



“Men & Women and Tools”

A play by Marcia Braundy on DVD

Fresh from successful showings in Whitehorse at Yukon College and the Carpenter’s Hall, Dr. Marcia Braundy presents the DVD of her play and facilitates the discussion arising.

Men & Women and Tools, a 17-minute play, emerged from a group interview, with four tradesmen and a journeylevel woman carpenter, who met to explore what is underneath male resistance to women in trades and technology. It is set in a weekly poker game, and one of the men has invited Connie to play with them. Aside from such theatrical devices, the words of the play come directly from the group interview, with the occasional addition of quotes from other interviews in Braundy’s research project. The willingness of the participants to speak their truths openly and honestly enables us to see the characters as whole people, each with concerns and challenges, evoking compassion, humour, understanding and pathos. Emergent themes include issues of competency, sexuality, being the breadwinner, the need to be essential, the challenges of change and the meaning of tools in people’s lives.

Skill shortages are causing serious problems across Canada. The need to recruit and successfully integrate women and other designated groups is significant. The constructive discussions following the play, and the DVD of the play, have been rich, thoughtful and productive. The technical men and women have been grateful for the opportunity to be heard and to open up this conversation in a supported context.

Developed as part of construction carpenter Braundy’s PhD dissertation, the play was performed at the Brave New Play Rites festival at the University of British Columbia, videotaped and the four performances were digitally edited into one. The sound quality is not always perfect. This educational tool has been shown at technical schools and union halls in British Columbia, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territory. For excerpts, go to the [Retention](#) page of www.Men-Women-Tools.ca

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