; and Power eXchange Summit. He is proud to hold the title of Bluegrass Leather Bootblack 2016.

Full Contact Kink: Visceral Violence

Thursday, 10am

Rough body play is the art of using your body to apply impact. It is personal. It is hot. It is extremely visceral. If you want to hit, punch, kick, and get personal, this class is for you. Learn how to apply pain and suffering with the most intimate tool of all: your body. This class will teach how to negotiate for these scenes. You will learn how to put the hurt on a bottom, while mitigating risks for both the top and the bottom.

Tarzan Visits the Nunnery: Erotic Roleplaying

Thursday, noon

Does the thought of being someone else excite you... and make you a little bit nervous? This workshop is for you! This presentation is a discussion and hands-on demonstration of the skills required to have confidence while playing out roles in the bedroom and dungeon. The topics to be covered include: negotiation, overcoming fears, understanding the erotic angle, improvisation (and its enemy: ACTING), and popular roles for couples and groups. This workshop focuses on tips and techniques to help even the shy gain the confidence to act out their fantasies! Come prepared to interact. This class is for all genders and orientations.

Which Way Is Up? The Joys and Challenges of Switching

Saturday, 2pm

Of course, some people do go both ways...” And that’s okay! Dyed-in-the-wool switches Daddy Kenyon and SwitchyButch talk you through the adventures of having it both ways... or more! Learn your “switch type” and how to flip your own inner switch. Top to bottom and everything in between, this class takes on challenges, and provides solutions, to bring your switch out to play!

The Whys and Wherefores of Shame: Playing With Dynamite

Saturday, 4pm

Tap into a person’s shame, and you tap into their inner self. Shame play is intense, edgy, and often very hot. Come to this class and learn some of the basic psychology of shame, the four levels of erotic shame, how to negotiate for these scenes, and what you can get out of shame play as a top or a bottom. If you’re the kind of person who can’t see a big, red button without wanting to push it, you should come to this class!

Sir Mason deRou and Miss Kimi deRou

Sir Mason deRou is a primal Master who began his walk into the public kink scene in 2009. He has dominion over Miss Kimi deRou and together they form La Maison deRou. Mason is also the commander of La Meute de Rougaroux (The Rougarou Pack). He is a uniform fetishist, erotic photographer, and also loves the littles! Mason leverages his relative youth to build bridges among several kinky tribes and subcultures, allowing the voices of both past and current generations of kinksters to be heard. Mason has presented at BESS, Black Rose, CLUE, Weekend Reunion, and several MAsT chapters. Mason is a former president and sergeant-at-arms of the Master-Dominant Consortium and is one of the founding members of the Leather Houses of Color Coalition (LHOCC). He is a member of MAsT DC Pan and MAsT Washington and is also an alumnus of the MTTA Academy (Master Training XX). Mason resides in southern Maryland.

Miss Kimi deRou is a femme servant with dominant tendencies and a menagerie of primals. She fully embraces her littles (all three of them!) and advocates for awareness and acceptance of littles as 2013's Little Miss Littles Dark Odyssey: Winter Fire. She is in service to Master Mason deRou and serves as the Alpha Submissive of La Meute de Rougaroux (The Rougarou Pack). In addition to engaging in her favorite form of bondage (corsets), Kimi is also a uniform fetishist and among her many identities is human pony. Kimi has presented at BESS, Black Rose, Weekend Reunion, and Tiny Terrors. Kimi is one of the founding members of the Leather Houses of Color Coalition (LHOCC) and resides in the Washington, DC area.

AFI 34-1201 Or: What I Learned About D/s and M/s From the Military

Thursday, 4pm

Power-exchange relationships do not exist solely in the kink world. Even in Leather, the regimented structure of some relationships are derived from traditions and protocol found in the military. This class compares some of those military regimens to what you may find in a D/s or M/s relationship. Topics covered include the formation and maintenance of an M/s structure, considerations when establishing a dynamic, protocols, and use of certain military regimens and rituals to enhance authority transfer dynamics.

How to Lead a Slave With a Dominant Personality

Saturday, 10am

When hearing the term dominant, it is easy to conflate the many definitions of the word. It can be a noun to describe a role in a D/s dynamic, and it can also be an adjective to describe one's personality. So what happens when a slave has personality traits that are more commonly ascribed to a Dominant? Is a strong-willed, outspoken, proactive personality incompatible with the life of a slave? Can assertiveness and confidence be mistaken for "topping from the bottom?"

This presentation will discuss what to do when a slave does not fit the stereotypical norm of what many people think about a slave, how the prospective Master or Dominant of such an individual should prepare and respond, and considerations for both the slave and the Master in terms of petitioning and establishing an M/s dynamic.

We Are the Littles!

Saturday, 2pm

One of the more intriguing and misunderstood realms of kink involve unique individuals commonly referred to as littles. These individuals tap into an innocence usually associated with children, and the manifestation of this can take on many forms. At the same time, the reaction to this can also take on many forms. But what exactly is a little? How does one deal with the feelings associated with childlike emotions or actions? How does the "big" respond to this?

This presentation will explain exactly what a little is and how one deals with the feelings associated with being one. The course will also examine the difference between littles and age-players and delve into the many aspects surrounding the mindset of the little, including emotional euphoria and conflicts, integrating power dynamics, sexual expression and considerations when interacting with a Big.

Ponies and Bronies! Making Pony Play Fun

Saturday, 4pm

Is there an equine within you, yearning to be free? Has a human pony approached you for grooming or training and you didn't know what to do? This workshop teaches the basics of human pony play, human pony training and human pony grooming. We will also discuss how to establish a starting point for your journey without feeling overwhelmed. (NOTE: While many aspects of pony play are covered, this class is geared primarily towards show ponies)

Monkey and Medulla Oblongata

Monkey, owner of MonkeyFetish Studios, is an international presenter, performer and artist. He first presented rope at a local BDSM club in 2002 and has presented on rope, rough body play, D/s dynamics and other kink topics in the years since. He teaches with the philosophy that rope is easy, rope mastery is hard, and that anyone can use rope to enhance their kink play. He teaches rope, performs rope, and has more than a bit of skill with the camera which he executes for art and event photography whenever he can. He's happy to share with anyone willing to listen to his particular brand of deviance.

He serves as Secretary of the Leather Archives & Museum and encourages you to ask about the organization and spend time perusing their website in your free time.

You find out more about Monkey, his classes, performances and artwork at <http://www.monkeyfetish.com>

Medulla Oblongata dove into the rope scene headfirst in early 2014, after what was supposed to be a casual scene showed her the dizzying highs and intense connections that could be made through rope. She combines her thorough knowledge of anatomy with her appreciation for technical details in order to educate, primarily in the area of rope bottoming. She's had the privilege of tying with and learning from many skilled rope tops, and applies what she has learned to help people learn to make their rope scenes better, from the top or bottom. She can be found on <http://www.iShitYouKnot.com>.

Playing with the Mouth

Thursday, 4pm

Mouths are fun. What happens to, in, and around the mouth is impossible to ignore. Sensuality to sadism, let's look at what we can do with one of our favorite body parts.

Nylon Play

Friday, noon

Nylons, stockings, pantyhose, tights, sticky stockings, whatever are a common fetish in and out of our kink space. Wearing and/or touching them is deliciously sensual for many people but the fun doesn't need to stop there. We'll start with what we love about wearing hosiery in its many forms and branch out to other creative aspects of playing with the medium. Layering, bondage, gagging, hosiery tubes and more are on the table for this delightfully sensual class.

Najalaise

Najalaise is maniacal but decent. Even before joining the organized BDSM community in 2005, they were exploring kink and introducing others to figging, play piercing, sounding, fisting, and other delightful pastimes. More recently, Naj has had the pleasure of presenting for Dark Odyssey: Surrender in San Francisco, Northern Exposure in Anchorage, Charmed in Baltimore, Leather Reign in Seattle, and other events across the country. Najalaise is gleeful about learning and trying new things, both as a top and as a bottom, and is invested in creating spaces that foster knowledge and creativity by making it okay to screw up in public.

Making It Worse: Collusion as Active Consent

Thursday, 10am

Enthusiastic consent can be a difficult metric to use when negotiating edgeplay. When a scene idea is fearsome, dreadful, disgusting, or shameful, will enthusiasm be obvious? We'll begin with demos rife with dirty talk, then pair up for a series of negotiation exercises, exploring ways for bottoms to become co-conspirators and for tops to distinguish between consent and assent. Establishing trust in the quality of consent, whether with new or long-time partners, will allow your play to blossom in ways that are both filthy and alarming.

Hypnokink for Sadists

Friday, 10am

Curious about adding hypnosis to your kink toolset? If you play with SM or bondage, it's likely that you've already encountered people in mental states which are very similar to hypnotic trance. This demo-heavy workshop will show you how to use existing kinky skills to create hallucinated experiences, make training faster, and more! We'll also discuss negotiation, rapport, and other details of ensuring that it's a great experience for all involved.

More Than Skin Deep

Friday, 4pm

Once you're comfortable putting needles in skin, what if you want to go further? This class will highlight multiple locations on the body which are both easy to locate and safe to stab with needles. If you're interested in causing more pain, curious what bones feel like when poked, or just enamored with fearful reactions, these are tricks you'll want to learn.

This class assumes some knowledge of play piercing.

Small but Fierce: Acupuncture Needles & Other Innocuous Sharps

Saturday, 4pm

Acupuncture needles and other tiny jabby things can be mild to the point of imperceptible, or they can be terrifying. Attendees will gain the skills and knowledge to explore both extremes of this continuum. No experience is required, but come prepared to see intense and/or squicky things. Demos and the opportunity to practice on the presenter will be included.

Shahjahani

I believe in evolution of the self. This of course includes the evolution of kink and sexuality. One of the basic tenets of who I am, which seeps into all that I do, including kink, is that I enjoy variety and I always want to make it pretty. I am an avid teacher. I am a teacher and nurse educator by trade and teaching is a passion of mine, with 15 years of experience. I have worked in a wide variety of fields, including intensive care and emergency department nursing. I have a broad range of knowledge and experiences. My kinks include all things medical, from showing a needle virgin that sharp things can be beautiful and not at all scary, to turning a willing victim into an intensive care patient, controlling all of their fluids and processes. I enjoy roleplay and creating scenes with costumes, music and I do tend to have a flair for the dramatic. I will admit I do enjoy being a bit of a show pony, whether in public or in private. The scenes I craft are likened to a scene in a movie. There is a story before the scene and after. What connects us together is the snapshot in the middle. I try my best to create a mood adapted to each individual play partner. I am a sadist, a Mommy, a Switch with a predisposition for dominance. I focus on pain, strain, and blood, and of course mutually beneficial interactions.

Sounding and Catheter Usage

Thursday, noon

This class discusses all things related to placing objects in the urethra, including sounds, tubes, catheters, and the kinky, sexy things we can do. This class will include: Safety and infection prevention, Sounding for sensation, including pain (pain's a sensation, right?), Urinary catheters and watersports play (urine), including safe placement, What to do with the urine once its collected, (And because I'm a sadist): Sounding/Catheter play, and how to make your inner sadist happy. This class will include urine collection, playing with urine, and inserting objects into the urethra, so if that squicks a person out, be warned.

Everything Anal

Thursday, 4pm

We live in a very butt phobic culture. Look at our language: rude, inconsiderate people are "assholes" and uptight stress cases are "tightasses." While it's true that we carry a phenomenal amount of our stress in our assholes, there's tremendous pleasure to be experienced from the concentration of nerve endings clustered in and around the anus. My "Everything Anal" class is an indepth primer with a great deal of information about the butt and sticking things in it. I preface all of my teachings with this: I truly do not care what consenting people do. If you wish to fuck each other up the ass with dildos the size of baseball bats, no lube and then lick them like lollipops, go to town. Have a freaktastic party. That is awesome. Just know all the risks that go along with that behavior. That's where I come in.

Kung Fu Blood Woo

Saturday, 10am

"Blood is thicker than water." "Blood brothers." Blood is the source of connection, energy exchanges, and for some, very primal in nature. I will share my knowledge of and passion for blood play and the energy and connection that it can bring to your play and partnerships. This class will focus on energy exchange, drawing in energy from your partner, and giving it back. There will be blood present in this class, needles, and the tasting and drinking of blood in this class, so if that squicks a person out, please be warned.

Vesper

Vesper entered the kink community in 2003 and has been serving it since 2006 with a focus on providing safe, comfortable spaces for everyone to begin their kinky journeys, to explore deeper, and to grow into their best selves. To that end Vesper has helped form and run a number of educational/social groups in Wisconsin, presented around the country, and has been a longtime staff member with Twisted Tryst. You might find this Leather queer frolicking around camp, biting a lover or two, being a nerd getting mimsy in the borogoves, or tending The Burn. Vesper is agender, queer, and uses they/them pronouns. When not at camp Vesper is a house spouse and stay at home parent for two tiny monsters.

How Queer! (A.K.A. LGBTQIAA...)

Thursday, noon

Navigating gender and sexuality can be tricky whether you're cis and straight or queer as a three dollar bill. If you want to explore your own gender and sexuality or understand us queers around you better, come on by as we delve into every gender and sexuality we can get our hands on, discuss pronoun usage, and how to best show your respect.

The Socially Adept Kinkster: How Not to be a Douchebag and Deal with Those Who Are

Thursday, 2pm

There are many resources out there to help with relationships. Not as copious, but still plentiful are guides on how to negotiate with play partners. What about before that? How do you even approach the person you're interested in? How do you get to know if you're even interested in them? When you start that first conversation, what do you say? On the flip side, how do you deal with social awkwardness or downright douchebaggery without becoming awkward yourself, without coming off as cold or cliquish? In this class you'll find advice on how to best fit into a new place or welcome new people, how not to make unwanted advances, how to deal with those who are, and resolutions to many other socially questionable scenarios you won't even find in Savage Love.

Conscientious Relationships: Practical Discussions Surrounding Monogamy and Non-Monogamy

Friday, 10am

In the world at large monogamy is the norm while in the kink world some level of non-monogamy is usually assumed. But what's right for you? There is no one true way or best practice. Negotiating relationship boundaries with your partner, partners, and especially with yourself is an important aspect of getting around in the kinky world. Come explore what questions you can ask yourself and those you play with regarding the limits of your relationships to help things go as smoothly and satisfyingly as possible for all involved.

WhiskyTangoFoxy

WhiskyTangoFoxy is a bottom-leaning switch who loves self-tying, self suspension bondage and DIY projects. She is an active member of the Chicago BDSM scene and uses she/her pronouns. Among other events, she can be found leading a monthly Kinky Crafting group, on Twitter, or serving on the moderator team for FetLife's Self-Tie Tuesday group. She has been a presenter for Ropecraft, Dark Odyssey, Kinky Kollege, Twisted Tryst and FIRE.

Self-Tying 101

Thursday, 2pm

Practice makes perfect and self-tying is a great way to build basic rope skills and level up to sophisticated rope work. Self-tying requires a very different headspace, but allows for some of the most focused and intense practice time available to riggers and bottoms alike. This class begins with a discussion of why and how to begin to self-tying. Then demonstration and practice time followed by tips to keep your practice exciting and fulfilling.

Decorative Rope and Wearable Art

Friday, 4pm

Rope makes the best lingerie. We will cover some basic forms and the knots, hitches and wraps that can be used to turn anyone, of any size or gender into a walking work of art.

Bottom Lines

Saturday, noon

There are many different ways to be on the receiving end of BDSM Play. Come learn about several approaches to bottoming, how your risk profile can change depending on your method and tips for prep, self-care and negotiating for what you need.

Fetish or For Real? – Intersectional Kinking

Saturday, 2pm

Ever wondered if someone is into you, or if you are just a fetish delivery system for a specific Race/Gender Expressions/Age or Body Type? When there is a chance of being type-cast, pigeon-holed or 'boxed' into a stereotype instead of recognized and valued as an individual there are several challenges. This is a conversation for kinksters in marginalized groups to discuss what they face when seeking play or relationships.