

**BRIAN GIBNEY**

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**BIOGRAPHY**

Over the course of his adult life, Brian has worn many hats: research scientist (BA, Molecular biology; Masters, Microbiology), teacher, professional artist, performer, and parent. The common thread that has run through all of those vocations has been the joy of learning, discovery, and improvement. In parallel with his professional life, he has also been keenly interested in interpersonal interactions, intimacy, and authenticity. These two facets have merged in his practice as a Surrogate Partner. Brian received his training in Surrogate Partner Therapy from IPSA (the International Professional Surrogates Association) in 2016. In addition to being a member of IPSA, he is also a surrogate partner member of IMBT (Institute for Mind Body Therapy), AIHG (Ananda Integrative Health Group), and AASECT (American Association of Sex Educators Counsellors and Therapists). Brian is a founding member of the Surrogate Partner Collective and Chair of AASECT's Somatic Sexuality Professionals Special Interest Group.

In his practice, Brian seeks to help clients create foundational self-knowledge that enables them to effectively navigate healthy and fulfilling intimate relationships. Motivating this is the core belief that sharing intimacy with others is an essential part of the human experience. While it is important for everyone to have the option to feel connected with others, many find it difficult (or impossible) to make this connection. Physical limitations, personal history, poor self-image, and even lack of experience can create seemingly insurmountable obstacles to establishing and maintaining healthy intimate relationships. Surrogate Partner Therapy offers a unique, tailored space in which to safely explore trust, communication, emotional intimacy, sensuality, and sexuality. Each of these pieces are important in their own right and essential in how they interconnect to influence healthy relationships. In helping clients achieve their goals, Brian strives to maintain high professional and ethical standards and promote accessibility of Surrogate Partner Therapy to ensure those in need may receive the most successful treatment.

In addition to his work with clients, Brian has been advocating for his profession by educating therapeutic professionals in addition to the broader public. Drawing from his experience as an educator, he has presented on Surrogate Partner Therapy at a range of professional conferences, workshops, therapeutic practices, and professional groups. In discussing his work, he hopes to encourage dialogue about a variety of topics--intimacy, sensual awareness and embodiment, and communication--that is so desperately needed in our society.

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Brian has worn many hats in his life: scientific researcher, educator, professional artist, and circus performer. His diverse life experiences have exposed him to a wide variety of people and lifestyles and helped him appreciate the common threads that bind us all together. As an IPSA-trained surrogate partner and intimacy coach, Brian seeks to use his knowledge to help people overcome obstacles to physical and emotional intimacy. Applying techniques pioneered by Masters and Johnson, he uses an interdisciplinary approach to help others find balance in their intellectual, emotional, and physical selves. With the help of a therapist, Brian guides clients through the resolution of a variety of issues, including histories of trauma or abuse, social anxiety, poor body image, sensual awareness, orgasmic blocks, genital pain, disability, rediscovery of their bodies during/after transition, and late-life virginity in a safe, non-judgmental environment. His practice is rooted in patience, authenticity, vulnerability, touch...and sometimes a little bit of humor. Brian adheres to a strict code of ethics as outlined by the International Professional Surrogates Association.

Brian received his BA in Molecular Biology from Kenyon College in 1999 and his Masters in Microbiology from the University of Massachusetts in 2006. He received his training in surrogate partner therapy from IPSA (International Professional Surrogates Association) in 2016. In addition to working with clients, Brian is a passionate advocate for surrogate partner therapy and regularly lectures at private practices, universities, workshops, and professional conferences.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Experienced instructor in both academic and hands-on activities
- Effective communicator and coordinator
- Can synthesize a strong understanding of core philosophies
- Able to create a safe, non-judgmental space that promotes the exchange of ideas
- Patient and process-oriented

## PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, AND INTERVIEWS

Institute for Sexuality, Education, & Enlightenment (Producer). (2020). *How Do I Tell You?...Sexual Communication Skills* [Video webinar]. by Brian Gibney. Retrieved from <https://isee.litmos.com/self-signup/register/3720071?type=1>.

Gibney, B. (2020, May 8). *Surrogate Partner Therapy, an Introduction*. Holistic Practitioners Group. Washington, DC. *online*

Gibney, B. "Surrogate Partner Therapy, an Introduction." Human Sexualities. The University of Virginia, 16 Apr. 2020, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. Lecture.

Gibney, B. "Surrogate Partner Therapy, an Introduction." Human Sexualities. The University of Virginia, 21 Nov. 2019, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. Lecture.

Gibney, B. "Surrogate Partner Therapy, an Introduction." Human Sexualities. The University of Virginia, 11 Apr. 2019, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. Lecture.

The Body Whisperers: Understanding Body Work in the Sexuality Realm (Nov. 1-3, 2018). *Understanding Surrogate Partner Therapy*. AASECT Fall institute.

Gibney, B. (2019, Mar. 27). *Surrogate Partner Therapy, an Introduction*. Phiirst. Philadelphia, PA.

Gibney, B. (2018, Nov. 13). *Surrogate Partner Therapy, an Introduction*. Manhattan Area Sex Therapists Private Group. New York, New York.

Gibney, B., Jett, J., Newman, R., & Yoshikami, E. (2018, June 14). *Surrogate Partner Therapy: Challenging the Taboo of Therapeutic Sexual Touch*. American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado.

Institute for Sexuality, Education, & Enlightenment (Producer). (2018). *Surrogate Partner Therapy, an Introduction* [Video webinar]. by Brian Gibney. Retrieved from <http://isee.peachnewmedia.com/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=125580>

Gibney, B. (2018, March 22). Overview of Surrogate Partner Therapy. Featured in: Expanding Your Sexual Comfort Zone. Hosted by Tammy Nelson. Psychotherapy Networker. Washington, DC.

Leigh, N. (2018, March). Surrogate Partner Therapy with Brian Gibney. *Ready for Love Radio*. Episode 198. <http://www.readyforloveradio.com/sexualauthenticity/>.

Gibney, B (2018, February 10). Surrogate Partner Therapy with IPSA. Integrative Sex Therapy Institute. Washington, DC.

Schmit, T. (2018, January 24). What's Surrogate Partner Therapy? A conversation with Brian Gibney. *Sex with Timaree*. Retrieved from: <https://sexwithtimaree.com/2018/01/24/whats-surrogate-partner-therapy-a-conversation-with-brian-gibney/>.

Stuart, C. (2017, May 1). Sexual healing: Investigating surrogate partner therapy. *CBS 19, Charlottesville Newsplex*. Retrieved from: <http://www.newsplex.com/content/news/Teaching-intimacy-through-surrogate-partner-therapy-420945073.html>.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**American Association of Sexuality Educators Counsellors and Therapists (AASECT) 2018-present**

*Supporting Member*

*Somatic Sexuality Professionals Special interest Group, Chair* 2020-present

- Duties of chair include facilitating education of and outreach to the larger therapeutic community, coordinating members from independent somatic sexuality associations, and guiding policy changes within AASECT regarding collaboration with somatic sexuality professionals.

**Surrogate Partner Collective (SPC) 2020-present**

*Co-Founder*

- SPC was created in order to cultivate the next generation of surrogate partners and therapists, and educate the broader community. Duties include, but are not limited to: outreach and education within surrogate partner, somatic sexuality professional, and larger therapeutic communities; cultivating peer support networks; codifying surrogate partner and collaborating therapist training and continuing education.

**International Professional Surrogates' Association (IPSA) 2017-present**

*Membership coordinator*

- Duties of Membership Coordinator include communication with members and prospective surrogate partners, reviewing applications of prospective intern and fully certified members, and organizing conferences.

*East Coast Representative*

- IPSA representative and instructor, responsible for networking and education of industry colleagues through regional lectures and workshops.

**Institute for Mind Body Therapy (IMBT) 2017-present**

*Surrogate Partner, Member*

- Duties include creation of treatment plans, coordination and communication with supervising therapists, and work with clients.

**Ananda Integrative Health Group (AIHG) 2019-present**

*Surrogate Partner, Member*

- Duties include creation of treatment plans, coordination and communication with supervising therapists, and work with clients.

**Association of Surrogate Partners for Inspired Relationships (ASPIRE)**

**2019-present**

*Education Coordinator*

- Duties of Membership Coordinator include communication with members and prospective surrogate partners, reviewing applications of prospective intern and fully certified members, and organizing conferences.

*Founding Member*

**American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT)**

**2017-present**

*Professionals Who Touch (PWT) Special Interest Group (2020-present)*

- The PWT Special Interest Group is comprised of AASECT supporting members who utilize touch in their professional practice. The goals of this SIG are to facilitate networking opportunities between touch and talk professionals, educate talk professionals as to the appropriate application of touch work, and advocate for touch work on a broader societal scale.

*Supporting Member*

## EMPLOYMENT

### **International Professional Surrogates' Association (IPSA)**

**2017-present**

#### *Surrogate partner, intern*

- As an intern member of IPSA, surrogate partners work with clients under the triadic model (surrogate-client-therapist) under the supervision of an experienced mentor.

#### *Membership coordinator, intern*

- Duties of Membership Coordinator include communication with members and prospective surrogate partners, reviewing applications of prospective intern and fully certified members, and organizing conferences.

### **Moonlight-Circus**

**2014-present**

#### *Owner*

- Responsibilities include promotion, communication with clients, communication with artistic and technical specialists, creation and maintenance of training facilities, and coordination of troupe members and subcontractors. Emphasis is placed on maintaining high professional standards and creating safe, reliable, entertainment for clients.

#### *Rigger*

- Responsibilities include communication with venue structural engineers/tech specialists, purchase and maintenance of gear, and installation of gear within industry safety parameters.
- Continuing education:
  - Circus and State Rigging, with Delbert Hall: January 27-29, 2016 at The University of Virginia, Department of Drama, Charlottesville, VA.
  - Rigging for aerial acrobatics, with Jonathan Deull: March 12-13, 2016 at The University of Virginia, Department of Drama, Charlottesville, VA.

#### *Performer*

- Specializing in ground and aerial partner acrobatics (partner balance, duo silks, duo static trapeze).

#### *Instructor*

- Aerial and rigging consultant, trainer to cast of "Shipwrecked," 2017. The University of Virginia, Department of Drama, Charlottesville, VA.
- Partner balance instructor, 2013-2017. Virginia Acrobatics Club, Charlottesville, VA.
- Partner balance instructor, 2014 and 2015. Floyd Yoga Jam, Floyd, VA.
- Partner balance instructor, 2014 and 2015. The Phoenix Dance Studio, Charlottesville, VA.

**Lyrical Playthings, Charlottesville VA****2014-2016***Owner*

- Responsibilities include promotion, marketing, communication with and coordination of subcontractors and technical specialists, patent submissions, technical drawing, and coordination and processing of data received from testers.
- Oversaw creation of on-demand, customizable sex toy, MOD.

*Principle Designer*

- Creation of on-demand, customizable sex toy, MOD, directed by a philosophy that promotes sensual play and self-exploration as well as anatomical knowledge.
- Research and use of bio-compatible materials
- Editing of design based on tester feedback
- CAD design of product components.

**Brian Gibney Jewelry, Charlottesville VA****2009-2015***Owner*

- Responsibilities include promotion, communication with clients, and coordination of festival schedule and art gallery submissions. Emphasis is placed on continually expanding artistic boundaries while promoting the brand name.

*Principle artist*

- As principle artist, the goals were to continually push creative and technical boundaries. Popular lines included hand forged, Damascus steel jewelry and found object, organic jewelry cast from natural elements.

**Amalgam Arts Atlanta, Decatur, GA****2007-2009***Founder*

- Responsibilities include promotion, marketing, communication with and coordination of teachers and exhibitors, design of course curriculum, and maintenance of space and equipment.

*Instructor*

- One-day workshops: Make-a-Ring, One Day Earring Creation, Make-a-Pendant. One day workshops were designed to promote a high-volume learning scenario for individuals new to jewelry crafting that enabled students to experience basic design and techniques in a minimal amount of time.
- Found object casting: course objectives include selection, preparation, and casting of found organic objects as well as design and post-casting fabrication to create a final piece of wearable art.
- Principles of jewelry fabrication: course objectives include jewelry design, tool usage and safety, metal manipulation, torch-work, and finishing to create a final piece of wearable art in sterling silver.



**Academe of the Oaks, Decatur GA**

**2008-2009**

*Instructor*

- Principles of jewelry fabrication: course objectives include jewelry design, tool usage and safety, metal manipulation, torch-work, and finishing to create a final piece of wearable art in sterling silver.

**Callonwold School for the Arts, Atlanta GA**

**2006-2007**

*Department chair*

- Responsibilities include promotion, marketing, communication with and coordination of teachers, communication with administration, design of course curriculum, and maintenance of space and equipment.

*Instructor*

- Principles of jewelry fabrication: course objectives include jewelry design, tool usage and safety, metal manipulation, torch-work, and finishing to create a final piece of wearable art in sterling silver.

**Hartsbook School, Hadley MA**

**2005-2006**

*Instructor, Advanced Chemistry*

- Responsibilities include course creation, generation of daily lesson plans, creation and administration of exams and graded assignments.

*Instructor, Advanced Biology*

- Responsibilities include course creation, generation of daily lesson plans, creation and administration of exams and graded assignments.

*Instructor, Jewelry*

- Principles of jewelry fabrication: course objectives include jewelry design, tool usage and safety, metal manipulation, torch-work, and finishing to create a final piece of wearable art in sterling silver.

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA**

**1999-2005**

*Professor, adjunct*

*2004-2005*

- Responsibilities include generation of course syllabus, lesson planning (including lectures and demonstrations) and scheduling, coordination of teaching assistants and lab technicians, creation and administration of exams and graded assignments, and editing course laboratory manual.
- Co-authored: Principles in Microbiology Laboratory Manual (10<sup>th</sup> ed.), University of Massachusetts.

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA *continued***

**1999-2005**

*Teaching assistant, head*

*2001-2004*

- Responsibilities include lesson planning (including lectures and demonstrations), coordination of teaching assistants and lab technicians, co-creation and administration of exams and graded assignments.

*Teaching assistant*

*1999-2000*

- Responsibilities include technique demonstration and grading of assignments, exams, and lab notebooks.

## EDUCATION

### **International Professional Surrogates' Association (IPSA)**

*IPSA Surrogate Partner* *intern status* *2017*

- Accepted into IPSA, with intern member status.

*Training* *2016*

- Completed IPSA Surrogate Partner Therapy with instructor Vena Blanchard. Instruction included, but was not limited to, sensate focus, surrogate-therapist dynamics, sexual education, treatment of sexual dysfunction, and ethics.

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA** **Masters, Microbiology** **1999-2007**

#### *Course work*

- Course work included Microbial Genetics, Virology, Microbial Physiology, Microbial Ecology, and Environmental Microbiology.

#### *Research*

- Research focused on the microbial and geochemical factors influencing mobility and bioavailability of arsenic in subsurface environments.

**Kenyon College, Gambier OH** **BA, Molecular Biology** **1995-1999**

#### *Course work*

- Course work included Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Molecular Biology.

#### *Research*

- Oxidative Stress Induced Heat Shock Proteins in *D. melanogaster* KC167 Tissue Culture Cells
- Isolation and Characterization of *R. sphaeroides* Molecular Chaperone Gene *groESL*

#### *Awards and Honors*

- Summer Research Fellow *1998, 1999*