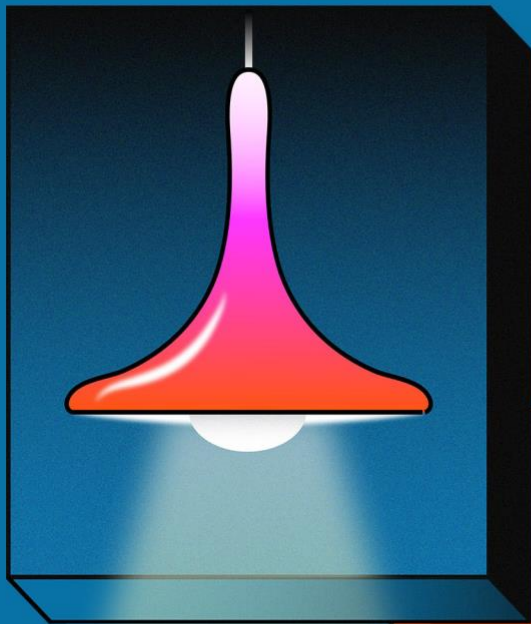


**A comedy drama
series by
Barbara Jane Mackie**



Sydney Talks Sex

6/8 x 50' episodes



'SYDNEY TALKS SEX'



What do you do if have sexual problems in your relationship? You go see a Sex Counsellor. What do you do if you are that Counsellor and have sexual problems of your own? You panic!

6/8 x 50 minute Episodes

Comedy Drama Series

Series devised and written by Barbara Jane Mackie

Episode One – 'Sexual Healing' 50 minute script available.



'SYDNEY TALKS SEX' – SYNOPSIS

Meet **SYDNEY** (29), Bristol born, mixed race, rebellious, witty, a woman who calls herself 'polyamorous' but suspects her out-of-control sexual drive comes from a darker and more complex place. Living with **ANGUS** (30), an Australian gay actor she was a drama school with, SYDNEY is a Sex Counsellor at '**CONNECT**' Therapy Centre in Cardiff and at night a stand up comedienne in the city's pubs and clubs. SYDNEY sees **IAN (40's)** her American therapist every week but playfully resists making sense of her messy relationships which stem from her abandonment as a teenager by her two selfish parents. In need of 'sexual healing', SYDNEY is a spoilt teenager yet to grow up.

ANDY (35), Sheffield born from the North of the UK, warm, supportive, is a Senior Sexual Counsellor at '**CONNECT**' and **SYDNEY'S SUPERVISOR**. Object of LUST and very married, a doting Dad to boot. Moving target for **SYDNEY'S** affections and sexual frustration. You betcha! Attracted to **SYDNEY**? What man – or woman - wouldn't be? About to commit adultery and thereby jeopardise his job and his marriage to **INGA**, a calm Swedish earth mother and the mother to his three kids? ***What do you think?!***

MAEVE, (39), Irish, a culture-vulture is sophisticated, smart, a secret Alcoholic and as lonely as hell. 'CONNECT'S most senior Therapist, **MAEVE** has been unsuccessfully trying the 'executive' dating game which has now led her to consider dating one of her clients **ROBERT, A SEXUAL ADDICT** and **GEORGE CLOONEY** look-alike who walks into the practice. MAEVE, the consummate professional, steels herself as she considers '**crossing the line**' ...

EUGENE (28), Welsh, is another Counsellor also needs 'sexual healing'. Black, workaholic, smart, **EUGENE**, a successful web designer is feeling the heat as his fiancée **BECKA** (20's) piles the pressure on about their forthcoming marriage. **EUGENE** can't ignore the fact that he is attracted to **MICKI** (26) the Team's Administrator. **MICKI**, a studious sharp-minded feminist, has a troubled history with men. Working in a brothel nights to pay for her Counselling degree, MICKI knows if she weakens and gets into bed with **EUGENE**, she will ***never, ever get out ...***

VERA (50's) '**CONNECT'S RECEPTIONIST**, Welsh, Transfemale, warm, motherly is a shoulder to cry on for the **COUNSELLORS** when the temperature rises. **AND THE CLIENTS** - full of sexual perversions and complications. Cross dressing Firemen, sex addicts, a retired man with premature ejaculation problems, a loony Upper class woman who declares to **SYDNEY** that she has 'three vaginas' – the door at '**CONNECT**' is forever open!

'SYDNEY TALK SEX' – sexy, funny, irreverent, puts the '**Ssss!**' back into '**SEX**'.



SYDNEY (29) – SEX COUNSELLOR, 'CONNECT'

SYDNEY, British mixed race, irreverent, honest, hails from a middle class background in Bristol. The spoilt only child of her parents, ROGER (50's) a doctor and VANESSA (50's), a failed novelist who came out as a lesbian and ran off to Paris when Sydney was fifteen. Sydney was dumped on VANESSA'S younger gay brother, fondly called 'AUNTY DOT', LUKE, (now 40's) a warm-hearted gay builder and a functioning alcoholic, stepped in when Sydney's parents stepped out. 'AUNTY DOT' (then in his 20's and promiscuous) did his best but the angry wild child teenage SYDNEY was uncontrollable!

SYDNEY has made her clients her 'family' and having a big heart, she connects to all the pain her clients are feeling. Sydney cares. She really cares but all that collective pain can sometimes get too much to carry. Sex is the one way Sydney shake off all that troubled emotion. The fact she is a 'sex addict' is slowly starting to occur to Sydney but that fact has already occurred to MICKI, her best friend at work.

SYDNEY feels a simmering rage at her double rejection by her two self-centered parents which means that Sydney is frozen in the teen years, unable to grow up. Sex has been the one thing that Sydney has always trusted to get her through her life.

At night, SYDNEY is a Stand Up Comedienne performing her comedy act, '**Women Talk Dirty**' in Cardiff's city pubs and nightclubs. From the professional Counsellor to her clients, she becomes the needy 'client' who plays things out in front of her audience, wanting their love and approval. SYDNEY, a fiercely loyal friend is at the centre of a tight friendship group with ANGUS (gay, an ex-Drama student like Sydney), an unemployed actor. Sydney's high rise luxury flat was brought for her by her guilt-ridden parents and is the hub of the city's wild late night parties ...

SYDNEY'S ARC – To find out what she really wants from life, to nail her confused sexuality and make peace with herself and grow up – but what hope of that? Sydney enjoys being the perennial angry teenager. It's her trademark, a part of her Comedy Act and a well-seasoned role that this former Drama student is unwilling to give up. But she must.



ANDY (35) – SENIOR SEX THERAPIST AT 'CONNECT'

ANDY is from Sheffield in the North of the UK, lives in big house in the leafy suburbs of Cardiff, with INGA (36) his wife, a Dutch Hypnotherapist. They met as students in Amsterdam and have never looked back. Two kids later they are very comfortable with each other but a spark is missing. For ANDY anyway ...

Warm, wry, proud of his 'right on' sexual politics, ANDY has his world rocked when he has drunken passionate with SYDNEY at the office after the Christmas party – it shattered his self of calm self-belief and this family man is left reeling. A cliched mid-life crisis? You've got it. But Andy can't forget the passion he shared with SYDNEY. Andy is disgusted with himself and is struggling to submerge his attraction for Sydney. But he's losing!

INGA is a calm, beautiful 'earth mother', an Dutch hypnotherapist, pregnant with their third child, has no reason to suspect that her husband is involved with SYDNEY. ANDY is nervous about the extra pressure a third child will put on them, already feeling fault lines in his marriage. However, when there are pregnancy complications and the BABY'S future is put in jeopardy, Andy wants nothing but this third child!

ANDY'S ARC – to find the balance between love and lust. He loves INGA but he has stopped sexually desiring her. Sex with SYDNEY is explosive but is it just because it is forbidden fruit? ANDY is a man in pain, struggling to find his centre.





MAEVE (39) – 'CONNECT'S' SENIOR THERAPIST and HEAD OF TEAM

Cultured, sophisticated, immaculate and stylish, MAEVE, proud of her Irish heritage, lives in an upmarket area of Cardiff with her pooch OSCAR and her collection of fine whiskies.

MAEVE has an emerging drink problem. Lonely after the death of her beloved husband RORY, a University Lecturer from Dublin who died from early from leukemia, this buried grief is the reason why Maeve keeps all her emotions down – with the help of a bottle or two! There has been no one since RORY, only fantasies and sometimes overwhelming fantasies about her clients. That and the odd unsuccessful date. Soon to turn forty, MAEVE is a woman at odds with herself ...

MAEVE, calm, controlled at work, runs a tight ship at CONNECT and prides herself on her professionalism, a psycho-analyst with many letters after her name. Maeve loves fine wines, Opera and travel but her strict Catholic convent education has made Maeve ashamed of her sexual urges. She has two sides, the self-disciplined, disapproving side and the wilder side that desperately wants to emerge. Those feckin' nuns back in Dublin really did it for Maeve, bejaysus!

But things are unravelling now that MAEVE is tentatively putting herself out there dating again, out into the city's wine bars and restaurants. 'Out there' again, dating. Maeve's even considering having sex with ROBERT THE SEX ADDICT - a handsome new client, and after ten years of sexual abstinence, Maeve is scared, more than anything, of her massive sexual needs that are already overwhelming her. If they are overwhelming her, Maeve thinks, they will drown any unsuspecting man!

MAEVE'S ARC – her struggle with her out-of-control drink problems, her grief about Rory, her sexual drive and all the reasons that lie deep beneath that keep Maeve in a dark and lonely place.



EUGENE (29) Black/Welsh – COUNSELLOR at CONNECT

One of six children from an impoverished background and the rough end of Cardiff, EUGENE, super smart, driven, humble has always been his mother's favourite, and has always been a high achiever. Eugene runs a successful web business alongside his work as a Counsellor at CONNECT – and inspired by his single mother's ability to juggle jobs and feed her six kids, EUGENE is keen to help people in his community. Modest, self-effacing, Eugene is a man now unravelling and it's scaring the hell out of him!

Engaged to BECKA (25), St Lucian-born, a beautiful photographic model who is vain and self-centered, EUGENE has started to notice how intriguing MICKI, CONNECT'S office manager is and is thrown horribly off centre just before his wedding. The wedding plans that are being made by BECKA and JOYCE (50's), Becka's dominating Afro-Caribbean mother, is starting to make Eugene panic.

A child of a violent marriage – LESTER (50's), his violent father, has been in prison for GBH and is coming out. LESTER is someone whom Eugene, the oldest of the five kids, knows he must tackle before he decides on his wedding. He must be clear about marriage as his own parents marriage went so horribly wrong. He confides in his mother RITA (50's), a warm-hearted Traffic Warden who bakes for her beloved son and offers good counsel.

EUGENE'S ARC - to confront LESTER, to face up to his background. Eugene needs to reassure himself he is different from his philandering, abusive father. When EUGENE suggests to BECKA they do marriage counselling, she explodes. They're not yet married!



MICKI (26) Black British - Admin Manager/Trainee Counsellor - 'CONNECT'

Born in Grangetown, Cardiff, MICKI (26), university educated, a fierce political feminist, travels back each night to live with her Mother, EUSTACE (50's), a dominating Seventh Day Adventist, wheelchair bound with diabetes. Micki's only sister, TRACY (30's) has moved away to Bristol so it's been down to Micky to look after her mother, even though Micki has long wanted to break free and is stifled by her current life.

LEXI (30), a local builder, arrogant, bullish, is the oldest and a half-brother to Micki and Tracey and was the one who rocked Micki's world when he sexually abused her at fourteen. Hardly surprising that Micki headed to University in Edinburgh to get as far away from her family as she could!

Those disturbing early sexual experiences has meant that sex fills Micki with anxiety. Far safer to live at home with her mother and justify that her mother needs her. As her mother is her 'mission', Micki can hide and hiding is what Micki does best.

MICKI'S mother, EUSTACE, a Seventh Day Adventist, hosts a Bible reading group who meet every week, for the men and women from Cardiff's West Indian Community. (RITA, EUGENE'S MUM attends this group.) MICKI is now funding her Counselling Degree as she works at CONNECT but at nights works in a local brothel. Micki can handle this kind of sex – remote, abstract – it's the emotional side of love that she can't deal with.

MICKI'S ARC – to confront the sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of her step brother and to break free from her stifling religious background.



VERA (50's) – Practice Manager, 'CONNECT'

Cardiff born, transfemale, a warm-hearted mother figure to all at CONNECT, VERA keeps all the secrets that fly around the office and supports them all, bringing in cakes and treats to cheer up the counsellors. Widowed, Vera has grown up children and grand children, enjoys Bingo, and a bit of gambling too, a lot of gambling if she is honest and she is seriously in debt.



When big hearted VERA invites a handsome homeless man on the streets into her spare room, little does she realise this is SYDNEY'S long lost 'AUNTY DOT', (LUKE) (40's). Things get extra complicated when 'AUNTY DOT' checks into AA and cleans up and becomes the main man about the house for Vera. Vera, hugely impressed, finds she is falling for this LUKE – who cares if he's gay, Vera doesn't!

Vera suggests LUKE as Office-Manager when MICKI is promoted up to Counsellor. Only when 'AUNTY DOT' turns up at CONNECT does SYDNEY realise who he is. The worst side of her past turned up to haunt her! VERA makes the peace – they are a couple now. 'AUNTY DOT'/LUKE isn't so sure. VERA, always calm, always positive and cheery, ignores all doubters: she has got LUKE'S back and if she can get him into bed all the better! Never say never at CONNECT!



LUKE / 'AUNTY DOT' (40) - Bristol born, warm hearted, desperate to please, needy (never having much parenting himself), SYDNEY'S long lost uncle, a handsome gay builder and the person who brought her up in his mid-twenties, the younger brother of VANESSA (50's), SYDNEY'S mother who dumped teenage Sydney on the generous LUKE when he was just 25 . YOUNG SYDNEY (14) wasn't too happy about it either, but LUKE was busy as a builder and financially stable, so did his best. A strict but caring 'parent' 'AUNTY DOT'/LUKE did what she could to bring SYDNEY up. It wasn't easy!



When SYDNEY left for University, LUKE/AUNTY DOT went bankrupt and disappeared, things taking a downward spiral. LUKE/AUNTY DOT hit the streets of Cardiff, losing all touch with SYDNEY. When VERA stumbles across LUKE/AUNTY DOT sleeping in a shop doorway, she is touched and invites him to use her spare bedroom while he gathers himself together and under VERA'S warm guidance, with the help of AA, cleans up.

ANDY and **MICKI** aren't sure about LUKE/'AUNTY DOT', there is something about LUKE that makes them uneasy and he has long avoided the DBS check that was asked for. SYDNEY is left reeling. Her 'AUNTY DOT', after ten long years, suddenly back in SYDNEY'S life and her work?! When it becomes obvious that LUKE/'AUNTY DOT' is keen on EUGENE – SYDNEY sees red. This man was never the parent she wanted and as a fully-formed adult, SYDNEY wants him even less!

'SYDNEY TALKS SEX' - Storylines

Episode Two – 'Low Level Panic'

Focus: Sydney, Andy and Inga, Maeve

Cases: a) Kate & Eddie – 'Stumpists'

b) Pete & Wendy – the unwashed couple

c) Robert – the Sex Addict – d) Ameila and her three vaginas.

ANGUS, SYDNEY'S her gay flatmate, urges SYDNEY to get it clear where she stands with ANDY. She's becoming a moody nightmare to live with and even TEZ (10), their young neighbor is complaining of her moods swings! IAN, her therapist, questions SYDNEY about becoming the 'other woman.' It will knock her back and they were making great progress. SYDNEY is wriggling on a pin. She doesn't want to be a serial fucker like her own father who split up the family but she's in deep with ANDY ... **very deep.**

In the weekly meeting that MAEVE chairs, all sit around and slurp their coffees. MAEVE is very frosty with SYDNEY and ANDY and MICKI looks curious. Only MAEVE knows so far about SYDNEY and ANDY'S 'liason dangereurse' in the lift. ANDY is unable to look at SYDNEY who also plays it cool and professional. SYDNEY drifts off to fantasy land – her and ANDY lying in a field together. Bliss!



MAEVE is brisk. She lists off the forthcoming CLIENTS: SYDNEY and ANDY can take on a toughie: KATE AND EDDIE (30's), a pair of middle class professionals who work are 'stumpists', only aroused by people with 'stumps' and no limbs. SYDNEY mutters grimly to ANDY: a test! SYDNEY complains that she is getting all the 'freaks' – MICKI laughs: AMELIA the SLOANE with 'three vaginas' is booked in again later. SYDNEY wails.

MICKI, always keen to impress, now fills them in on 'acrotmophilia' – a paraphilia in which an individual expresses a strong sexual interest in amputees.

Acrotomophiles may be attracted to amputees because they like the way they look or may view the amputee's stump as a phallic object. Often arises from past trauma. Sexual abuse and excessive fantasising can also be associated factors, MICKI adds. ANDY and SYDNEY take notes as MAEVE smiles, impressed. MICKI grins: SYDNEY should know about 'excessive fantasising!' SYDNEY gives MICKI the 'one fingered salute!'

MAEVE decides to pass AMELIA the mad Upper Class woman over to MICKI as SYDNEY will have her plate full and MAEVE wants to give MICKI more cases. EUGENE is knocked out by MICKI'S academic knowledge and smiles at her. Wow? She is full of surprises. EUGENE smiles but MICKI looks away quickly.



MAEVE asks SYDNEY and ANDY to hang back and lays it down hard: business is business and if this continues one of them will have to leave! They are here to save marriages, not to wreck them! MICKI, as the door is half open, shakes her head, horrified. VERA, the receptionist calls MICKI over. Phones are ringing and she needs some help!

GWENDA (60's), the pompous, but well meaning Chairperson of 'Connect', visits and, on finding out that MICKI is a trained Tai Chi, teacher decides she will fund morning sessions for the Counsellors. Their work is voluntary so this is the least she and the Board can do. MAEVE now quizzes MICKI – how is her work going in the nursery? Money must be tight? MICKI, strangely uneasy, shrugs it off quickly. She's fine for money thanks.

SYDNEY and ANDY start to counsel KATE, a sophisticated marketing executive and EDDIE, a charming financier. KATE brightly opens up about her young cousin WILLIAM who had both legs removed after a serious illness that started them both thinking about the eroticism of 'stumps.'

EDDIE admits: he knows its very odd and he feels deeply ashamed. It started early in his childhood when he was attracted to a school friend who was in a wheelchair and now he can't stop himself. ANDY smiles kindly to EDDIE: we all can do things we are ashamed of. SYDNEY'S eyes widen with alarm. 'Ashamed of?' Up on the roof SYDNEY is not sure that they should take these people on. ANDY shrugs: they're not here to take a moral stance. Talking is everything as is listening.

ANDY apologises but he will have to leave the next session to SYDNEY as he has to take INGA for a pregnancy scan.

SYDNEY splutters: aren't they supposed to be co-counselling? SYDNEY now stares hard at ANDY. Where are they now? What happened meant something - didn't it? Is he ashamed of what they did – ashamed like EDDIE the Acrotmophiliac? ANDY shakes his head: he's not ashamed! He takes full responsibility. He liked it – and liked it too much! 'Too much?' ANDY now turns away, anguished. SYDNEY shakes her head in disgust and walks off. What's ANDY about? Panic sets in.

In reception, MICKI grabs SYDNEY: put the genie back in the box! She, as the more junior Counsellor, will be asked to leave, not ANDY! SYDNEY, tearful, rushes off as EUGENE comes over and thanks MICKI for helping with his panic attack. He feels more calm now. He will take the wedding on as he can't let people down. MICKI turns away. Doesn't everyone let everyone down? EUGENE is intrigued. What's eating her?



At ANDY'S house in the leafy suburbs, we meet INGA (36), calm, Dutch, beautiful, a Hypnotherapist who works online. She is seven months pregnant with their fourth child but is not feeling well. ANDY reassures her. The scan will reveal everything. ANDY thinks about confessing about his fling with SYDNEY. But not now. ANDY, staring at the worried INGA, suddenly feels ashamed. He can't do it!

EUGENE counsels PETE AND WENDY (30's), a Tree Surgeon and partner both with terrible body odour. WENDY explains she has lost trust in PETE as he bit her clitoris and she can't restore trust. PETE explains it was a stupid one off thing! He's also felt bullied for a long time by WENDY and it's driving him away. EUGENE goes through the reasons for bullying and they work out that WENDY was traumatised by a car crash they had. PETE softens – he'll stop 'clit biting' if she will stop bullying. He just wants to save the marriage.

EUGENE calls for a coffee break and up on the roof, wonders if he can save his own marriage. ANDY comes up and EUGENE admits he's heard about SYDNEY. What next? ANDY shakes his head. Fuck knows? He could do with some counselling! EUGENE nods, him too. They should co-counsel in the pub. He's still experiencing low level panic.

MAEVE has her interview with SUZY (30's), bright and brassy, her Life Coach with the Upmarket Dating Agency. SUZY has just the match for MAEVE. ROBERT, a suave and handsome businessman – looks just like GEORGE CLOONEY! MAEVE splutters.



SYDNEY counsels the Acrotomophiliacs, KATE and EDDIE on her own. It's unsettling and SYDNEY decides to end it. She suggests Psychotherapy, Hypnotherapy or even a Self Help Group. In reception, MAEVE approves, pleased that SYDNEY is learning about professional boundaries. Boundaries are everything in their business! MAEVE rushes off – her first date! Then ROBERT the SEX ADDICT is back in. SYDNEY and MICKI giggle.

MAEVE knocks back a couple of whiskeys as she waits in a restaurant. In comes LAWRENCE, (40's) a smooth and superior Dentist. He shows off to MAEVE about his love of literature. MAEVE, a little drunk, loudly recites some earthy Irish poetry full of fucks. A bit drunk, she breaks into song. Her family were Irish builders from Dublin. LAWRENCE winces: He's got to rush! MAEVE shrugs and waves for another whiskey.

ANDY and INGA are in the hospital as INGA has a scan. The STERNOGRAPHER smiles everything looks ok. She can't see what the trouble is or why there should be any pain? Perhaps a strained stomach muscle? ANDY and INGA hug relieved and on the way out a text comes in from SYDNEY: Let's talk. As ANDY himself said: talking is everything! ANDY, eaten up by what he did, turns his phone off and walks off with INGA.

In their session, PETE and WENDY explain to EUGENE they were in a car crash together and neither of them now have a sense of smell. Getting on better now and they realise that talking is everything!

EUGENE goes for a loo break and rushes over to MICKI: the smell in there is so bad? MICKI is tough: be professional, open a window! EUGENE stares at her: he knows nothing about her and he wants to. Can they grab lunch one day and just talk? Talking is everything. MICKI, shocked, nods very slowly.

MICKI counsels AMELIA, the hissing, deranged Upper Class woman, with her 'three vaginas.' MICKI keeps calm: this woman has to be mentally ill? AMELIA talks in detail about the sexual abuse she suffered as a child, the brother who wouldn't let her alone. She developed a fantasy life with herself as Super-powerful, a Sexual Goddess. Hence the 'three vaginas', in real life a mess up down there after some vaginal surgery.

As AMELIA talks about her sexual abuse, MICKI has tears rolling down her cheeks. AMELIA asks if MICKI is ok? MICKI, horrified by her own lack of professionalism, quickly nods.

MAEVE counsels ROBERT, the GEORGE CLOONEY look alike and Sex Addict. After the session, MAEVE rolls her sleeves up. If he's a 'sex addict', it's a zipless, guilt free fuck? ROBERT grins slowly. MAEVE nods: they've been professionally matched. Come on!



MAEVE is bonking away in her counselling room with ROBERT the SEX ADDICT as MICKI returns to CONNECT. She's left her phone there. MICKI hears noises from MAEVE'S office and curious, knocks on the door. MAEVE opens her office door, ROBERT in the background, his shirt off as MICKI knocks. MICKI gasps, horrified: professional boundaries?!

SYDNEY performs her weekly comedy act. Anyone in the audience understand low level panic? That feeling in your stomach of a storm brewing?

Later, SYDNEY lies on her sofa and eats popcorn with TEZ, her young neighbour as they watch 'CASABLANCA'. SYDNEY turns to TEZ: what do you do if you like someone more than they like you?' TEZ, munching on the popcorn, shrugs. He would say 'get a life and 'see ya!' SYDNEY sighs hard. Her and ANDY? A shag in a lift shaft? Not very romantic. SYDNEY now watches the film thinking of her and ANDY: unlike 'CASABLANCA' they didn't even have Paris, let alone Cardiff!

Episode Three – 'One Man and his Dog'

Focus on: Sydney, Micki, Eugene

- Cases:**
- a) Ben the Boxer with a Stiffie
 - b) Justin – the adopted Lawyer
 - c) Arnold – One Man and his Dog

MICKI is taking the morning Tai Chi session on the roof, immaculate in her neat leotard, hair tied back. ANDY, EUGENE and MAEVE attend – SYDNEY is running late as ever and dashes up to the roof, breathless, as ANDY looks over as she whisks off her jumper.

EUGENE catches MICKI'S eye and we can see MICKI shoot a look at EUGENE's well honed biceps. MAEVE spots it all: what is she? The feckin' Mother Superior figure here? MAEVE giggles to herself, remembering her athletic sex session with ROBERT the Sex Addict. She asks sweetly: can MICKI recommend any pelvic floor exercises, a tightening exercise? All stare over, shocked. MICKI and SYDNEY lock eyes and roll their eyes.

Downstairs, before the weekly meeting with all the Counsellors, MAEVE hisses at MICKI. What happened with ROBERT the SEX ADDICT was an aberration! In her twenty years as a Counsellor, it would never happen again! MICKI holds up her hand. MAEVE'S a woman, that's all. MAEVE reels back. Wow? She'd long forgotten that. She thanks MICKI for her understanding.

ANDY and SYDNEY hang behind on the roof. ANDY looks deeply at SYDNEY: INGA badly needs him right now. SYDNEY kisses him passionately and puts her hand down his track suit bottoms: she needs him too! MICKI shouts up loudly: Meeting about to start, guys!

MICKI is being wooed by PETE (30's) the loud, brash, handsome SEX AIDS salesman. MICKI is finding ordering the SEX AIDS highly embarrassing. SYDNEY teases her loudly as EUGENE looks over. There are penis pumps, wooden Penises and other various aids laid out on display as PETE explains about each one. As SYDNEY explodes with laughter, MICKI suddenly runs out of reception, upset. EUGENE looks concerned – is she ok?

EUGENE goes to find MICKI. She's wiping away tears. What's up? Let's grab that drink after work. MICKI shakes her head – she can't! She's got to wheel her invalid mother to Church and as a Seventh Day Adventist she doesn't drink and anyway, and she's got too many skeletons in her cupboard. He wouldn't want to hear her talk! She rushes off.

As VERA holds the reception desk, MICKI counsels JUSTIN (27) a nice young lawyer who has just started a new relationship but he can't get an erection. JUSTIN was adopted and has never connected with his real parents and it's doing his head in and affecting his sexual confidence.

JUSTIN talks in detail about his penis. It's as if he can't feel anything and his penis is 'wooden' or something. The sex feels unreal – separate from him. MICKI gulps very hard as JUSTIN talks. Unreal sex? She slowly nods. She can relate!

ANDY counsels BEN (30's) a West Indian BOXER. He is diabetic and his girlfriend has been giving him papavi injections so he can get a 'stiffie' but he can't now get it down! Does he need medical or counselling help? BEN grins – has ANDY noticed that his flies are undone? Mortified, ANDY quickly zips himself up. BEN smiles warmly.



We see MICKI at home in Grange Town. She lives with her wheelchair bound Mother EUSTACE (50's) blind, a severe diabetic and a strict SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST. The house is very plain and covered with religious icons. MICKI cooks dinner, deep in thought. JUSTIN THE LAWYER has shaken her up with his talk of abuse. EUSTACE calls out to her. LEXI, MICKI'S half-brother is coming to visit soon. MICKI groans to herself: she will be out!

EUGENE and BECKA meet at the Wedding Venue with the WEDDING PLANNER and BECKA'S overbearing MOTHER JOYCE (60's). EUGENE texts MICKI: when are they having that coffee? MICKI gets the text and smiles slightly: EUGENE is very tenacious! She shakes her head sadly and texts EUSTACE she must go out to her BOOK GROUP tonight. Her mother EUSTACE sighs: every night MICKI is out. She must love reading!

At the Office, PETE the SEX AIDS SALESMAN asks MICKI out for dinner. They could have some fun, he adds, rolling his eyes and looking at the row of wooden penises laid out. EUGENE comes in and hears this and feels rejected as SYDNEY tells him MICKI and PETE are going on a date. MICKI would go for dinner with this idiot but not even have a coffee with him? MICKI smiles weakly at EUGENE as he storms off. He has his pride!

SYDNEY interviews ARNOLD (40's), an Architect who is recently widowed but finding some solace from his dog, PETA. The 'two of them' have been living together since his wife passed away and things are cosy, even though his teenage DAUGHTER thought he should come in for counselling. ARNOLD explains that he doesn't 'love' his dog – he's 'in love' with his Dog. That's the problem – they are lovers!



As SYDNEY does her Comedy Stand up that night, she reflects on the week's events. Anyone into Bestiality? The AUDIENCE laugh warmly. SYDNEY grins at them – she knows all about it but she can't share it with them! 'Woof! Woof!'

Further Episodes:

ANDY and INGA have another scan which reveals that INGA has ovarian Cancer. They will fight this together! When INGA decides to stall the chemo and save the life of the BABY, ANDY has nothing but deepened love for her ...

ANDY opens up to SYDNEY and they have sex once more. SYDNEY challenges him: is this a 'mercy fuck'? ANDY breaks down: there is only one path for him now as INGA has cancer and a BABY on the way! SYDNEY takes it on the chin. She knows she was always the 'office fling'. ANDY is torn apart. His feelings for SYDNEY run deep.

SYDNEY decides to give in her notice and confides in MAEVE it's too hard for her working with ANDY here. She's going to be a professional comedienne. MAEVE is alarmed: SYDNEY is becoming an excellent counsellor and they need her here!

We see EUGENE suggest they all go and see SYDNEY'S show and persuade her otherwise. ANDY watches with tears in his eyes as SYDNEY presents a show about 'extra marital' love. After the show, as SYDNEY is praised by her colleagues and agrees to stay, we see SYDNEY and ANDY collapse into each other's arms and end the night making passionate love in the backstage dressing room.



MAEVE begins to struggle with her alcoholism, made evident when she counsels a struggling alcoholic TONY, an impotent TAXI driver. They compare notes and he invites her along to AA meetings. MAEVE enters AA and she eventually finds love there with the most unlikely partner ...

MICKI stands up to LEXI, the half brother who sexually abused her as a child. A CLIENT she is counselling has got her realising the value of closure. Clearer, MICKI approaches EUGENE but EUGENE has lost faith in MICKI and is now busy with Wedding plans.

EUGENE'S WEDDING to BECKA and all are gathered. MAEVE, VERA, ANDY AND INGA (heavily pregnant), MICKI and a very shakey SYDNEY. BECKA'S overbearing mother and EUGENE'S supportive mother are both there watching anxiously as EUGENE looks strange.

EUGENE'S long lost violent father, LESTER, turns up, recently out of prison. As EUGENE stares at his father, and sees MICKI, the one woman he realises he loves, he walks away from the altar leaving a horrified BECKA. He smiles back sadly at MICKI. MICKI, shocked, is reeling!

SYDNEY discovers she is pregnant. It can only be ANDY'S as the other lovers were all female! MICKI is aghast: she can't keep the baby, she can hardly look after herself?! SYDNEY, reeling, agrees and books in for an abortion. INGA has a late miscarriage and ANDY and INGA are deeply shocked. She can start her chemo now, but they are devastated.

SYDNEY let's ANDY know the news of her pregnancy – she will get rid of the BABY, he needn't worry! ANDY is torn and reeling. She must take time to think!

EUGENE takes a step back from CONNECT and starts to follow MICKI, at night. As he sees her enter a BROTHEL. It now all makes sense why she was always busy nights. MICKI explains she has had to finance herself through university and has a mountain of debts and she needs to live as she trains as a counsellor. She would alienate her mother, a Seventh Day Adventist and their circle of friends if anyone new. A major secret!

EUGENE is horrified, much to MICKI'S disappointment. He had such hopes for him and MICKI. He gave up BECKA for her! MICKI admits she has feelings for him too but if he judges her it would never work. We see EUGENE pull back from MICKI and struggle with his own conventional morality. This has rocked his world!

ANDY turns up at the abortion clinic where SYDNEY is checking in for her abortion and persuades her to keep her BABY. A life is a life! SYDNEY suddenly changes her mind. Not for ANDY, and the fact he no doubt wants a replacement BABY, but for herself. Maybe, just maybe she could become a mother?



ANDY and INGA take time to work through their grief but SYDNEY'S pregnancy has made ANDY clear of one thing: He is with the wrong woman. He has nothing but admiration for INGA and adores their two young children, but the miscarriage and all the grief has finally drained out their marriage which was in trouble anyway. ANDY decides its best have a separation from INGA and turns up on SYDNEY'S doorstep. He will rent a flat in the morning. SYDNEY drags him inside. He is a man in torment and she knows just the counsellor to help him! He needs healling, **sexual healing!**

And the CLIENTS come and go, shedding as much light and clarity on the COUNSELLORS as the COUNSELLORS do on them ...

JULIAN, the son of a LESBIAN VICAR, who can only get sexually aroused when stealing or breaking the law.

RAKI, an Asian builder who is convinced his wife SITA is having affairs as she no longer wants sex with him twice a day.

JOSH and EMMA, chronic communicators who split up five times a day and can't work out why.

MIMI, a Nigerian Doctor's daughter, who is sexually addicted and can't stop taking on multiple lovers - reflecting SYDNEY'S story and background.

MARY, a single Twin, who is grieving for her 'lost Twin' who died at birth, unable now to form a relationship.

PEGGY and ALAN, a couple in their eighties, who want to discover how to be 'swingers' and still stay together.



J.J., a local Celeb/Rapper with a porn addiction that squeezes out all his relationships.

HEATHER, a Nurse with a foot fetish that is getting worse and a fetish she can't control which has driven away her much-loved husband.

We start each EPISODE with the Tai Chi and Weekly meeting and end each episode with SYDNEY'S COMEDY ACT which will highlight the themes of the week's counselling.

SHOOTING STYLE: - Fresh, energetic, unconventional, daring. Sometimes voice-over from the Counsellors will creep in when needed as well. Taking inspiration and hope from 'CALL MY AGENT' and the iconic dramedy series 'TRANSPARENT', 'SYDNEY TALKS SEX' will grab the audience by the throat and never let up as comedy, pathos and emotion take over. Handheld camera work will drag the viewer in and up close in the counselling sessions.

Barbara Jane Mackie – Screenwriter



Barbara has written the musical screenplay **'Rumpy Pumpy!'** from her own stage musical of the same name which was commissioned by Carnaby Films UK. **'Rumpy Pumpy!'** was discovered by The Kings Head Theatre and put in their New Playwrights Showcase.'

Rumpy Pumpy!, which Barbara wrote and composed, was staged at Windsor Theatre Royal and The Union Theatre in 2016 and 2017. The Kings Head described Barbara's show as **"London Road meets Sweet Charity meets Calendar Girls."** (please visit: <https://www.rumpypumpythemusical.co.uk>)

Barbara has written the screenplays **The Last Chance Mommas**, **Mimi** and **Cowboy Girls**, a Western which was promoted by the late Anthony Minghella. Anthony, Barbara's screenwriting mentor, described Barbara's screenplay as **"Bold, highly original and enormous fun and a film which puts the female at the very epi-centre of the traditional male world of the Western and thus revives a flagging genre."**

At BBC Drama, Barbara was Producer and Senior Script Editor, devising the ongoing police series **Dangerfield**, **Dalziel & Pascoe**, the comedy-drama series, **Rumble** and **Inspector Sheikh**. Barbara produced the film **Seed** (BBC) and developed the award-winning two part film **Bad Company (Golden Bear, Chicago Film Festival)** – which resulted in the release of the Birmingham Four. Barbara wrote and devised the dramas **Campaigners** for Kudos, **Pelvic Floors** for World Productions.

Barbara was co-founder and Director of The Bridge Film & TV Productions in Brighton delivering programmes to the BBC, Channel 4 and Channel 5 and is Head of Drama Development at People Media. Barbara is in discussions with Allan Scott, Executive Producer of Netflix's series **'The Queen's Gambit'** about developing **Cowboy Girls**. Barbara's first screenplay **Mimi** was commissioned by Media II.

<http://www.barbarajanemackie.co.uk>

<https://www.rumpypumpythemusical.co.uk>

