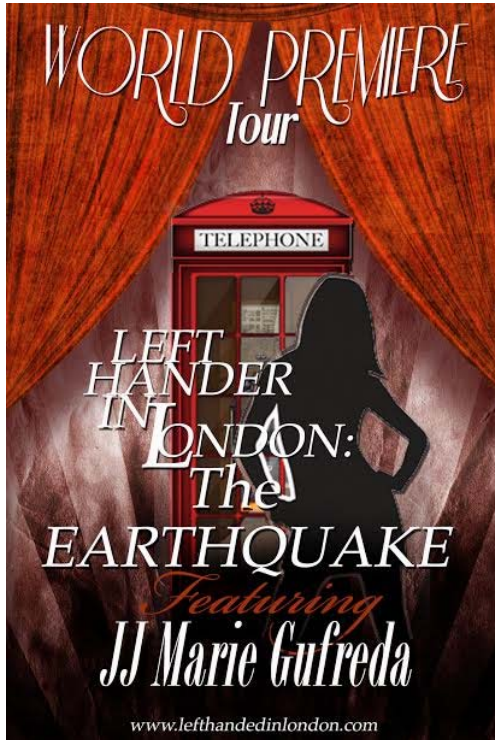


Transgender Playwright and Actor Challenges Church, Educates Businesses on Diversity Practices

JJ Marie Gufreda Premieres One-Woman Show during World Pride Toronto

(TORONTO, May 16, 2014) – Jesus loves the little children – unless they’re gay. Or transgender, as JJ Marie Gufreda experienced when an ordinary Joe became a Jane. She describes her experiences through song, stories and comedy in her new one-woman show, “Left Hander in London – the Earthquake.”



Gufreda will appear during [World Pride 2014 in Toronto](#), sharing her story on the stage at her premiere show with Kimberly Roberts’s “The Get Happy Hour with Judy,” at [Revival Bar](#) on College St. Gufreda’s play is her personal story in its newest medium, a hilariously sarcastic portrayal of what it’s like to be different in a world that’s relearning the value of diversity.

Starting her journey as a Catholic, father and business owner in Indianapolis, Gufreda learned first-hand what it means to be ostracized. Her book, [Left Hander in London: A field guide to transgenders, lesbians, gays and bisexuals in the family, on the job and in the pew](#), provides a roadmap for everyone. And while some of it is shocking – surprise, not everyone reacts well to a man saying “I’m becoming a woman” – it will also reaffirm faith in people’s basic goodness and the importance of everyone being who they really are.

“But this isn’t just a feel-good thing,” said Gufreda. “This is also an important business matter for all organizations.”

Along with her opening show, Gufreda is available for speaking engagements, book signings and diversity consulting for businesses across the nation and internationally. Gufreda owns the first transgender-owned firm certified as a LGBT Business Enterprise by the [National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce](#).

With more than 18 years of experience, Gufreda’s operations and process improvement consulting firm, GEI, is in a unique position to provide diversity consulting to organizations looking to develop a diversity strategy, train employees, build or improve a diverse supplier strategy, or educate employees regarding transgender issues.

Gufreda opens with her first formal performances on June 24 at 6 and 9 pm with an encore performance on June 25 at the same times. Tickets will be \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. More information may be found at www.lefthanderinlondon.com. Information about “The Get Happy Hour with Judy” featuring [Vanity Fair-recognized Judy Garland doppelganger Kimberly Roberts](#) can be found at <http://thegethappyhourwithjudy.blogspot.ca/>.

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JJ Marie Gufreda
SHOW DATES
Live at
REVIVAL
TORONTO, ONTARIO
JUNE 24 6-7PM & 9-10PM
JUNE 25 6-7PM & 9-10PM
On tour with
"The Get Happy Hour with Judy" Featuring Kimberly Roberts
TICKETS ON SALE
\$15 ADVANCED / \$20 AT DOOR
www.revivalbar.com 