

THEATRE

Artists bring gaiety to registry

STEPHEN HUNT
CALGARY HERALD

Some days are more interesting than others at the City Centre Registry.

Wednesday was one of them. At noon, San Francisco performance artist and sex educator Annie Sprinkle and her partner Elizabeth Stephens showed up there to obtain a marriage certificate prior to their Sunday night wedding at the Big Secret Theatre, which is also being presented as a unique theatrical performance as part of the High Performance Rodeo theatre festival.

Sprinkle, who in all likelihood is the only former porn star (her film *Deep Inside* was the No. 2 grossing porno of 1982) with a PhD, showed up wearing a veil. A buoyant, smiling Stephens accompanied her.

The women methodically

HIGH performance RODEO



Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald
Annie Sprinkle, left, and Elizabeth Stephens with their new marriage licence.

answered those legal questions on the registration form while cracking jokes with staff.

For an outspoken lesbian

couple, this beats getting married in their home town of San Francisco, where all gay marriages were annulled in 2005, causing hundreds of spouses to lose health insurance, an event that set today in motion.

It's the third wedding for the duo, part of a seven wedding cycle and performance art series they call the Love Art Laboratory.

"This is the first legal wedding, though," Sprinkle says.

To celebrate, they are getting married publicly, and everyone in Calgary is invited (the wedding Sunday night at the Big Secret Theatre is sold out; however, everyone is welcome at a reception.)

Stephens shrugs off a question about feeling more free in Canada.

"I feel more legal," Stephens says. "I don't know about feeling freer. But then again, getting married isn't really about feeling free, is it?"