



AIDS Since The 80s (working title)

A two part project consisting of a feature film and an archive

The film

This is a film project to reveal how those caught up in the crisis of the HIV pandemic of the 80s and beyond lived, survived and died.

What's different about this project?

This will be a film told only by those who were there: what they saw, experienced and lived through. Many of the interviewees are speaking for the first time. As one person told us: 'no one has ever seemed interested before'. We are proud to be putting on record such brilliant testimony. This is grass roots history.

No narrator, instead history as told by those who experienced and survived terrible times. A film to fill the cinema screen with the unadorned testimony of those who were there – sharing their often-painful memories, revealing the truth of how it was. Warts and all.

The film will be a distillation of 100 in-depth interviews, conducted with men and women, long-term survivors, carers and clinicians, friends, lovers, brothers, sisters and parents. Already we have more than 70 hours of interview recorded. The full set of interviews will run for more than 170 hours.

These are stories about everyone who played a part during the pandemic.

This is a film about all those touched by AIDS.

An archive

The 100 interviews – 150 to 200 hours in total - will be an unparalleled archive, likely to become one of the most important filmed histories of AIDS in the UK.

The goal is to secure this archive for future generations, as history, as testimony, as proof.

Not forgotten

On top of the tragedy and disaster of the lives lost to HIV before there was any hope of prevention there is risk of a further tragic loss. Not only will much of a generation of gay men have been wiped out, but their experiences too. Theirs was a world in which liberation and radical protest had secured undreamt of reforms, and the surprise and delight of that new world is worth preserving.

Many of those who survived the pandemic are reaching an age where they may now die of natural causes, so unless we make a record of the history of AIDS in the UK now, these stories will be lost forever.



Living into old age with HIV

People with HIV are living into older age and while combination therapy keeps them alive, the realities of survival can come at great cost, both in physical and in financial terms.

As one survivor put it 'we prepared ourselves to die but the hardest part has been learning how to live.'

The film asks searching questions about the challenges faced by long terms survivors, and asks what should to done to address the complex needs of someone growing older with HIV.

Preserving history

The film investigates a key moment in history when activism inspired and energised new ways to save and dignify life, and even brought about a radical rethink of the palliative care model that has changed and benefitted society for the better. New institutions and new models of care were devised by many whose work deserves now to be praised and remembered.

We hear stories of diagnosed men working with the community to create the now iconic respite centres by raising awareness and money, of the daily and beneficial challenge to the conventional doctor patient relationship, of the creative coordination of different medical specialisms to deliver new, truly holistic approaches.

These are stories of small and large acts of great humanity and kindnesses, moments of mirth, yet necessarily also at times of terrible failure, heart break and loss, and of the pain caused by rejection and neglect.

These are 100 personal journeys through terrible times.

100 reasons to support our project.

Please support us

AIDS Since The 80s (working title) began as a personal project undertaken by two film-makers who just could not wait to get started, after all, no-one is getting any younger and memories will inevitably fade. What they need now is support; in order to create a film suitable for mainstream cinema distribution they need help with the expenses of a professional film production. The budget is low (£240,000) and yet the goal is to finish the film and secure the archive without debt.

All income from the finished film will go to charity, yet to be selected, but it will be one that delivers care to older HIV positive men and women.

Please pledge as much as you can to help us complete this important project.

Details can be found at the end of this brochure.



Thanks

With thanks to everyone who has supported the project so far including the Terence Higgins Trust and Bloomsbury Clinic for providing us with production space, 4Pride at Channel 4 for generously supporting and hosting our launch event (that's Jonni Learoyd, Nina Smith and Angus Wyatt). We also thank Baxter Story at Channel 4 for their kind help with catering this event.

Thanks also to Zack Hemsey for use of his track *The Way* for the demo, to Dimitri Yiannakis for putting together our web site, and to Gael Laporte and Sebastien Michau for designing our logo. We also thank Brett Lotriest Best for help with editing the demo. Finally, we would like to thank Dr Mike Youle, who has agreed to serve as medical advisor to the project.

And above all we thank the interviewees for telling us their stories – those who have already done so, and those whose testimony we are yet to capture.

About the film-makers

Paul Coleman and Adam Roberts are life-long friends who have worked in the film and TV industry for more than thirty years. They have worked as directors, executive producers, heads of department and film editors. Adam has worked for the BBC and Channel 4 and made award winning independent films, but is now making moving image artworks for gallery exhibition. Paul has been BAFTA nominated for his work in Children's TV, and picked up an RTS Award and nominations for his work in News and Current Affairs programming and worked for most mainstream broadcasters. They both have personal reasons for wanting to make this film.

James Tarling and Ed Middleton are supporting the film as researchers. Neither James nor Ed come from a film background but are passionate about this project and are involved as volunteers. James and Ed also currently volunteer at the Terrence Higgins Trust and Positive East.

About Two Point Zero Ltd

The project is set up as a production of Two Point Zero Ltd (registered in the UK) and will be released as a Fairy Stories Films Production.

Two point Zero, 23 Cameo House, 11 Bear Street, London WC2H 7AS

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**How you can help us complete the project**

This film project has begun without funding. We are looking for support of all kinds, including of course by championing the film and carrying the word about it out to the world.

Or in very practical ways, for example we will need considerable help with clearing the archive of interviews for publication. We have budgeted for this but any lawyers who might like to contribute to this significant task will be very welcome.

And of course by pledging a donation.

Finishing a film to standard that allows it to be shown in cinemas and find a wide and diverse audience, all over the world means aiming high in terms of post-production. We have made start but now we need significant help. Your help will be decisive.

Please indicate what you might be able to do for the film.

NAME:

BEST CONTACT DETAILS:

I CAN HELP WITH:

Pledge donation:

Legal help with archive:

Something else (please indicate):