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## Sexually healthy young men? – There's an app for that!

Evaluating the role of comedy and digital media in sexuality education

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## “too little, too late, and too biological”

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## “Where is the male equivalent of Dolly Doctor?”

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## Why use comedy with young men?

- Big consumers of comedy – especially online
- Admire and respect comedians
- Provides a “hook” for engagement

**FUNNY GUYS TALK SEX**

LET'S TALK GOOD LOVIN'

LET'S TALK SEXUAL HEALTH

LET'S TALK DATING SCENE

LET'S TALK THE FIRST TIME

LET'S TALK CONDOMS

LET'S TALK BREAKING UP

LET'S TALK MASTURBATION

## Evaluation research

- Qualitative study
- 6 participants – adult stakeholders
- H&PE Teachers, School based youth health nurses
- Exploring their responses and perceptions
- Several themes emerged

## Engaging materials are needed

- *some of the DVDs I'm using, I've used 15 years ago... that stuff doesn't engage them"*
- *I don't think they're getting enough in depth relationship stuff*
- *they're getting it from porn*
- *there is nothing worse than trying to teach this and being ... all serious. You teach anything else, you can laugh about it. Why not this?*

## Valuing the male perspective

- *the humour is what would grab them. And the fact that it's men.*
- *they were real, they were the sort of stuff I'd hear my mates talking about in the real world.*
- *the serious videos... give a real life perspective, and a bloke to bloke perspective... they would engage with them*
- *The way they presented it was pretty good, and different people with different points of view.*

## Humour is engaging

- *The humour was... age appropriate. For Yr 11 and 12, and 10 too.*
- *it is really nice to see the funny video and then listen to the serious stuff. They're chucking off at it and making a joke, but then they say, that's the funny bit, but this is what we really think*
- *they were funny enough to engage our year 12s. they were funny enough, without being "dad humour"*

## The content hits the mark

- *Those frequently asked questions... give you an opportunity to talk about it and get feedback*
- *(The serious videos) ... weren't like their parents saying "don't do this, don't do that", it was... upbeat and friendly enough to think, "oh he's making a good point" without feeling bullied into watching this.*
- *The FAQ are definitely questions that kids would write... they're all very relevant*

## Facilitates discussion

- *Some of the questions in there you can have some really nice deep conversations with students.. they can walk away and go, 'we look at this a different way now'.*
- *I'd say, 'does anyone else know anything interesting?' You'd be amazed about what sort of ridiculous trivial things boys know about.*
- *I like the flow that seems to be recommended, see the funny video, see the serious video, move on to... discussion.*

## It may not be for everyone...

- *I felt a bit uncomfortable watching it, because of the swearing, and the informal nature of the comedy club scenario*
- *at this school, it would be deemed as unacceptable.*
- *I would have to be really selective... Cause schools are quite, um... very conservative*
- *As a facilitator I think you'd have to be comfortable talking about sexuality... not every teacher is comfortable with talking about sex*
- *A few of the nurses think it's a bit too full on*

## And maybe not for every boy...

- *I think you need to be very familiar with the content and the age and knowledge of the boys.*
- *With Year 12, I'd be "whatever interests you" - I'd probably direct it more with year 10.*
- *I think some of the humour is a bit more adult focused, because I think you have to have some experience to 'get' it.*
- *I can't say if it would be appropriate... It's assuming they're having sex.*

## Suitable for smaller groups

- *I would break the groups into smaller sizes – 15 max, so you could manage everyone in the group and be aware of their comfort*
- *I would use it in a small to medium size classroom environment – 10-15 maximum*
- *I would use (the 'What do you think about...?' section) as a reflection question, to summarise what you'd learnt and promote and encourage discussion amongst small groups*

## Other ideas, next steps

- *alcohol and drugs*
- *social media, online sex, pornography, sexting*
- *the legal side of sex*
- *Needs a lot more about pornography*
- *Is there a female version?*

## Conclusion

- *A valuable, engaging tool for opening up dialogue - a launching pad for discussion*
- *Best suited to use in a small group, probably not in a large classroom group.*
- *Facilitator comfort is a key ingredient*
- *Some ideas for further development or the next version – porn, sexting, drugs & alcohol....*
- *A "girls version"?*

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