

OUTSPOKEN NYC



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HIV/AIDS Update: Health Officials Offering New Strategy, here! Debuts Poignant Documentary

by JON on DECEMBER 5, 2011 · LEAVE A COMMENT

Every December, World AIDS Day is a day to raise awareness to the disease, honoring those who have fought and died from it, and uniting communities who are struggling with it's aftermath. Other than seven television programs featuring specials on the epidemic and much generated buzz on Twitter, is it just me or did World AIDS Day seem to sit a bit more in the shadows this year? You'd expect a bit more coverage for a disease that's currently spreading onto a newer, sexually ignorant, generation; HPV and STD's are on the rise in 2011, raising higher risks of cancer. One documentary, which is available [On Demand](#) and on the [here! Network](#), personalizes the disease with the faces of victims, activists and medical experts.

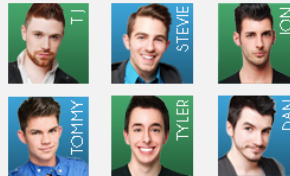
"30 Years From Here" puts out how the "nondiscriminatory" disease has affected the lives of millions, along with still remaining prevalent today. The doc features voices from everyone from playwright **Terrence McNally**; activist and ACT UP found **Larry Kramer**; **Marjorie Hill**, CEO of Gay Men's Health Crisis; physician **Frank Spinelli**; director and choreographer **Jerry Mitchell**; and radio talk show host **Larry Flick**.

30 Years from Here Preview



With a global estimation of 33.3 million having HIV, it's been reported earlier this year how unsafe sex has been on the rise. Fewer gay men are practicing safe sex and although medical science keeps getting closer to pushing back the timeline of those infected, it's safe to say it's a bit wiser to wrap up your tool and play it cool.

Recent [news](#) broke how New York health officials are recommending that anyone living with HIV be offered AIDS medication immediately after the virus is diagnosed, thus prolonging life and stemming the spread of the disease; that's around \$15,000 a year in the United States — until the immune system weakens. Manhattan has a rough estimation of 110,000 people living with HIV, more than in any other U.S. city and about 75 percent of all cases in the state. An aggressive treatment that promotes the future of the epidemic and officials all over are agreeing that it could be a step in the right direction. Having a a close friend who was diagnosed immediately after college, I've seen



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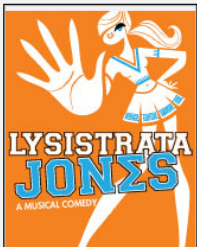


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the aftermath and the toll the disease takes on somebody. Seeing the cocktail he has to take on the daily, at the age of 24, to keep his health at bay, it really puts things into perspective for your own decision making and paranoia. Although he's in good spirits and good health, it's still a looming dark cloud over how he ideally wanted to spend his future. Everything happens for a reason, but it's also your own responsibility to prevent any harm coming your way in the best way that you can.

Pretty hard stuff to be dealing with at a young age, especially disconcerting that it wakes you up from a foggy haze of sexual stupidity. I repeat: *wrap up your tool and play it cool.*

Need locations in the city on where to get tested?



Here are two trailers from my *favorite films* that tackle the subject matter in a tasteful and aggressive way, without holding back the hard facts:

[Philadelphia](#) (starring Tom Hanks & Denzel Washington):



[Angels in America](#) (starring Meryl Streep, Patrick Wilson, Mary Louise Parker & Emma Thompson)



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- [November 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)

April 2011
March 2011
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