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PRESS RELEASE

Discover Your Arse with GMFA

Sex education that's not taught in schools

London, 18 August 2008 – GMFA are expanding access to their famous Arse Class so that gay men across the UK can learn more about their butts. The free one-day course teaches you everything you need to know about the arse, whether you're a top, bottom or flip both ways. You can find out how the arse works, how to make sex more comfortable, what to do with giant dildos and why the arse is so vulnerable to HIV. There's information on which sexually transmitted infections you can get in your arse, how the guys doing the fucking can get HIV and which lubes are best for putting a variety of things up your bum.

"No one ever talks to gay guys about their arses and sex, we're just expected to pick things up as we go along. A lot of guys approach us with questions about bum sex, how to maximise their pleasure and reduce their

risks. Unfortunately, there's a lot of superstition and misinformation and men get worried that they're not having sex properly or safely," said Matthew Hodson, Head of Programmes for GMFA. "The arse class gives men the chance to explore the arse and find out the things that they've always wanted to know".

Market research with gay men on the acceptability of a range of groupwork interventions found that 25.8% of the total number of respondents would be interested in attending a course to find out more about anal sex. The Arse Class has been running since 2002, evaluating very highly and attracting a large group of guys.

The course is run by both GMFA and trainers from local gay charities and healthcare services including: The Sheffield Centre for HIV & Sexual Health, Southampton Gay Community Health Service, Yorkshire MESMAC, THT, MESMAC North East, The Eddystone Trust, The Armistead Project and LGF.

All of GMFA's courses and workshops are free of charge to participants but places are limited and must be booked in advance. To book a place, go to www.gmfa.org.uk/national or call 020 7738 6872.

The *Arse Class* is a one day course which takes place on Saturday from 10am to 5pm. The dates for the course are:

Saturday 11th Oct: Brighton
Leeds
Liverpool

Saturday 18th Oct: London
Manchester
Swansea

Saturday 25th Oct: Birmingham
Bristol
Middlesbrough

Saturday 01st Nov: Plymouth
Sheffield
Southampton

- Ends -

If more information about this or any other of GMFA's campaigns and actions is required, contact: Matthew Hodson

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Notes to editor:

About GMFA:

GMFA was established in 1992 and is the UK's leading charity dedicated to gay men's health. GMFA's mission is to improve gay men's health by increasing the control they have over their own lives. We believe that the best health promotion for gay men comes from gay men themselves, and so we use the knowledge and ideas of our 170 volunteers (most of them gay men) to design and plan our thought provoking sexual health interventions. We have received international acclaim for our Sex and Sexual Health website (www.gmfa.org.uk/sex) which was visited by a third of London's gay men in 2006. Our other websites include a detailed listing of sexual health services available for gay men in London (www.gmfa.org.uk/londonservices), an information resource for HIV positive gay men (www.gmfa.org.uk/positive) and a guide to gay sports and social groups in London (www.gmfa.org.uk/theguide). All of our sites can be accessed at www.gmfa.org.uk. GMFA produce a range of advertising campaigns, leaflets, postcards and booklets. Independent surveys have concluded that our campaigns reach up to 60% of the London gay population and we are the most reliable agency at reaching gay men. In addition to this we distribute our own health magazine, FS, free to London's gay bars and clubs to further educate gay men about relationships, their bodies, general health and STIs. Over the last fourteen years we have provided courses for over 10,000 gay men, providing safer sex education, life skills and stop smoking courses. We currently provide a range of groupwork interventions across England and Wales. GMFA has Big Lottery funding to create sexual health interventions for Black gay men in London.