

1. INTERIOR-SAME AS ABOVE

Ana Maria pulls out a brochure and as she talks, the brochure becomes animated computer graphics which illustrate her explanation.

ANA MARIA

Yes...I was reading that we all have a system of defenses in our bodies which is like an army that protects us from diseases. That cursed bug, once it gets in the body, sets out to destroy the body's defenses and leaves the body defenseless. Then these diseases which the doctors call oportunistic can attack us. I Think they take unfair advantage of the defenseless body. One can be infected and not even know it because not everyone who is infected gets sick. Sometimes the virus plays possum and doesn't do anything for years. A person can go around, looking and feeling healthy and spread the virus. Other poor folks get ravaged by those rare diseases I told you about and they die...

PEDRO

It's frightening. Listen, since you already took the test, what's it like?

CARLOS

It's easy. First you talk with a counselor. Then they draw some blood from you and they give it a number. They give a card with the number on it. They never ask for your name or social security number or anything. Then they send the blood to a lab where they do two types of tests to be sure. After two weeks, they give you the results; and here I am...

ANA MARIA

I pray to God that none of us come out positive.

FREEZE

1A INTERIOR-INFORMAL CONFERENCE ROOM-DAY

From the preceeding frozen image, we pull out of a TV monitor to reveal a panel of three Latino AIDS experts who discuss the previous scene.

YOLANDA RONQUILLO
Director- Latino AIDS Project

The fear expressed by Ana Maria is a common and appropriate feeling when one is about to take the AIDS Antibody Test. This is why we suggest that persons who are considering the test do a kind of self-evaluation: How am I going to feel if I come out positive? If in thinking about this we realize that our reaction may be an exaggerated one -of loosing control, or total despair- then it may be best not to take the test at this time. Other people, after thinking about it carefully and despite of the fear say: "I need to know so that I can continue my life with more information and better focused."

SANDRA HERNANDEZ MD.
AIDS specialist

Another way of avoiding fear is by understanding this disease. Let us see how the virus affects the body:

She turns toward the TV monitor and with a remote control she switches on a videotape. Here we will insert the computer graphics which are being produced by Peter Adair. These graphics will include a description of AIDS, how the virus affects the immune system, how it is transmitted and prevention.

SANDRA HERNANDEZ MD.

In any case, if the person is infected, even if they feel healthy and without symptoms, they can transmit the infection. This does not mean that the person has to make radical changes in their lifestyle. What it does mean is that the person will have to use condoms during intimate sexual relations with a man or a woman and that they cannot share needles.

MIGUEL RAMIREZ
Counselor/Therapist San Francisco AIDS Foundation

The fear of becoming infected provokes many reactions. Among them is that of blaming others in our society for our evils. In this case we specifically blame particular groups of transmitting the AIDS virus: prostitutes, homosexuals, drug-addicts. The truth is that one must consider what one does and not who one is. If a person has doubts about their sexual behavior or that of their partners, he or she should seriously consider taking the test or at least to practice what we now know as "safe sex"

1 A INTERIOR-SAME AS ABOVE (continued)

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

Another important point is that here, at this testing site, the test is done anonymously. This is to say that you are not asked any personal information and you are the only one to know your results. This is done for safety because it is very important who you share the results with.

MIGUEL RAMIREZ

Yes...Other things that a person should take into consideration is that -for instance- they may be discriminated against in their jobs if their employer learns of their positive status. Also you may loose your medical insurance. Lately, with the new immigration law, you are required to take the test and come out negative in order to apply for amnesty. I would also say that if a person or couple is thinking about having children, they should consider taking the Antibody test. The same goes for people who are applying for military service or other jobs where this test may be a requirement. And of course as economic prevention so that a person may buy a better medical or life insurance policy.

After a pause, they all turn back to the TV monitor where we see the next scene begin.

Reasons not to test

Even if you're infected, ~~you may be able to decrease the chance of~~ it doesn't necessarily mean you will get AIDS. If you begin now to Play it SAFE, you might beat AIDS; Stay Healthy; ~~and die at~~ ~~the ripe old age of 100.~~ Live to be 100.

FADE IN

2. INTERIOR--A CAFE SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY--DAYTIME P.M.

2.

JOAQUIN, a man who occasionally engages in male-to-male sexual relations, is talking with GUSTAVO, a gay man with whom he has been involved. They are discussing the fact that GUSTAVO came out positive in the test.

GUSTAVO

The good thing about it is that I don't have AIDS. I know I can get it, but for now I feel fine. Joaquin, it's not easy for me to talk with you about this. You are married...

JOAQUIN

I don't know how I'm going to tell Alma if I come out positive. The worst part is that I may have already infected her!

GUSTAVO

There's a chance that you're not infected. The only way you can find out is if you take the test. It's a decision you're going to have to make on your own, though you do have your wife to think about. You don't know how sorry I am about all this.

JOAQUIN

It's not your fault, Gustavo. These things happen. I feel I'm in a dead end alley. I don't know what to do.

(PAUSE)

I've been so wrapped up in my problems I haven't even asked you how all of this has affected you.

GUSTAVO

(Looks at Joaquin and smiles)

At first I got very depressed. I was sure I was going to die. Then I got righteously angry. I didn't want to see or talk to anyone. I thought about suicide. I thought about my family, the shame. Some friend I knew preferred to die alone than tell their folks.

JOAQUIN

What made you decide to take the test? Did you have symptoms?

(CONTINUED)

2. INTERIOR--SAME AS AS ABOVE

2.

GUSTAVO

No, none at all. But so many people have died, including
an ex-lover of mine and I wanted to know. Now that I know
I realize that I have to take care of myself. *My fate is in my hands.*

JOAQUIN

Take care of yourself? Don't you think it's a little late.

GUSTAVO

On the contrary. I feel better than ever. I'm taking care
of myself, I don't drink and I'm paying attention to Nancy.

JOAQUIN

Nancy who?

GUSTAVO

La Reagan. I'm saying no to drugs, like she says. I try
to eat a balanced diet, I'm exercising...

JOAQUIN

Listen Gustavo, is there a chance that I could test negative?

GUSTAVO

Yes, sure. But you'd have to take the test again to be sure
because it may take up to three months to produce the antibodies.

JOAQUIN

There go my hopes.

GUSTAVO

There's still hope. There are people who've been exposed
and didn't get infected. Joaquin, I want you to know that
you can count on my friendship. I'm really glad I have yours.

They look at each other for a few seconds and then hold hands.

FREEZE

*Progression
Not Automatic*

2A INTERIOR -INFORMAL CONFERENCE ROOM- DAY

From the preceeding frozen image, we pull out of a TV monitor to reveal the panel.

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

OR will get AIDS
The AIDS Antibody Test does not indicate whether a person has AIDS or not. Dr. Hernandez, could you tell us what 'the results mean?

SANDRA HERNANDEZ MD.

Sure Yolanda. First, what does a negative result tell us? There are two possibilities:
The first possibility is that the person does not have the infection. The second possibility is that the person has the infection but their body has not had enough time to produce the antibodies.

What does a positive result mean?

We know three things:

First, the person was exposed to the virus.

Second, the person was infected with the virus.

Reinfection
Concurrent Infections
~~And third~~ the person is contagious and can transmit the virus.

Some people who test positive prefer not to continue to have sexual relations in order to avoid all danger of reinfection or infecting others.

What the test does not tell us is whether the person has AIDS or ARC or whether they will develop it in the future. A person can increase their chances of remaining healthy by eating well balanced meals, resting sufficiently, avoiding stress, and the abuse of alcohol and drugs and specially avoiding behaviors that may lead to reinfection.

MIGUEL RAMIREZ

In a few words then, if a person comes out positive, he or she could go through several stages:

In the first, the person is healthy but may infect others.

In the second stage, a number of people develop some of the simptoms associated with the virus and are diagnosed with ARC, AIDS Related Condition. And third, a high percentage of people develop specific diseases and they are diagnosed with AIDS or SIDA.

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

(Talking directly to the audience)

The AIDS Antibody Test does not tell us whether the person has AIDS or not. The only thing it tells us is whether

Could stay on Progress

2A INTERIOR-SAME AS ABOVE (Continued)

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

the person has been infected with the AIDS virus. This
is a time to be very careful of implementing the pre-
ventive measures that we have talked about and also of
realizing that this virus cannot be transmitted casually.
If you have serious doubts about the test, talk with
your counselor, here at the ^{test site} or look for a
therapist or counseling doctor who can guide you.
We hope that this information is helpful.
Thank you

FADE

Whore

BLACK VIDEO Script
FADE IN
EXT PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC

12/15/87
EARLY AM

DOORS BURST OPEN AND WILLIAM SMITH BOUNDS DOWN THE STEPS, DANCES A QUICK JIG AND KISSES A PIECE OF PAPER IN HIS HAND.

CUT TO
CU WILLIAM'S FACE AS HE BEAMS AT PAPER IN HIS HAND.

CUT TO
CU PAPER. IT IS SOME SORT OF TICKET STUB WITH NUMBERS ON IT.

CUT TO
MS WILLIAM PUTS STUB IN HIS POCKET, PATS IT AND JOGS TO HIS PARKED CAR.

CUT TO (WIPE)
EXT APARTMENT BUILDING

TWO MEN EXIT THE FRONT DOOR AND WALK UP THE STREET. ONE IS FASHIONABLY DRESSED AND THE OTHER HAS ON FADED BLUE JEANS, AN OLD JACKET AND SCUFFED, RUN DOWN BOOTS. THEY ARE JOHNNY ADAMS AND RAY JONES, A COUSIN AND FRIEND OF WILLIAM, AND DRUG USERS. THEY WALK TO A CORNER BUS STOP. RAY NERVOUS, HIGHLY AGITATED "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU USED UP MY STASH, JOHNNY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU MAN. YOU KNOW THAT WASN'T RIGHT!"

JOHNNY

"SHUT UP MAN! OKAY?! YOU'VE RUN IT INTO THE GROUND ALREADY. I TOLD YOU I CAN COP SOME MORE. I JUST GOT TO BORROW SOME CASH THAT'S ALL."

RAY

"FROM WHO? YOU OWE EVERYBODY EVERYBODY MAN. I'M GOING TO BE SICK. I CAN FEEL IT!"

JOHNNY

"FROM MY COUSIN WILLY. ME AND HIM IS TIGHT. HE ALWAYS COMES THRU FOR ME."

RAY

"AW MAN! THE PREACHER?! EVER SINCE HE CLEANED UP ALL I HEAR FROM HIM IS... 'ONLY DOPES USE DOPE' FORGET HIM MAN. LET'S JUST BOOST SOMETHING."

JOHNNY

"ALL YOU GONNA DO IS BOOST YOUR WAY INTO JAIL... HERE COMES THE BUS. (PULLS MONEY OUT OF HIS POCKET)"

CUT TO
INT APT

TASTEFULLY DECORATED. PLAIN BUT COMFORTABLE. SHIRLEY WINSTON IS COOKING IN THE KITCHEN. WILLIAM BURST THROUGH THE DOOR CARRYING A HUGE FLORAL BOUQUET.

SHIRLEY

"MY GOD WILLIAM! YOU SCARED ME!"

CUT TO

WILLIAM GRABS HER; PICKS HER UP; SPINS AROUND KISSING HER AND LAUGHING.

SHIRLEY

"I GUESS YOU GOT GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR TEST WILLIAM."

WILLIAM

"NOW WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT? CAN'T I JUST BE A ROMANTIC KIND OF GUY?"

THE DOORBELL RINGS AND WILLIAM AND SHIRLEY PAUSE, LOOKING AT EACH OTHER PERPLEXED. THE BELL RINGS AGAIN AND WILLIAM GOES TO ANSWER THE DOOR.

WILLIAM

"WHO IS IT?"

JOHNNY (THROUGH THE DOOR)

"IT'S ME. JOHNNY."

SHIRLEY TURNS TO THE KITCHEN IN DISGUST AS WILLIAM OPENS THE DOOR AND JOHNNY ENTERS FOLLOWED BY RAY.

CUT TO
CU

WILLIAM

"WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING UP SO EARLY?! IT'S NOT NOON YET." (LAUGHS)

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"HEY BE COOL, CUZ. WE CAME OVER TO BE SOCIALABLE."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"PLEASE!"

WALKS OVER TO JOHNNY AND TAKES FLOWERS FROM HIM AND WALKS BACK INTO KITCHEN.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"HEY WHAT'S THE OCCASION!? IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY SHIRLEY?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"NO MAN. I JUST GIVE MY BABY FLOWERS WHENEVER THE SPIRIT MOVES ME. AND TODAY IT MOVED ME."

RAY BEGINS TO FIDGET. PULLS A CIGARETTE FROM HIS PACK, PUTS IT IN HIS MOUTH, REACHES FOR HIS LIGHTER...STOPS AS HE FEELS SHIRLEY EYEING HIM. PUTS CIG SHEEPISHLY AWAY. SHIRLEY TURNS TO WILLIAM.

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"WELL?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"WELL WHAT?"

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"THE TEST!"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"OH YEAH! WELL HERE'S MY TICKET TO RIDE. I'M NEGATIVE."

HE TAKES STUB FROM HIS POCKET AND HANDS IT TO SHIRLEY. SHE LOOKS AT IT THEN THROWS HER ARMS AROUND WILLIAM AND HUGS HIM CLOSE.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"HEY CUZ, WHAT YOU NEGATIVE FROM? YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"NO. I JUST GOT THE RESULTS OF MY AIDS ANTIBODY TEST. I TESTED NEGATIVE. WE'RE CELEBRATING. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?"

HE RELEASES SHIRLEY WHO GOES BACK INTO KITCHEN AND BRINGS FLOWERS BACK OUT TO TABLE IN A VASE.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"YOU GOT AIDS? HOW? YOU AIN'T GAY!"

SHIRLEY

"NO! HE WAS NOT GAY. BESIDES, BEING HOMOSEXUAL DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE AIDS."

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"WELL THAT'S HOW YOU GET IT."

CUT TO WILLIAM

NO, YOU DON'T GET IT FROM BEING GAY, YOU GET IT FROM A VIRUS.
IT'S JUST THAT SOME UNPROTECTED SEXUAL PRACTICES CAN PUT YOU IN
A VERY HIGH RISK SITUATION. ESPECIALLY ANAL SEX.

CUT TO RAY

WHAT DO YOU MEAN HIGH RISK? I WOULDN'T RISK NOTHING FOR AIDS.

CUT TO SHIRLEY

YOU ALREADY DO. YOU USE JUNK AND YOU HAVE LOTS OF SEXUAL PARTNERS...
MALE AND FEMALE!

CUT TO RAY

HEY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I DO SHIRLEY, SO DON'T GO JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS!

CUT TO JOHNNY

CHILL OUT RAY. YOU'RE A DOPE FIEND AND YOU KNOW IT.

CUT TO RAY

IF I AM, YOU AM.

CUT TO JOHNNY

SO HIP ME TO THIS AIDS THING, SHIRLEY. I THOUGHT THAT IF I WASN'T
GAY I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

CUT TO SHIRLEY

WELL YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO BE WORRIED ABOUT, BECAUSE YOU HAVE A DRUG
HABIT THAT YOU FEED NY USING NEEDLES.

CUT TO JOHNNY

SO WHAT!

CUT TO SHIRLEY

DON'T GET DEFENSIVE! I'M JUST GIVING YOU INFORMATION. IT COULD
SAVE YOUR LIFE! NEXT TO GAYS, AIDS HITS DRUG USERS HARDEST. ONE OUT
OF FOUR PEOPLE WITH AIDS IS A USER.

CUT TO WILLIAM

LOOK JOHNNY, YOU SHARE YOUR OUTFIT DON'T YOU!? THAT PUTS YOU AT
WHAT THEY CALL VERY HIGH RISK FOR AIDS. TELL HIM SHIRLEY

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

WELL FIRST OFF WE KNOW THAT AIDS IS CAUSED BY A VIRUS THAT IS TRANSMITTED BY AN INFECTED PERSON. IT CAN BE THROUGH SEX NO MATTER IF YOU'RE GAY OR STRAIGHT; THROUGH PREGNANCY IF THE MOTHER IS INFECTED; THROUGH UNSCREENED BLOOD TRANSFUSION; AND THROUGH A DIRTY NEEDLE.

CUT TO

RAY

I CLEAN MY WORKS WITH WORKS WITH WATER EVERY TIME. I THOUGHT THAT WORKED?

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

NO, BECAUSE

YOU SEE, INVISIBLE PARTICLES OF INFECTED BLOOD REMAIN IN THE NEEDLE, OR SYRINGE OR THE BULB OR THE PLUNGER AND CAN BE INJECTED INTO THE NEXT USER OF THOSE WORKS.

CUT TO

RAY

HOW COME YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT AIDS ANYWAY SHIRLEY? YOU SOUND JUST LIKE THE DOCTOR.

CUT TO

WILLIAM

PART

IT'S HER JOB MAN. SINCE SOME OF US DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH REALITY THE REST OF US HAVE TO.

CUT TO

RAY (TO JOHNNY)

I TOLD YOU HE WAS GONNA PREACH.

CUT TO

JOHNNY (TO SHIRLEY)

"GO ON SHIRLEY. HIP ME TO AIDS."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"WELL, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I WAS GOING TO SHOW MY CLASSES A VIDEOTAPE ABOUT THE AIDS VIRUS. SO...I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU. YOU GUYS CAN BE MY EXPERIMENTAL CLASS."

SHIRLEY LOADS A VIDEOCASSETTE INTO THE PLAYER. THE CAMERA ZOOMS INTO THE SCREEN FACE AS EVERYONE TAKES A SEAT IN FRONT OF THE TV.

AIDS ANIMATION SEQUENCE WITH EXPLANATION OF AIDS VIRUS AND THE HUMAN IMMUNE SYSTEM

CUT TO

CU SHIRLEY'S HAND. SHE EJECTS CASSETTE, TURNS OFF VCR. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL THE GROUP.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"MAN, AIDS IS SOME SERIOUS STUFF."

CUT TO

RAY

YOU AIN'T LYIN' BRO. I DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW IF I HAVE IT OR NOT!

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

IT'S A HEAVY DECISION; SOME PEOPLE SHOULDN'T TAKE IT, SOME SHOULD. NOBODY CAN DECIDE THAT BUT YOU. SOME PEOPLE DECIDE TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT WITHOU KNOWING. THEY DON'T WANT TO KNOW!

CUT TO

JOHNNY

WELL I DO. GOD. WHAT IF I HAVE IT?

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

HEY! IT'S NOT NECESSARILY A DEATH SENTENCE. NOT EVERYBODY WHO GETS INFECTED GETS AIDS. AIDS IS ACTUALLY THE LAST STAGE OF INFECTION.

CUT TO

WILLIAM

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

WELL...THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY, BUT I REALLY RECOMMEND DOING IT THE WAY WILLIAM AND I DID.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

WHAT'D YOU DO WILLY?

CUT TO

WILLIAM

I WENT TO AN AIDS ANONYMOUS TEST SITE AND HAD AN AIDS ANTIBODY TEST. THE FIRST THING THEY DO IS TRY TO PUT YOU AT EASE. I GUESS IT WORKED FOR ME 'CAUSE I WAS SO NERVOUS AND TENSE I ALMOST DIDN'T GO IN. THE COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURES AND MADE CLEAR WHAT THE TEST WOULD AND WOULD NOT TELL ME. THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE I FOUND OUT THAT THE TEST DOES NOT TELL YOU IF YOU HAVE AIDS, ONLY WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE BEEN INFECTED BY THE AIDS VIRUS. AND AGAIN, NOT EVERYONE INFECTED ACTUALLY GETS AIDS.

I LEARNED THAT MY BLOOD SAMPLE WOULD BE TESTED FOR AIDS ANTIBODIES. IF THE SAMPLE TURNS COLORS, THE RESULT IS SAID TO BE POSITIVE. NO COLOR CHANGE MEANS THE RESULT IS NEGATIVE. IF THE SAMPLE BARELY CHANGES COLOR THEN IT MEANS THE RESULT IS UNCERTAIN AND NO DETERMINATION IS POSSIBLE. A NEW SAMPLE AND NEW TEST MUST BE TAKEN.

WILLIAM (CONT)

THE TEST IS ANONYMOUS AND ONLY YOU CAN GET YOUR RESULTS. NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER KNOW. ALL YOU GET FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TEST SITE IS A NUMBER... THAT'S ALL! YOU MUST RETURN WITH THAT NUMBER TO GET YOUR RESULTS.

THE COUNSELOR STRESSED THE FACT THAT THE DECISION TO TAKE THE TEST SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY. YOU MUST DECIDE YOURSELF AND NOT LET ANYONE PRESSURE YOU INTO TAKING IT. THE ALTERNATIVE TEST SITE METHOD IS ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL AND FREE. YOU ALSO RECEIVE COUNSELING BEFORE YOU TAKE THE TEST AND AFTER YOU RETURN FOR YOUR RESULTS. THE TEST ITSELF IS REAL QUICK AND SIMPLE. THEY JUST DRAW ABOUT AN OUNCE OF BLOOD. THE KILLER WAS WAITING FOR THE TWO WEEKS TO PASS.

CUT TO SHIRLEY (AS WM BLOWS HER A KISS)

YEAH, YOU BE SWEET TO ME NOW, CAUSE YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO MAKE UP FOR THESE PAST TWO WEEKS, TOO!

CUT TO RAY

IT TAKES TWO WEEKS BEFORE YOU KNOW?! MAN I'D HAVE TO KNOW RIGHT THEN!

CUT TO JOHNNY

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.

CUT TO RAY

WELL, I BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT. MAYBE I SHOULD KNOW... I SURE KNOW I AIN'T SHARING NO MORE NEEDLES... WITH NOBODY.

CUT TO SHIRLEY

IT'S NOT JUST NEEDLE SHARING RAY. IT'S SAFE SEXUAL PRACTICES TOO. IF YOU'RE NOT IN A ONE ON ONE RELATIONSHIP...

CUT TO JOHNNY (LAUGHING)

ALL MY RELATIONSHIPS ARE ONE ON ONE.

CUT TO SHIRLEY

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN JOHNNY! IF YOU'VE BEEN ABSTINANT OR HAVE BEEN IN A ONE ON ONE RELATIONSHIP FOR MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS... OR IF BOTH OF YOU HAVE BEEN TESTED THEN YOU ARE NOT CONSIDERED "HIGH RISK."

CUT TO RAY

ARE YOU SAYING THAT I SHOULD USE A RUBBER?

CUT TO WILLIAM

ESPECIALLY YOU RAY. BOTH YOUR DRUG AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR COULD PUT YOU IN DOUBLE JEOPARDY.

CUT TO RAY (INDIGNANT)

I ONLY HAVE SEX WITH PEOPLE I KNOW AND THEY ARE ALL HEALTHY...AND CLEAN!

CUT TO SHIRLEY

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THEY'VE HAD SEX WITH. AND BESIDES, MOST PEOPLE WHO ARE INFECTED DON'T HAVE SYMPTOMS, SO THEY LOOK HEALTHY.

CUT TO JOHNNY

I GUESS IT AIN'T WHAT YOU DO...IT'S WHO YOU DO!

CUT TO WILLIAM

NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE. IT'S JUST THE OPPOSITE. IT AIN'T WHO YOU DO, IT'S DEFINITELY WHAT YOU DO. UNSAFE SEX PRACTICES COVER A LOT OF TERRITORY, BUT MY MOTTO IS "IF YOU CAN'T DO IT WITH A CONDOM, DON'T DO IT.

CUT TO RAY
MAN, THAT'S PRETTY RADICAL.

CUT TO WILLIAM

DAMN MAN, AIDS IS RADICAL! YOU SHOULD SEE THE CONDITION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS WHEN THEY DIE. WHY...WHEN I WAS DOING DRUGS..

JOHNNY

"C'MON, CUZ!...DON'T START PREACHIN'! WE KNOW YOU CLEAN....SO LOOK...
(LOWERS HIS VOICE AND MOVES CLOSER TO WILLIAM).

SHIRLEY BEGINS TO SET TWO PLACES AT THE TABLE AS WILLIAM AND JOHNNY SPEAK IN LOW VOICES. RAY FIDGETS.

CUT TO RAY

"SO, MAN, SHIRLEY. THANKS FOR PULLING MY COAT ABOUT THIS AIDS THING."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

SINCE um & I have taken the test it's a lot of relief.

"WELL, THERE'S A LOT OF LITERATURE AND INFORMATION OUT THERE, RAY... IF YOU WANT TO KNOW."

CUT TO

RAY

"YEAH, I DO.....I GUESS I REALLY DO."

CUT TO

JOHNNY (IRRITATED)

"C'MON, RAY. LET'S GO. THANKS ANYWAY, WILLIAM. LATER, MAN. (TO SHIRLEY) I'LL SEE YOU LATER BABY. I'D LIKE TO STAY, BUT WE'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"IT'S GOOD SEEING YOU, JOHNNY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A STRANGER."

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"YOU KNOW ME. I'M OUT THERE. ANYWAY, THANKS FOR THE AIDS INFO...VERY INFORMATIVE. (EXITS OUT DOOR)."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY (PLAYFULLY)

"WELL, HOW MUCH DID YOU LEND HIM THIS TIME?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"NONE. I COULDN'T. I WENT BROKE BUYING THIS THING."

CUT TO CU WILLIAM'S HAND IN HIS POCKET. COMES OUT WITH A JEWELRY CASE WHICH HE OPENS TO REVEAL A RING.

FREEZE FRAME AS FIRST CREDIT ROLL BEGINS. VISUALS FOR CREDIT ROLL ARE STILL SHOTS FROM FILM.

AUDIO: CONTINUATION OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN WILLIAM AND SHIRLEY.

SHIRLEY (SQUEALS)

"OH MY GOD! WILLIAM! OH! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH".

ADINFINITUM FILMS

Latino Script.

Film and Video

ABRAXAS PROJECT

AIDS ANTIBODY TESTING
AT
ALTERNATIVE TEST SITES

SPANISH LANGUAGE VIDEO

Story by
Jose Gutierrez and Jose Vergelin
Dialogues by
Rodrigo Reyes

FINAL DRAFT

October 2, 1987

AMENDED VERSION

October 30, 1987

ABRAXAS PROJECT

SPANISH LANGUAGE VIDEO
Scene 1, page 1
SPANISH TRANSLATION

FADE IN

1. EXTERIOR--ALTERNATIVE TEST SITE WAITING ROOM--DAYTIME P.M. 1
MASTER SHOT OF ROOM WITH FOCUS ON CARLOS, CAMERA CUTS TO EXTERIOR WHEN VOICES ARE HEARD.
Outside, an argument can be heard between ANA MARIA and PEDRO, who are walking into the room.

PEDRO

No, lo que pasa es que esto es pura discriminacion.

ANA MARIA

Pedro, comprende por favor. Yo estoy cansada de vivir con el miedo de que en cualquier momento nos vayan a deportar.

PEDRO

Si, pero por que nomas a los que estamos solicitando la amnistia nos obligan a tomar este examen? Y si salis positiva, vos? Entonces si que te deportan, y rapido.

ANA MARIA

Yo! Yo! Si alguien puede salir positivo serias tu! Ademas, este examen es anonimo, nomas nosotros vamos a saber los resultados. Si alguno de los dos saliera positivo, ni lo mande diess, pues lo sabriamos antes de hacer la solicitud.

PEDRO

Ni tu ni yo vamos a salir positivos. Nosotros somos gente normal. No como otros.

ANA MARIA

Yo he leído que el SIDA le puede dar a cualquiera, que es lo que haces no lo que eres lo que te pone a riesgo. Te he perdonado muchas cosas Pedro, pero no me podría perdonar a mi misma si yo le llegara a pasar la enfermedad a mis hijos, tambien por eso quiero saber.

They both remain silent for a few seconds, as if lost in their thgoughts. PEDRO snaps out of it and strikes up a conversation with CARLOS.

PEDRO

Ud. tambien vino a hacerse el examen por el requisito de la amnistia?

(CONTINUED)

1. INTERIOR--SAME AS ABOVE

1

CARLOS

No, yo soy residente. Vine por los resultados.

PEDRO

Ah, Ud. ya se hizo el examen?

CARLOS

Si.

PEDRO looks at CARLOS as if he was trying to asses his reasons for taking the test. The implication here is that PEDRO thinks that CARLOS is gay, which CARLOS picks up.

CARLOS

Yo anduve clavado en la droga por un tiempo, aunque ya no le hago. Hace poco se murio un camarada de SIDA y yo y el nos puyabamos juntos.

PEDRO

Puchica, dicen que eso es peligrosísimo, el inyectarse con la misma jeringa.

CARLOS

Simon. Ojala que no salga positivo. Hace poco conoci a una muchacha que quiero mucho y no quiero ponerla en peligro.

CARLOS pulls out a picture from his wallet which he shows to PEDRO and ANA MARIA.

ANA MARIA

Que bonita es.

CARLOS

Que fea es esa enfermedad verdad?

PEDRO

Si...(se dirige a Ana Maria) Tu estuviste leyendo algo acerca del sistema de defensas?

(CONTINUED)

1. INTERIOR - SAME AS ABOVE

Mientras Ana Maria habla, les muestra un folleto del cual emergen graficas animadas que ilustran lo que ella esta explicando.

ANA MARIA

Si. Fijense que yo estuve leyendo que todos tenemos en el cuerpo un sistema de defensas que es como un ejercito que nos protege contra las enfermedades. Cuando entra en el cuerpo el maldito virus ese del SIDA, destruye ese ejercito y deja al cuerpo indefenso y entonces es cuando atacan unas enfermedades raras que los medicos llaman oportunistas. Yo las llamo aprovechadas porque se aprovechan de que el pobre cuerpo esta indefenso. Estas enfermedades horribles causan pulmonias y canceres y la muerte. Y fijese Ud., uno puede estar infectado sin darse cuenta. No todo el que esta infectado se enferma. A veces el virus se queda como mosca muerta por años y la persona como si nada, y sin saber anda repartiendo el virus. A otros pobres los acaban las enfermedades esas que les conte y se mueren.

PEDRO

Ay da miedo todo esto. (pausa) Oiga Ud. que ya se hizo el examen, como es?

CARLOS

Es facil... Primero hablas con un consejero. Luego te sacan un poco de sangre y le ponen un numero. Nunca le preguntan a uno su nombre o el numero social ni nada. La sangre la mandan a un laboratorio para que le hagan el analisis con dos tipos de exámenes para estar seguros. Como a las dos semanas le entregan a uno los resultados.

ANA MARIA

Ay Diosito Santo. Ojala que ninguno de nosotros salga positivo

La imagen se congela.

1A INTERIOR-INFORMAL CONFERENCE ROOM-DAY

From the preceeding frozen image, we pull out of a tv monitor to reveal a panel of three Latino AIDS experts who discuss the previous scene.

YOLANDA RONQUILLO
Directora-Latino AIDS Project

El temor que ha expresado Ana Maria es un sentimiento bastante comun y apropiado al enfrentarse a tomar esta prueba de anticuerpos del SIDA. Por eso le sugerimos a la gente que esta considerando tomar la prueba que se hagan una especie de auto-evacuacion, no? ... Como voy a sentirme yo si salgo positivo o positiva en esta prueba? Por eso, viendo eso, si la reaccion va a ser demasiado exagerada -de perder control, de sentirse muy deprimido- es mejor no tomar la prueba en este momento. Hay otra gente que pensandolo bien, aun con el miedo dice no, yo necesito saber para seguir mi vida con mas informacion y mas enfocada. No?

DRA. SANDRA HERNANDEZ
Doctora especializada en SIDA

Otra manera de evitar el miedo es entender a la enfermedad. Veamos como nos afecta el virus.

She turns toward the TV monitor and with a control remote she starts a videotape. Here we will insert the computer graphics which are being produced by Peter Adair. These graphics will include a description of AIDS, how the virus affects the immune system and how it is transmitted.

DRA. SANDRA HERNANDEZ

En todo caso, aunque una persona se sienta saludable y sin ningun sintoma, si tiene la infeccion, la puede transmitir. Eso no quiere decir que la persona tiene que hacer cambios radicales en su estilo de vida, solo quiere decir que la persona tiene que usar condones con cualquier relacion sexual intima, sea con mujer o con hombre, y que no debe compartir agujas.

MIGUEL RAMIREZ
Terapista-Consejero

El miedo a contagiarnos nos provoca muchas reacciones. Entre ellas, comunmente la de culpar a otra gente de la sociedad; de que ellos son los transmisores del SIDA; a las prostitutas, a los homosexuales, a los drogadictos... La verdad es que hoy en dia uno debe considerar lo que uno hace y no lo que uno es. Si una persona tiene dudas acerca de su conducta sexual o la de sus compañeros o compañeras, debe considerar seriamente tomarse la prueba del SIDA o al menos practicar lo que ahora llamamos "sexo seguro".

1A INTERIOR-SAME AS ABOVE (continued)

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

Otro punto bastante importante es que aqui en este sitio donde la gente viene a tomarse la prueba del anticuerpo, se hace anonimamente; es decir que ningun dato personal se les pide y ellos son los unicos que van a saber los resultados de la prueba. Eso es para darle mayor seguridad porque es importante con quien va a compartir esta informacion. No?

MIGUEL RAMIREZ

Si... otras razones que la persona puede tomar en consideracion es la de que por ejemplo pueden ser discriminados en el trabajo al decir que sus resultados son positivos. Los otros son que se le puede cancelar la aseguranza medica. Ultimamente, bajo la nueva ley de inmigracion, se requiere que la persona salga negativa en los resultados. Tambien diria yo que si una persona o una pareja estan pensando en tener hijos, deben considerar la prueba de anticuerpos. Lo mismo es para aquellas personas que esten aplicando para el servicio militar o para otros trabajos donde esta prueba sea un requisito. Y desde luego como prevencion economica y asi poder adquirir una mejor aseguranza medica o de vida.

After a pause, they all turn back to the TV monitor where we see the next scene begin.

FADE IN

2. INTERIOR--A CAFE SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY--LATE P.M.

2.

JOAQUIN, a man who occasionally engages in male-to-male sexual relations, is talking with GUSTAVO, a gay man with whom he has been involved. They are discussing the fact that GUSTAVO was seropositive in the test.

GUSTAVO

Lo bueno es que no tengo SIDA. Se que me puede dar, pero por ahora estoy sano. Joaquin, no es facil hablar contigo de esto, tu eres casado...

JOAQUIN

No se como le voy a decir a Alma si salgo positivo. Lo peor del caso es que ya la puedo haber infectado a ella.

GUSTAVO

Hay una posibilidad de que no estes infectado. Solo haciendote el examen podras saber. Y aunque esa es una decision que tienes que hacer por ti mismo, tienes que considerar a tu esposa. No sabes como siento todo esto.

JOAQUIN

Tu no tienes la culpa, Gustavo. Estas cosas pasan. Me siento en un callejon sin salida. No se que hacer. (Pause) He estado tan envuelto en lo mio que ni te he preguntado como te ha afectado todo esto a ti.

GUSTAVO

(Looks at Joaquin and smiles.)

Al principio senti una gran depresion. Estaba seguro de que me iba a morir. Despues me dio una rabia tremenda. No queria hablar con nadie ni ver a nadie. Pense suicidarme. Pense en mi familia, en la pena. Unos amigos mios prefirieron morir solos que contarle a sus familias. Todavia de vez en cuando me entran ataques de ansiedad.

JOAQUIN

Porque decidiste hacerte el examen? Tenias sintomas?

GUSTAVO

No, ninguno. Pero se ha muerto tanta gente, entre ellos un ex-amante mio, y quise saber. Ahora que ya se, se que me tengo que cuidar para no enfermarme.

(CONTINUED)

2. INTERIOR SAME AS ABOVE

JOAQUIN

Cuidarte? No crees que es demasiado tarde?

GUSTAVO

Al contrario. Me siento mejor que nunca. Ya casi no tomo alcohol y hasta le estoy haciendo caso a la Nancy.

JOAQUIN

Nancy? Cual Nancy?

GUSTAVO

La Reagan. Le digo no a las drogas, como dice ella. Trato de comer una dieta balanceada y estoy haciendo ejercicio.

JOAQUIN

Oye Gustavo...entonces hay alguna posibilidad de que salga negativo?

GUSTAVO

Si claro, aunque tendrías que volverte a hacer el examen para estar seguro, porque el virus puede demorar hasta 3 meses para producir los anticuerpos.

JOAQUIN

Adios esperanzas...

GUSTAVO

Siempre hay esperanzas. Hay gente que ha sido expuesta y no se ha infectado. Joaquin...quiero que sepas que puedes contar conmigo, y ahora mas que nunca necesito de tu amistad.

Despues de una pausa se toman de las manos. La imagen se congela.

2A INTERIOR-INFORMAL CONFERENCE ROOM-DAY

From the preceeding image, we pull out of a TV monitor to reveal the panel.

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

La prueba del anticuerpo del SIDA no indica si la persona tiene SIDA o no. Doctora Hernandez, nos podria hablar de que significan los resultados de la prueba?

DRA. SANDRA HERNANDEZ

Como no Yolanda. Primero que nos dice un resultado negativo? Hay 2 posibilidades:

La primera es que la persona no tiene la infeccion. La segunda posibilidad es que la persona tiene la infeccion pero que su cuerpo no ha tenido suficiente tiempo para producir los anticuerpos despues de infectarse. La mayoria de las personas tardan entre 2 semanas y tres meses para producir los anticuerpos despues de infectarse.

Entonces que nos dice un resultado positivo: Sabemos tres cosas.:

Primero, la persona fue expuesta al virus.

Segundo, que se infecto con el virus y tercero que la persona es contagiosa y puede transmitir el virus.

Algunas personas que salen positivas en la prueba del anticuerpo prefieren no tener relaciones sexuales con ninguna persona para evitar todo peligro de reinfeccion o de transmitir el virus a alguien mas.

Lo que no indica un resultado positivo es si la persona tiene SIDA o ARC o que necesariamente va adesarrollar SIDA . La persona puede aumentar la posibilidad de mantener un buen estado de salud, combinando en su vida la buena nutricion, el descanso apropiado y evitando mucha tension, el abuso de alcohol o de drogas y mas que nada evitando los comportamientos que llevan riesgo de reinfeccion.

MIGUEL RAMIREZ

En pocas palabras, si una persona sale positiva, esta puede pasar por varias etapas.

La primera, en que la persona esta saludable pero puede contagiar a otros. La segunda en que un numero de personas desarrollan algunos de los sintomas relacionados al virus y se les diagnostica con ARC o CRS, Condicion Relacionada al SIDA. Y tercero, un alto porcentaje desarrollan enfermedades especificas y se les da un diagnostico de AIDS o SIDA

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

(Se dirige al publico)

Esta prueba de anticuerpos del SIDA no nos dice si la persona tiene SIDA o no. La unica cosa que nos puede decir es si la

2A INTERIOR-SAME AS ABOVE

YOLANDA RONQUILLO

(Continued)

persona ha sido infectada con el virus. Por eso es el momento de tener mucho cuidado, de implementar las medidas preventivas de que hemos hablado y tambien de darnos cuenta que este virus no se transmite casualmente.

Si UD. tiene dudas serias acerca de esta prueba o los resultados, hable con su consejero, aqui en el sitio o busque un terapeuta o medico consejero que lo pueda apoyar.

Esperamos que esta informacion le sea util.

Muchas gracias.

FADE

DATE: April 1, 1987

TO: Michael Bala, Department of Public Health
AIDS OFFICE

FROM: SALA UDIN, MPRC

SUBJECT: VIDEO PRODUCTION

MPRC will produce a video of approximately 15-20 minutes duration, aimed at AIDS education for the general Black community. The formats used will include interview, graphs, visual effects and narrative. Appropriate music will open, close and weave itself throughout the product.

The topics to be covered will include:

- Historic reactions to epidemics
- Historic condition of Black oppression, resulting in drug abuse, then AIDS.
- Statistics indicating the numbers and comparisons of Blacks with AIDS infection.
- Basic primer on AIDS virus impact on immune system.
- Black concerns re: antibody testing pro & con.
- How to prevent AIDS
- Spreading the word - the role of leadership, churches etc.
- Where to turn for help or more information.

Nationally known celebrities will be sought out to be included, such as Congressman Dellums, Patti Labelle, Danny Glover, Stevie Wonder, etc.

Although production will be contracted to Robert Boudreaux Films, Inc., MPRC will be intimately involved in the direction and writing this video.

The production schedule divides into five phases:

- I Concept Development
- II Script Writing Story Board Production
- III Filming
- IV Rough Edit
- V Five edit & sweetening.

With determination and luck the abovementioned phases can be completed by June 30, 1987, provided there are no unusual delays.

MPRC has built in a process for Black community review of each phase. The DPH will be included in these reviews so as to save time yet address all points of view.

The MPRC contract coordinator is Sala Udin 861-2142

VIDEO BUDGET

Producer/Director	\$ 3, 150.00
Production manager	1, 300.00
Script	800.00

PRODUCTION EXPENSE (4 Days)

Camera person	800.00
VTR Tech/Tape Op	900.00
Audio Recordist	1,100.00
Gaffer	1,000.00
Tapestock - video	500.00
Tapestock - audio	50.00
Camera pkg - rental	2,100.00
Audio equipment - rental	200.00
Lighting/Grip Pkg	600.00

POSTPRODUCTION EXPENSE

Window dubs w/stock	200.00
Offline editing	800.00
On line edit CMX	3,200.00
Chyron character generator	100.00
Music, effects	600.00
Titles/Art	800.00
Travel/Lodging (Personality)	1,400.00
Audio studio - rental w/editing	400.00
Miscellaneous	500.00

Writing Consultation	1,000.00
Concept Consultation	1,000.00
Administration	7,500.00

TOTAL

30,000.00

MPRC
MULTICULTURAL
PREVENTION
RESOURCE
CENTER

1540 Market Street
Suite 320
San Francisco, CA
94102
(415) 861-2142

April 15, 1987

Note:

Administration will involve three primary areas:

- 1) Contractual, e.g., contract compliance, fiscal management, liaison for accountability to SFDPH, financial and progress reports, etc.
- 2) Project Coordination, e.g., selecting and contracting with a film producer; forming and convening a video review panel; providing resource information to producer, writers, technicians, consultants; providing general guidance and coordination.
- 3) Overhead (Operating expenses)

Administrative Rate \$30 per hour @125 person hours per month for two months.

10

[illegible]

AIDS IN BLACK COMMUNITY

"Black People Get AIDS Too"

Adrian is one year old. She has already lived half her life. Adrian was born infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

Brenda is Adrian's mom. She too is within a year of her own death. Brenda got AIDS from her late husband Jesse. Jesse died last year. His death ended a twenty year career as a drug addict.

This is not an exaggerated chain of death wiping out whole families because the AIDS Virus (HIV) is transmitted by actions that many Black people love to engage in.

1. We love to get high!
2. We love to make love!
3. We love to have babies!

One of every four AIDS faces is a Black face. Most Black people who are/were infected were in some way associated with shooting drugs.

Drug users typically share needles and thereby share infected blood. Also, many Black men have unprotected sex with other men (more than we would like to admit).

Black men have sex with men in jails and prisons all over

America. Black men who have sex with other men frequently have sex with women also. They are either bisexual or they return to a heterosexual lifestyle when they get out of jail.

Women therefore get infected from their own needle sharing, from sleeping with male needle users or from sleeping with men who have sex with other men. The result is to be expected--One out of every two women with AIDS is a Sister.

Women who are infected and who get pregnant give birth to infected babies fifty percent of the time--Seven out of every ten baby faces is the face of a black baby

What is AIDS?

AIDS is a condition of an immune system weakened by a virus, which allows a certain pneumonia and/or cancer or other infections to invade our bodies and kiss us because we are without a strong immune system and are defenseless against them.

AIDS is passed from one person to another through the blood or semen (come) of an infected person getting into the blood stream of another.

This epidemic has no cure and poses a greater threat to us than the Ku Klux Klan ever did. According to some estimates, a million Black people may already be infected.

Urgent measures must be taken now to prevent further infection.

1. We love to get high!

Needle users must get off drugs

Needle users must stop using "works" that others have used, and must stop letting others use their works. * Needle users who must share works must disinfect them with bleach and rinse with water between each use.

2. We love to make love!

Use condoms and spermacides everytime you have sex if you are not absolutely certain that you and your partner have been monogamous since 1980.

3. We love to have babies

Women who are at risk for infection should be tested before you get pregnant. If you are infected you should avoid pregnancy. If you are infected and pregnant you should seek family planning counseling immediately. Pregnancy seems to accelerate the onset of full blown AIDS in infected women.

* Works - Drug injection instruments, e.g., needle, syringe, spoon, cotton, etc.

AIDS is not transmitted by hugging, kissing, shaking hands, eating from the same utensils, sitting on toilet seats or eating food prepared by infected persons. AIDS is hard to get.

Black people!

We survived the devastation of 300 years of human slavery.

We have survived another 100 years of social, economic and political slavery.

WHY?

To be wiped out by slavery to drug addiction, alcoholism and the hated AIDS Virus?

These too we must survive

Protect yourself

Protect your children

Protect your future.

Do your share to stop the Black AIDS epidemic

BLACK PEOPLE GET AIDS, TOO

Study Guide

Subject Areas: High school and college health classes, community outreach programs, public health agencies

Audience : S, C, A

Length : School version - 20 minutes
Original version - 21 minutes

CONTENT:

There has been a myth in the black community that AIDS is a homosexual white man's disease. While it's true that AIDS was first identified in that population, today one in every four victims is black, and the number of black AIDS patients is doubling each year. "Black People Get AIDS, Too." (available in both school and original versions) presents these and other facts in a hard-hitting effort to alert the black community to the high risk of AIDS and its connection to sexual activity and intravenous drug use. In animation and interviews with black doctors and community leaders, the program takes a step-by-step look at the causes and symptoms of AIDS, its effects on the immune system, AIDS screening tests, and the social and economic ramifications of the disease. Above all, prevention and education are stressed as the only ways currently available to fight AIDS. Experts provide advice on what constitutes "safe sex," the use of condoms and spermicides, the risk of sharing IV drug works. In the original version, instructions are also given for cleaning drug works with bleach and alcohol, and drug users are gently encouraged to get off drugs and into recovery programs. (The school version omits this sequence.) Community, government and religious leaders speak out about their roles in disseminating AIDS information and health services to the black community. But, as a poignant interview with Kenny, a 32 year old AIDS patient who died shortly after filming points out, the bottom line is this: there is as yet no cure for AIDS, but AIDS can be prevented if people know what to do - and make sure to do it every time - and understand that AIDS is now epidemic in the black community.

OBJECTIVES: After viewing, the audience should be able to:

- * demonstrate awareness of the risk of AIDS in the black community
- * identify the ways in which AIDS is contracted, and the symptoms and progression of the disease
- * understand what constitutes high risk behavior
- * know how to prevent AIDS through reduction of high risk sexual activity and intravenous drug use
- * understand the importance of this information not only to blacks, but to all people regardless of race or age

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Before viewing: ~~For school groups~~ (school version)

Students should be familiar with the fact that AIDS is a disease which is spreading across the country, and for which there is no cure. The group leader should stress that though this program is directed primarily to the black community, the information given is applicable and important to everyone, regardless of race.

Before viewing: ~~For community groups~~ (original version)

The audience should be alert to the fact that AIDS is no longer confined to gay white men (if, indeed, it ever was). Present this program as an information tool which may save lives, rather than as a "message" film designed to preach about sex or drug use.

After viewing: For both school and original versions

- * What is AIDS, how do you get it, and what does it do to the victim?
- * What are high risk behaviors for contracting AIDS?
- * What behavior is not high risk? (Casual contact, sharing food, kissing, etc.)
- * What are some general ways that all people, of any race or sex, can reduce their risk of getting AIDS?
- * Why has AIDS been considered a white man's disease, and how do we know that this is not the case?
- * How can women of child bearing age insure that their children are not born with AIDS?
- * Where are AIDS tests available in your community? How is the issue of anonymity handled for adult and minor clients?
- * What does the AIDS test tell you? Why is one test often not enough to determine your health status?
- * Is the use of condoms complete protection against sexually transmitted AIDS? Is abstinence?
- * Take a realistic look at your life style. Does your behavior put you at risk for AIDS? What particular things might you be able to change to reduce your risk?
- * What is the future outlook for AIDS in the United States? Should you be more or less alert to the danger in the future? (Outlook is for increased number of AIDS babies born to IV drug user mothers, increased heterosexual risk because of multiple sex partners, growing number of patients throughout the country, increased research, but no prediction of when a cure will be found.)

After viewing (cont'd.): For original version only

- * In what way is sharing drug works a major risk factor for acquiring AIDS?
- * Is it safer to share works with only one or two people than to use the house works?
- * Is it safe to share IV paraphernalia with friends?
- * What are the step by step procedures for cleaning the works? Why is it important to do every time?
- * What other health, social and economic effects does drug abuse have?
- * Where can you go and what can you do to get help in breaking the drug habit?

Produced by the Multicultural Prevention Resource Center

Distributed by Churchill Films

TRANSCRIPTION OF "BLACK PEOPLE GET AIDS, TOO"

Voiceover 1: AIDS is a fatal disease. Cases have now been reported in every state in the Union and in at least 74 countries worldwide. One out of every four AIDS cases is Black, and the numbers have been increasing steadily. There is no cure. To date, the only known effective vaccines are education and prevention.

Consider the impact that it could have on your life as we discover that Black People Get AIDS, Too.

Voiceover 1: Throughout history Black Americans have had a higher mortality rate than White Americans. Some of the reasons for this include: Slavery, racism, and poverty.

Through education and medical technology we are becoming better equipped to fight the battle against hypertension, sickle-cell anemia, higher infant mortality, and a host of stress-related illnesses unique to our social and economic conditions.

Now the Black community has to face another life-threatening enemy. That enemy is Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS.

Although AIDS in the United States was found initially and primarily among gay white males, it is not confined to that group. As the disease has moved through the general population, the rate of infection among Black people has been greater than any other group.

Voiceover 1: Exactly what is AIDS?

Dr. Toussaint Streat: AIDS is just what the name implies. It is not inherited, but is acquired through the exchange of bodily fluids. The AIDS virus is transmitted almost exclusively through semen or vaginal fluids during sex or through contact with infected blood. The potential victims come into contact with infected blood by sharing IV drug needles or receiving an unscreened blood transfusion or blood products. Also, infants have acquired the disease and are infected by the mother before or during birth.

Voiceover 2: Let's look at how the body's defense department works against viruses. A virus enters the blood stream. A blood cell known as a macrophage detects this virus and sends out chemical warning signals. These chemicals activate lymphocytes known as T-cells. They locate the virus, begin multiplying, and call in B-cells to

attack the virus. The B-cells also multiply and attack. The weapons these B-cells fire are called antibodies. They coat the invading virus, deactivate it, and it is finally destroyed. The vital cells in the body are no longer in danger, and even after the virus is destroyed, many of the antibodies remain in the bloodstream and make us immune to this same type of virus in the future. Laser technology allows us to measure the level of T-cells in the normal immune system and compare that with the effect of the AIDS virus.

When HIV enters the bloodstream, the process begins as normal. A macrophage detects the virus, and sends out its chemical warning systems, which activate T-cells. But here the breakdown begins. The AIDS virus takes the offensive. It attaches to the T-cell and enters it, and then uses these very cells to grow and multiply. As the T-cell is destroyed, many more of the AIDS viruses are spewed out into the bloodstream to repeat the process. And our immune systems grow weaker. When the B-cells do appear to attack the virus, they find a virus that is resistant. Antibodies are created, but they are not effective at killing HIV. These antibodies remain the system, but so does the virus, which continues to multiply and destroy the very T-cells that normally start the attack against foreign invaders.

This computer readout shows the level of T-cells in the normal healthy immune system, compared with the level after the AIDS virus has had its effect. As a result, other kinds of foreign invaders in the future are able to bypass this weakened immune system and cause a variety of ailments and diseases, to which most of us are immune. The resulting infections take advantage of this unique opportunity offered them by the weakened defense system.

Voiceover 2: Can Black people get it?

Sala Udin: Yes, Black people can catch AIDS -- and do catch AIDS. In fact, the number of AIDS cases among Black people is doubling every year. You know, some of us have our head in the sand and we think only whites and only gays get AIDS. But nothing could be further from the truth. The majority of women with AIDS are Black. The majority of children born with AIDS are Black. In fact, one out of every four AIDS cases in the United States are Black people. So AIDS is epidemic among Black people. As a matter of fact, AIDS may very well be the Number One health threat to the Black community today.

Man Interviewed in the Street: Yes, I would like to know, how do you know when you have AIDS and what could you do to prevent from getting AIDS.

TRANSCRIPTION OF "BLACK PEOPLE GET AIDS, TOO"

Sala Udin: That's a good question. You know, the scary thing about AIDS education is that it starts all of us wonder whether we may be infected with the AIDS virus. So we should be aware of the behaviors that put us at risk for AIDS.

The behavior most frequently associated with AIDS is sexual activity among homosexual and bisexual men. Secondly are the needle-sharing behaviors of intravenous drug abusers. Third are the sexual partners of both bisexual men and IV drug abusers. Fourth are men and women who have multiple sex partners. Then come the babies who are born to infected women, and to much less a degree, people who received blood transfusions before 1984, and hemophiliacs.

Voiceover 1: If you do not fall into one of these groups, there is probably no need for alarm, although everyone should exercise caution.

For those who have a need or desire to know about their infection status, a blood test called the "AIDS Antibody Test" is available. This is not a test for AIDS. It will not tell you if you have AIDS or any AIDS-related condition. The test will show whether or not you have been infected with the virus that can cause AIDS.

The local Health Department will either do the antibody test or direct you to an alternate test site. It is also available at some private clinics for a fee. In most testing facilities, the test is anonymous, that is, no identifying information is taken, such as name, address, social security number, or telephone number. Each person is simply given a number. When they return for the results they give the nurse or clerk their number.

A positive test result does not mean that the person will necessarily come down with AIDS or an AIDS-related condition. But on the other hand, a negative result does not mean you're home free. If you engage in high-risk behavior, you should be tested again in a few months, and you must discontinue unsafe sexual practices and unsafe needle use immediately.

If you test positive, you must carefully consider who you plan to tell. There is still an extraordinary amount of hysteria and fear associated with AIDS. People are still getting fired from their jobs and dropped from health insurance plans. Some AIDS victims have been evicted from their homes and deserted by family and friends.

This is Kenny. He's 32 years old, married with no children, and, he has AIDS.

TRANSCRIPTION OF "BLACK PEOPLE GET AIDS, TOO"

Kenny: I done a lot of drugs in New York, and I can feel that's where I got infected at. There's a lot of dirty needles, and I did in some nasty galleries, you know, the places where you shoot at. Y'know, a lot of people got diseases in their arms, and abscesses. All sitting' around and coughing' and stuff. It was an illhouse.

Questioner: Did you ever take your works with you when you did?

Kenny: A lot of times I did, but sometimes I used the house works.

Questioner: Did they ever make any attempts to clean the house works?

Kenny: Yeah, sometimes they did.

Questioner: What did they do?

Kenny: Stick it in some water and rinse it out two, three times.

Questioner: Just water?

Kenny: Pit it in, screw it up, shoot it out, put it in, do it again.

Questioner: And people thought that took care of it?

Kenny: What people were doing was getting the blood out.

Questioner: How many people do you think would use one needle in the course of a day.

Kenny: In New York, maybe about thirty, forty, some say more.

Questioner: With one works?

Kenny: Yeah.

Questioner: What are the symptoms of the illness you have now -- gonococcal meningitis -- what do they feel like?

Kenny: At the very beginning it was a very very painful headache. I had to shoot morphine to stop that thing. The pain was extreme in my head, extreme extreme pain in my head. That lasted, y'know, a couple of days. That's gone now. I just take the medicine. I just thank God it's gone. It's not gone for good, but I thank God it's gone now.

Voiceover 1: Shortly after this interview, Kenny died of complications cause by AIDS. At the time of his death he weighed only 72 pounds.

DEr. Patricia Evans: There is a myth that AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, does not effect our Black community. However, 10,000 of the 40,000 national AIDS cases is Black. This means that one in four cases is Black. Let's look at these numbers a little more clearly, such that we can better understand our risks for AIDS.

Approximately forty percent of all Black people with AIDS are gay and/or bisexual men. Thirty-five percent of all Black people with AIDS are intravenous drug users. Of all female cases of AIDS, fifty-four percent are Black, and a little less than one-third are also intravenous drug users. Of all children with AIDS, eighty percent are Black. Intravenous drug use plays a major role in our community for the development of AIDS. It is either directly or indirectly responsible for approximately seventy percent of all AIDS cases.

I have given you as lot of figures at this time. But it is necessary for you to understand such that you can stamp out the myth that AIDS does not affect our community, and can take those steps necessary to better protect yourselves, your children, your family, and our community.

Dr. Mindy Fullilove: HIV infection is a fatal infection. Most of the people who are infected with the virus dir from it. At this time there is no vaccine to prevent infection, or to cure the infection once it is acquired. Therefore, it is very important that people protect themselves from getting exposed to the virus.

Now, people have gotten exposed in a number of ways. Prior to 1984, some people who got blood transfusions were exposed to the virus. At this point, all the blood transfusions are screened for the virus, and the blood supply is safe. So there are other ways of being exposed to the virus. One of the most important ones is sexual activity. Now, it's not really possible to know the full sexual and drug history of your partner or your partner's partner, or your partner's partner's partners.

Therefore, the safest thing to do is to protect yourself at all times. That means, protecting your body if you have any contact with semen or vaginal secretions. You can protect yourself using condoms. Latex condoms are very effective in preventing transmission of with the HIV virus. Learn how to use condoms and always use them. Additionally, you should use the spermicide "Nonoxynol 9" to give you additional

TRANSCRIPTION OF "BLACK PEOPLE GET AIDS, TOO"

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At this point in time, all sexually active men and women should use safe sex at all times. So protect yourself -- practice safe sex.

Sala Udin: Many people are wondering, "What are the symptoms of AIDS infection?" The major symptoms are as follows:

1. Sudden weight loss.
2. Drenching night sweats.
3. Low-grade fever that's hovering around 99 or 100 degrees.
4. Also, there is a dry cough or a whiteness on the tongue or in the mouth area, known as thrush. This symptom should not be confused with symptoms caused by other kinds of illnesses. If they persist for more than a month, then medical help should be sought immediately.

It's not all that easy to just stop shooting drugs. Sometimes it may take awhile. Sometimes it takes awhile for addicts to realize they need to get help, and may take awhile to get into a treatment program once help is sought. However, drug addicts need to be aware of how to avoid infection until they do get into a program and until they can stop using needles and drugs altogether.

The primary ways of disinfecting needles to protect from the AIDS virus is to use bleach and water. It's very simple. Simply draw up with the needle and syringe two syringes of the bleach, and squirt it back out. Then, as a rinse, draw up two syringes full of water and squirt it back out before you use the needle or any drug-related equipment that may have been used by anyone else.

Woman Being Interviewed: I want to know what's being done to prevent the spread of AIDS?

Voiceover 1: The fight against AIDS is being conducted on several fronts. The Multicultural Prevention Resource

TRANSCRIPTION OF "BLACK PEOPLE GET AIDS, TOO"

Center has been conducting a series of workshops on various health and human aspects of the disease across the country. Additional efforts are also being mobilized by the California State Legislature and by leaders of the Black ministry.

Willie L. Brown, Jr: The kind of outreach that goes on with the general AIDS population will never touch the Black population. It's just being done in a way that touches the Black population. As a Black legislator and a Black elected official, I think I have a responsibility not only to produce those resources but make sure they are distributed on a more equitable basis reflective of the needs of the Black community, and I intend to do that.

Diane Watson: We have designated appropriations to start up testing sites, and one of the biggest activities of the legislature in the last three to five years is testing sites. And confidentiality laws so that people who go to be tested can be sure that their rights to privacy are respected. We have spent a lot of time insuring confidentiality. We do not want to drive the illness underground. We do not want to put fear into the hearts of people that they cannot come forth for fear their names will be splashed all over the newspapers. So we have dealt a lot with confidentiality. We've dealt with educating through the Department of Education and through organized educational facilities. We're looking at ways of educating the students there. We've done a lot in terms of safe sex, preventive sex.

Maxine Water: I think that the so-called leadership of the Black community has got to recognize that they have a responsibility. All of our medical institutions, some of which have never even applied for AIDS money from the State of California, the ministerial community, teachers, everybody is going to assume some responsibility in the dissemination of information. We cannot afford to have residential drug rehabilitation programs not having AIDS education in these programs. Such is the case now. So everybody's got to take more responsibility to their part to get this information out.

Reverend Amos Brown: Many of our churches to take a positive, forthright effort to educate our young people on what it means to be a sexual being, what it means to interpret and treat sex properly as a gift from God. What it means to be responsible for one's decisions, whatever they may be. I think that this great challenge, this great responsibility to the Black church to be on the cutting edge, to take offensive moves and not always wait to react after a problem has stared us in the face.

TRANSCRIPTION OF "BLACK PEOPLE GET AIDS, TOO"

Sala Udin: So the bottom line is this: Wake up, everybody! Black people get AIDS, too. There are things you can do to avoid infection. We must know what they are, and then we must do them. Every time. All the time. Pass the word: "Black People Get AIDS, Too!" AIDS can be stopped!



Saccade
Communications Inc

P.O. Box 590068 San Francisco
California 94159-0068
415 626 2852

AIDS ANTIBODY TESTING VIDEO - **BLACK**

THIS FIFTEEN MINUTE VIDEO WILL PRESENT INFORMATION ABOUT AIDS AND AIDS ANTIBODY TEST SITE PROCEDURES IN A DRAMATIC SITUATION. TOO OFTEN EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION, PRESENTED IN DIRECT A-B-C TERMS, IS NOT DIRECTED TO THE TARGET AUDIENCE IN A FORMAT THAT MAINTAINS PEAK INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM. BY PUTTING THE INFORMATION IN A SLICE OF LIFE SITUATION, OUR AUDIENCE SEES HOW THE INFORMATION WE ARE PRESENTING IMPACTS "REAL" PEOPLE. IF THEY HAVE EMPATHY WITH OUR CHARACTERS THEN THE INFORMATION HAS A MAXIMUM IMPACT ON THEM. WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER OF AIDS MUCH ^{MIS} INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE AFRO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, MUST BE OVERCOME. BY CREATING A COMMON NARRATIVE ENVIRONMENT OUR TARGET AUDIENCE WILL BE ABLE TO PUT ASIDE THEIR STEREOTYPICAL INFORMATION AND ATTITUDES AND DEAL WITH THE REAL FACTS ABOUT AIDS AND AIDS ANTIBODY TESTING.

OUR STORY OPENS WITH OUR CENTRAL CHARACTER WILLIAM SMITH RECEIVING THE RESULTS OF HIS AIDS ANTIBODY TEST. HE HAS WAITED FOR TWO WEEKS WITH MOUNTING ANXIETY AND TODAY HE RECEIVED THE RESULTS: NEGATIVE.

WILLIAM IS A RECOVERING DRUG ABUSER WHO HAS BEEN CLEAN FOR OVER TWO YEARS. PART OF THE CREDIT FOR HIS RISE FROM DRUG ADDICTION IS DUE TO HIS FIANCE SHIRLEY WINSTON. SHE HAS PERSEVERED THROUGH HIS DETOX, METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, AND HAS BEEN HIS PILLAR OF SUPPORT DURING THE TWO WEEKS HE HAS WAITED FOR THE RESULTS OF HIS AIDS ANTIBODY TEST. IT WAS SHIRLEY WHO CONVINCED WILLIAM TO TAKE THE TEST. AS A COMMUNITY WORKER SHE BECAME QUITE KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF AIDS ON THE AFRO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN PARTICULAR AND THE ALARMING SUSCEPTIBILITY OF INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS. SHIRLEY THUS BECOMES OUR NARRATIVE "EXPERT" ON THE AIDS VIRUS AND IT IS THROUGH HER THAT OUR TARGET AUDIENCE WILL LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT AIDS IN LAY TERMS.

Did she
Test?

We need to make
testing A community
wide alternative, not
just "high risk"



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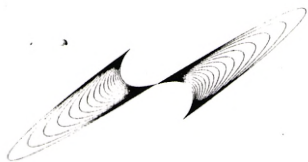
WILLIAM AND SHIRLEY ARE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED. KNOWING HIS PAST DRUG HISTORY AND NEEDLE SHARING BEHAVIOR SHE PUSHES HIM TO TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST. WHEN HE RETURNS HOME WITH THE NEWS OF HIS TEST RESULTS IN A CELEBRATORY MOOD (WITH FLOWERS FOR SHIRLEY) HE IS VISITED BY HIS COUSIN JOHNNY AND HIS FRIEND RAYMOND BOTH OF WHOM STILL HAVE HEROIN HABITS. THEY'VE COME TO BORROW MONEY FROM WILLIAM IN ORDER TO PURCHASE DRUGS. BOTH OF THESE MEN STILL CONSIDER AIDS TO BE A ^{WHITE} HOMOSEXUAL DISEASE AND HAVE VIRTUALLY NO REAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE DISEASE. IT IS AT THIS POINT IN OUR NARRATIVE THAT SHIRLEY PRESENTS THE MAIN BODY OF AIDS FACTUAL DATA AS SHE EDUCATES JOHNNY, RAYMOND, AND US ABOUT AIDS. THROUGH A SPIRITED FOUR WAY CONVERSATION WE WILL NOT ONLY LEARN ABOUT AIDS, BUT WILL ALSO EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL DEVASTATING EFFECT THIS DISEASE COULD HAVE ON THE AFRO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

AS JOHNNY AND RAYMOND LEARN ABOUT AIDS THEY BECOME ALARMED THAT INDEED THEY MAY BE INFECTED WITH THE VIRUS AS A RESULT OF BOTH THEIR DRUG AND SEXUAL BEHAVIORS. AT THIS POINT WILLIAM BECOMES THE PRIMARY NARRATIVE PROTAGONIST AND THROUGH HIM WE LEARN ABOUT THE STEPS ONE GOES THROUGH AT AN AIDS ANTIBODY TEST SITE. HIS EXPERIENCE WILL DEMYSTIFY THE TEST PROCEDURES ALLAY SOME OF OUR FEARS AND ANXIETIES.

*What Ab+(-)
need to know*

WE WILL UTILIZE THE FILMIC FLASHBACK VEHICLE TO FOLLOW WILLIAM THROUGH THE TEST SITE PROCEDURES. WITH HIM PROVIDING A VOICE OVER BACKGROUND WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE ACTUAL STEPS, AIDS INFORMATION COUNSELLING AND RELIVE THOSE ANXIOUS MOMENTS AS HE AWAITED THE RESULTS OF THE TEST.

AT THE END OF WILLIAM'S NARRATIVE WE WILL RETURN AGAIN TO OUR ENVIRONMENT OF THE LIVING ROOM CONVERSATION. THERE IS A SENSE OF RESOLUTION AS JOHNNY AND RAYMOND, DETERMINED TO TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST GO OVER ONCE AGAIN. (IN SUMMARY) ALL THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE BEEN INNUNDATED WITH BY WILLIAM AND SHIRLEY. IN THIS MANNER WE WILL EMPLOY A TIME TESTED ADVERTISING TECHNIQUE



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"TELL THEM, SHOW THEM, TELL THEM AGAIN."

THE LANGUAGE USED THROUGHOUT THE DRAMATIC PRESENTATION WILL BE SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE AND MEDICALLY/SCIENTIFICALLY CORRECT. WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN THE WORKINGS OF THE HIV VIRUS ON THE IMMUNE SYSTEM WE WILL EMPLOY GRAPHIC OVERLAY TECHNIQUES TO HELP SIMPLIFY THIS COMPLEX BODY OF INFORMATION. THE USE OF ANIMATION IS BEING EXPLORED TO POSSIBLY AID THIS SECTION, BUT IN OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THIS TECHNIQUE (EXPLAINING HIV INFORMATION) WE FOUND THE APPROACH TOO OFTEN LEFT THE VIEWER FEELING CONFUSED.

Jon Falo

Pre- and Post-Test Brochure for Blacks

All references to "AIDS virus" or "AIDS antibody" should be changed to HIV or "the virus that causes AIDS" and "HIV antibody". Do not be redundant with "HIV virus"; either use "HIV" or perhaps "virus" or "the virus that causes AIDS".

Pg. 2 "When shooting drugs with someone who has the virus"
"From infected mother ..."

Pg. 2 What is the test?
"A nurse will draw about a teaspoonful of blood ..."
"This test only tells you if you have antibodies to the virus in your blood stream."

Pg. 3 Limitations to the Antibody test
False negatives
"However, the best way to make certain ... exposure to HIV and be retested in 3 months."
Some valid reasons to consider the test--"ARC" has not been discussed or described. Need to rethink its use here.

Pg. 4 Don't forget to include the centralized telephone number.

Post-Test Brochure

Pg. 5 "... when shooting drugs with someone who has the virus."
"From infected mother to ..."

Pg. 5 Spectrum
"... enters the blood stream, it can remain dormant ..."
Eliminate the sentence "In a healthy body with a healthy ... for a lifetime."

Pg. 6 "AIDS, the end stage of HIV infection ..."
Limitations of the Antibody Test
"However, the best way to make certain ... exposure to HIV and be retested in 3 months."
Test results--leave out "probably" in the last two sentences.

Pg. 3 and 6 Separate from false negatives the sentences starting with "False positives and false negatives are rare." down to "... be retested in 3 months."

Separate the next two sentences as well from the above.

Pg. 7 I would list the agencies with addresses and telephone numbers at the end of this brochure and eliminate from this paragraph.

Pg. 7 "... consult medical advice immediately upon persistence of a month or more of:
1. "... fatigue or tiredness."
2. "... neck, armpits or groin."

Pre- and Post-Test Brochure for Blacks (continued)

- Pg. 7 May then eliminate the last sentence of the second to the last paragraph "If they persist ... should be obtained."
- Pg. 8 "Also, it will allow ... to other people."--Eliminate.
- Pg. 8 Eliminate "*pregnancy may accelerate ... infected women."
- Pg. 8 How to Avoid Transmission
"... remains dormant in infected ..."
Eliminate the sentence "This does not mean ... sexual activity." Start the next sentence with "It does mean ..."

WHAT CHU MEAN AIDS

William Smith is an ex-drug abuser. He has stopped using completely for over a year. He is in his mid thirties; is an Afro-American and is proud of the fact he no longer uses drugs. He works the swing shift as a loader at a trucking firm and is living with his girlfriend of the past two years. They have lived together for seven months now and plan to marry within the year.

William is a high school graduate with one year of junior college completed. He dropped out of college to enlist in the ^{Army} Air Force for four years. After leaving the service he returned home to the old neighborhood where he began hanging out with old friends, some of whom were heavy drug users and introduced William to his first experience with ^{injecting} hard drugs. For over five years he drifted in and out of periods of heavy drug usage alienating his family and most of his non-drug using friends. When his fortunes and life reached rock bottom he sought clinical help and enrolled in a drug rehab program. It was during this lengthy period that he met his fiance Shirley. She became his most important support unit during his rehabilitation program.

Shirley Winston is a mid-thirtish Afro-American woman, extremely proud and cognizant of her African heritage. She is a college graduate (music/dance) and is the director of a community art/recreation center in Williams' old neighborhood. She is a strong, self-motivated woman who loves to read and has a special interest in teaching children. She met William during his rehab period while he was in a methadone maintenance program.

Once she became romantically involved with William she learned as much as she could about drug addiction and its attendant problems. When AIDS became known, Shirley, like most people, believed it to be a disease of homosexuals only. Upon learning that the disease

was prevalent among intravenous drug users she quickly studies the information available and shared it with William. Fearful of their own exposure to the disease through Williams' past drug habits they decided that he should take the AIDS antibody test.

they

FADE IN
EXT PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC

EARLY AM

DOORS BURST OPEN AND WILLIAM SMITH BOUNDS DOWN THE STEPS, DANCES A QUICK JIG AND KISSES A PIECE OF PAPER IN HIS HAND.

CUT TO
CU WILLIAM'S FACE AS HE BEAMS AT PAPER IN HIS HAND.

CUT TO
CU PAPER. IT IS SOME SORT OF TICKET STUB WITH NUMBERS ON IT.

CUT TO
MS WILLIAM PUTS STUB IN HIS POCKET, PATS IT AND JOGS TO HIS PARKED CAR.

CUT TO (WIPE)
EXT APARTMENT BUILDING

TWO MEN EXIT THE FRONT DOOR AND WALK UP THE STREET. ONE IS FASHIONABLY DRESSED AND THE OTHER HAS ON FADED BLUE JEANS, AN OLD JACKET AND SCUFFED, RUN DOWN BOOTS. THEY ARE JOHNNY ADAMS AND RAY JONES, A COUSIN AND FRIEND OF WILLIAM, AND DRUG USERS. THEY WALK TO A CORNER BUS STOP. RAY NERVOUS, HIGHLY AGITATED "I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU USED UP MY STASH, JOHNNY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU MAN. YOU KNOW THAT WASN'T RIGHT!"

JOHNNY

"SHUT UP MAN! OKAY?! YOU'VE RUN IT INTO THE GROUND ALREADY. I TOLD YOU I CAN COP SOME MORE. I JUST GOT TO BORROW SOME CASH THAT'S ALL."

RAY

"FROM WHO? YOU OWE EVERYBODY EVERYBODY MAN. I'M ^{gettin'} GOING TO BE SICK. I CAN FEEL IT!"

JOHNNY

"FROM MY COUSIN WILLY. ME AND HIM IS TIGHT. HE ALWAYS COMES THRU FOR ME.

RAY

"AW MAN! THE PREACHER?! EVER SINCE HE CLEANED UP ALL I HEAR FROM HIM IS... 'ONLY DOPES USE DOPE' FORGET HIM MAN. LET'S JUST BOOST SOMETHING."

JOHNNY

"ALL YOU GONNA DO IS BOOST YOUR WAY INTO JAIL... HERE COMES THE BUS. (PULLS MONEY OUT OF HIS POCKET)

CUT TO
INT APT

TASTEFULLY DECORATED. PLAIN BUT COMFORTABLE. SHIRLEY WINSTON IS COOKING IN THE KITCHEN. WILLIAM BURST THROUGH THE DOOR CARRYING A HUGE FLORAL BOUQUET.

SHIRLEY

"MY GOD WILLIAM! YOU SCARED ME!"

CUT TO

WILLIAM GRABS HER; PICKS HER UP; SPINS AROUND KISSING HER AND LAUGHING.

SHIRLEY

"I GUESS YOU GOT GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR TEST WILLIAM."

WILLIAM

"NOW WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT? CAN'T I JUST BE A ROMANTIC KIND OF GUY?"

THE DOORBELL RINGS AND WILLIAM AND SHIRLEY PAUSE, LOOKING AT EACH OTHER PERPLEXED. THE BELL RINGS AGAIN AND WILLIAM GOES TO ANSWER THE DOOR.

WILLIAM

"WHO IS IT?"

JOHNNY (THROUGH THE DOOR)

"IT'S ME. JOHNNY."

SHIRLEY TURNS TO THE KITCHEN IN DISGUST AS WILLIAM OPENS THE DOOR AND JOHNNY ENTERS FOLLOWED BY RAY.

CUT TO
CU

WILLIAM

"WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING UP SO EARLY?! IT'S NOT NOON YET." (LAUGHS)

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"HEY BE COOL, CUZ. WE CAME OVER TO BE SOCIALABLE."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"PLEASE!"

WALKS OVER TO JOHNNY AND TAKES FLOWERS FROM HIM AND WALKS BACK INTO KITCHEN.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"HEY WHAT'S THE OCCASION!? IS IT YOUR BIRTHDAY SHIRLEY?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"NO MAN. I JUST GIVE MY BABY FLOWERS WHENEVER THE SPIRIT MOVES ME. AND TODAY IT MOVED ME."

RAY BEGINS TO FIDGET. PULLS A CIGARETTE FROM HIS PACK, PUTS IT IN HIS MOUTH, REACHES FOR HIS LIGHTER...STOPS AS HE FEELS SHIRLEY EYEING HIM. PUTS CIG SHEEPISHLY AWAY. SHIRLEY TURNS TO WILLIAM.

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"WELL?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"WELL WHAT?"

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"THE TEST!"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"OH YEAH! WELL HERE'S MY TICKET TO RIDE. I'M NEGATIVE."

HE TAKES STUB FROM HIS POCKET AND HANDS IT TO SHIRLEY. SHE LOOKS AT IT THEN THROWS HER ARMS AROUND WILLIAM AND HUGS HIM CLOSE.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"HEY CUZ, WHAT YOU NEGATIVE FROM? YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"NO. I JUST GOT THE RESULTS OF MY AIDS ANTIBODY TEST. I TESTED NEGATIVE. WE'RE CELEBRATING. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?"

HE RELEASES SHIRLEY WHO GOES BACK INTO KITCHEN AND BRINGS FLOWERS BACK OUT TO TABLE IN A VASE.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"YOU GOT AIDS? HOW? YOU AIN'T GAY!"

SHIRLEY

"NO! HE WAS NOT GAY. BESIDES, BEING HOMOSEXUAL DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE AIDS."

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"WELL THAT'S HOW YOU GET IT."

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"NO YOU DON'T GET IT FROM BEING GAY, YOU GET IT FROM A VIRUS. ~~HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR JUST PUTS YOU IN A HIGH RISK SITUATION THAT'S~~ ^{ALL, ~~especially if you're not wearing a condom~~ ~~INTERCOURSE~~ ~~can~~ ~~ESPECIALLY~~ ~~UNPROTECTED SEXUAL~~ ~~PRACTICES.~~}

CUT TO

RAY

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN HIGH RISK? I WOULDN'T RISK NOTHING FOR AIDS."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"YOU ALREADY DO. YOU USE JUNK AND YOU'RE GAY!" ^{no you don't ~~blush~~ your worries or wear condom}

CUT TO

RAY

"HEY! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I DO! SO DON'T GO JUMPING TO ASSUMPTIONS." ^{& you have lots of sexual partners - male & female!}

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"CHILL OUT RAY. YOU'RE A DOPE FIEND AND YOU KNOW IT."

CUT TO

RAY

"IF I AM, YOU AM."

CUT TO

JOHNNY (TO SHIRLEY)

"SO WHAT IS HIGH RISK. I THOUGHT IF I WASN'T GAY I DIDN'T HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT."

SHIRLEY

"WELL, YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO BE WORRIED ABOUT, BECAUSE YOU HAVE A DRUG HABIT THAT YOU ~~SUSTAIN BY USING NEEDLES.~~" ^{Feed than}

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"SO WHAT?"

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"DON'T GET DEFENSIVE! I'M JUST GIVING YOU INFORMATION. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE. ~~AIDS IS SPREAD AMONG DRUG USERS~~ Next to gays, AIDS hits drug users hardest. One of four PWA is drug user.

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"LOOK JOHNNY, YOU SHARE YOUR OUTFIT DON'T YOU!? THAT PUTS YOU AT ^{VERY} HIGH RISK FOR AIDS. TELL HIM SHIRLEY." ^{what they can}

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"WELL FIRST OFF WE KNOW THAT AIDS IS CAUSED BY A VIRUS THAT IS TRANSMITTED BY AN INFECTED PERSON. IT CAN BE THROUGH SEX NO MATTER IF YOU'RE GAY OR STRAIGHT; FROM PREGNANCY IF THE MOTHER IS INFECTED; THROUGH BLOOD TRANSFUSION PRIOR TO 1984; AND THROUGH A DIRTY NEEDLE." ^{You see, ~~very~~ invisible particles of infected blood ~~are~~ remain in the needle, or syringe or the bulb or plunger. And can then be injected into the next person who uses those works. This could be simply avoided if you used what they call the 2 method}

CUT TO

RAY

"HOW COME YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT AIDS ANYWAY SHIRLEY? YOU SOUND LIKE A DOCTOR."

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"IT'S PART OF HER JOB MAN. SINCE SOME OF US DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH ~~THE OKEY DOKE~~ THE REST OF US HAVE TO."

REALITY
CUT TO

RAY (TO JOHNNY)

"I TOLD YOU HE WAS GONNA PREACH."

CUT TO

JOHNNY (TO SHIRLEY)

"GO ON SHIRLEY. HIP ME TO AIDS."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"WELL, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I WAS GOING TO SHOW MY CLASSES A VIDEOTAPE ABOUT THE AIDS VIRUS. SO...I'LL SHOW IT TO YOU. YOU GUYS CAN BE MY EXPERIMENTAL CLASS."

SHIRLEY LOADS A VIDEOCASSETTE INTO THE PLAYER. THE CAMERA ZOOMS INTO THE SCREEN FACE AS EVERYONE TAKES A SEAT IN FRONT OF THE TV.

AIDS ANIMATION SEQUENCE WITH EXPLANATION OF AIDS VIRUS AND THE HUMAN IMMUNE SYSTEM

CUT TO

CU SHIRLEY'S HAND. SHE EJECTS CASSETTE, TURNS OFF VCR. CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL THE GROUP.

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"MAN, AIDS IS SOME SERIOUS STUFF."

CUT TO

RAY

"YOU AIN'T LYIN' BRO. I DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW IF I HAVE IT OR NOT!"

It's a heavy decision; some people shouldn't take it; some should, nobody can decide that but you. Some people decide to clean up their act without knowing.

CUT TO JOHNNY

"WELL I DO. GOD. WHAT IF I HAVE IT?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

Well it's not necessarily a death sentence. Not everybody who gets infected gets AIDS, AIDS is
"THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT." *Actually the last stage of infection.*

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"WELL... THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY, BUT I REALLY RECOMMEND DOING IT THE WAY WILLIAM ~~DID~~ and I did."

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"WHAT'D YOU DO WILLY?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"I WENT TO AN AIDS ANONYMOUS TEST SITE AND HAD AN AIDS ANTIBODY TEST.
*They just draw blood on a piece of blood and its completely undercover, they don't ask your name
address or no identifying info. They just give you a shot when you return for the results.*
DISSOLVE TO ATS. CAMERA FOLLOWS WILLIAM THROUGH ATS PROCEDURE AS
HE TAKES THE TEST. SHOTS STRESS THE ANONYMITY OF THE PROCESS.

WILLIAM (VO)

"THE FIRST THING THEY DO IS TRY TO PUT YOU AT EASE. I GUESS IT
WORKED FOR ME 'CAUSE I WAS SO NERVOUS AND TENSE I ALMOST DIDN'T GO IN.
THE COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURES AND MADE CLEAR WHAT THE TEST
WOULD AND WOULD NOT TELL ME. THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE I
FOUND OUT THAT THE TEST DOES NOT TELL YOU IF YOU HAVE AIDS, ONLY
WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE AIDS VIRUS. *Not everybody infected
with the virus actually gets AIDS*
THE TEST ITSELF WAS REAL QUICK AND SIMPLE. THE KILLER WAS WAITING
FOR THE RESULTS."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY (AS WILLIAM EMBRACES HER)

"YEAH, BE SWEET TO ME NOW, CAUSE YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO MAKE UP FOR
THE PAST ~~THREE~~ ^{TWO} WEEKS."

CUT TO

RAY

"IT TAKES ~~THREE~~ ^{TWO} WEEKS BEFORE YOU KNOW?! MAN I'D HAVE TO KNOW
RIGHT THEN!"

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW."

CUT TO

RAY

"WELL, I BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT. MAYBE I SHOULD KNOW... I SURE
KNOW I AIN'T SHARING NO MORE NEEDLES...WITH NOBODY."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"IT'S NOT JUST NEEDLE SHARING RAY. IT'S SAFE SEXUAL PRACTICES TOO.
IF YOU ~~ARE NOT~~ ^{ARE} IN A ONE ON ONE RELATIONSHIP..."

CUT TO

JOHNNY (LAUGHING)

"ALL MY RELATIONSHIPS ARE ONE ON ONE."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN JOHNNY!. IF YOU ARE SEXUALLY INVOLVED WITH
MORE THAN ONE PERSON THEN YOU DEFINITELY AT RISK."

*If you've been abstinent or have been in a one on one relation
ship for more than seven years or if you've both sexual partners have
been tested then you are not considered high risk.*

CUT TO

RAY

"ARE YOU SAYING THAT I SHOULD USE A RUBBER?"

"ESPECIALLY YOU, RAY. ^{BOTH YOUR DRUG & SEXUAL BEHAVIOR} ~~BEING GAY AND AN IV DRUG USER~~ COULD PUT YOU IN DOUBLE JEOPARDY."

CUT TO

RAY (INDIGNANT)

"I ONLY HAVE SEX WITH PEOPLE I KNOW. ^{*They clean and healthy, & take care of themselves. I don't be messin' with no silly farts.}

SHIRLEY

^{Most people who are infected don't have symptoms. So you can't tell by the way they look, besides.}
"YEAH, BUT I BET YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYONE THEY'VE HAD SEX WITH."

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"I GUESS IT AIN'T ^{with} ~~WHAT~~ YOU DO... IT'S ^{with} ~~WHAT~~ YOU DO!"

EVERYONE LAUGHS AT THIS COMMENT.

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"THAT'S ONLY PARTIALLY TRUE. UNSAFE SEX PRACTICES COVER A LOT OF TERRITORY, BUT MY MOTTO IS "IF YOU CAN'T DO IT WITH A CONDOM, DON'T DO IT."

CUT TO

RAY

"MAN, THAT'S PRETTY RADICAL."

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"DAMN, MAN, AIDS IS RADICAL! YOU SHOULD SEE THE CONDITION OF A LOT OF ~~AIDS VICTIMS~~ WHEN THEY DIE. WHY... WHEN I WAS DOING DRUGS..."

^{PWAs}

JOHNNY

"C'MON, CUZ!... DON'T START PREACHIN'! WE KNOW YOU CLEAN....SO LOOK... (LOWERS HIS VOICE AND MOVES CLOSER TO WILLIAM).

SHIRLEY BEGINS TO SET TWO PLACES AT THE TABLE AS WILLIAM AND JOHNNY SPEAK IN LOW VOICES. RAY FIDGETS.

CUT TO

RAY

"SO, MAN, SHIRLEY. THANKS FOR PULLING MY COAT ABOUT THIS AIDS THING."

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"WELL, THERE'S A LOT OF LITERATURE AND INFORMATION OUT THERE, RAY... IF YOU WANT TO KNOW."

CUT TO

RAY

"YEAH, I DO.....I GUESS I REALLY DO."

CUT TO

JOHNNY (IRRITATED)

"C'MON, RAY. LET'S GO. THANKS ANYWAY, WILLIAM. LATER, MAN. (TO SHIRLEY) I'LL SEE YOU LATER BABY. I'D LIKE TO STAY BUT WE'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF."

for dinner

CUT TO

SHIRLEY

"IT'S GOOD SEEING YOU, JOHNNY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A STRANGER."

CUT TO

JOHNNY

"YOU KNOW ME. I'M OUT THERE. ANYWAY, THANKS FOR THE AIDS INFO...VERY INFORMATIVE. (EXITS OUT DOOR). *Put something on my mind*

CUT TO

SHIRLEY (PLAYFULLY)

"WELL, HOW MUCH DID YOU LEND HIM THIS TIME?"

CUT TO

WILLIAM

"NONE. I COULDN'T. I WENT BROKE BUYING THIS THING."

CUT TO CU WILLIAM'S HAND IN HIS POCKET. COMES OUT WITH A JEWELRY CASE WHICH HE OPENS TO REVEAL A RING.

FREEZE FRAME AS FIRST CREDIT ROLL BEGINS. VISUALS FOR CREDIT ROLL ARE STILL SHOTS FROM FILM.

AUDIO: CONTINUATION OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN WILLIAM AND SHIRLEY.

SHIRLEY (SQUEALS)

"OH MY GOD! WILLIAM! OH! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH".

Animation Script.

1

O - 8/98

A One Act Play, "WHA CHU MEAN, AIDS?" - 18

Scene 1 (Curtain opens to sound of gospel choir humming a slow sad song. Soft lighting rises on casket with weeping man and woman ~~stand~~ facing it. They exit)

PREACHER'S VOICE (over light choir humming):
"Here lies Jimmy Lee Floyd, ^{SR.} born Jan 9, 1955 to Amy and Jimmy Lee Floyd, SR. He is survived by his devoted parents and five loving siblings Carl, Joann, Phyllis, ~~and~~ Harold & Jesse.

"I last saw Jimmy back in January of this year down on 3rd St. I said 'wha chu doin' on this ^{corner} ~~neighborhood~~ boy, standing around drinking and carrying on'. He said ~~he~~ ^{celebrating} was his birthday; ~~and~~ he was 31 years old. I said 'Boy seems like it was just yesterday I baptized you. I bet y chu better get off corners like these if you wanna keep on celebrating birthdays, and get yourself BACK into church.' HE SAID, 'Yes sir, Rev. I'mma be in church next Sunday' ~~that~~ was the last time I saw him.

His life snuffed out in its very prime, 31 years old, not by a bullet, not by a knife, he didn't get run over by a car, it wasn't even a drug overdose. We know about all those causes of death. But over the last 9 months of his life he painfully suffered many diseases, all chewing away at his poor body all at the same time because his poor body ~~had~~ ^{all} lost ~~any~~ ability to fight off disease anymore, because his body immune system was shut down by a mean and vicious virus called AIDS. The Lord works in mysterious way. Evil and sinfulness shall not conquer. The Lord destroyed Sodom and Gammorra a long time ago and he's doing it again. On your knees sinners, and repent, and beg the forgiveness of the Lord Thy God.

To your care Lord, we commit the remains of Jimmy Lee Floyd, ^{sr} no more pain-racked sleepless nights, no more misery, May he rest in Peace. Amen."

~~Rehearsal~~ (Choir Director comes center stage, directs each voice section of choir, in sequence. Then in harmony leads them in a gospel song.)

~~Choir acts as pall bearers. Preacher leads out procession,~~

~~followed by parents, casket, remainder of choir and a few friends~~

Voice: "Is AIDS the WRATH of god or is it just another disease that will have to be conquered? In many ways the human body stays healthy much like the choir director directs his choir. (Sound of Heart Beat)

"Everyday the body is invaded by thousands of disease causing germs. The ~~body's~~ immune system is the body's Dept. of Defense, lead by a brave Commander, General T4."

(Common Cold rushes on stage. General T4 sends group to throw it out. Same with the flu, tuberculosis, pneumonia, ⁺CANCER.)

Voice: But the AIDS virus is smarter than other germs. The AIDS virus disguises itself so that it can get close to General T4, and kills the General. With the General dead the immune system is helpless, and the disease germs come in and have a party." (Germs return AND party, attacking lungs, liver, heart, blood, etc. Heart beat slows to a stop. Lights dim. Choir hums. Lights out.)

Scene 2. (Two males, ^{one black, one latin} about 30 years old enter. They just left the funeral.)

~~First More~~
T-More: I'm gonna miss ol Jimmy Lee, man."

Chui:
~~Flakey~~: Yehh, he was a good dude, man, but how did he die from AIDS man, was he sneaking down on Castro St?

T-More: I don't know man. You know he just got out the joint a year ago and they be bangin them ~~sissies~~ sissies in there left and right.

Chui:
~~Flakey~~: Yeah, goddamn faggots. That AIDS shit scares the hell outta me, man.

T-More: Shit, I'm tired of all this death talk and cryin and moaning and shit man, lets find Alfredo, man ~~then~~ ^{he} Mexicans got some new shit that's sposed to be a killer.

Chui:
~~Flakey~~: There he goes, Alfredo,
(the three go off to apartment. T-More's woman is there. Music going. They start cooking up drugs, get out works. Knock on Door. They scurry to clean up. T-More peeks thru peephole.)

T-More: "That's just Don. (Everyone relaxes, resumes)"

Don: Hey, ~~whats~~ happenin T-More. Hey ~~Flakey~~ ^{Chui}, Fredo. Hey MAMA, you lookin better every time i see you. Tmore better treat you right, cause if he slip up you gonna be mine.

T-More: Man don't be puttin that shit in that womans hand,

I can't tell her shit now.

Alfredo: You still workin at the drug program man.

Don: Yeah man. Longest I ever had a gig in my life.

T-More: You ~~shut~~ sure lookin good man. I'mma get my shit together soon man.

Don: You say that everytime I see you T more, when is soon. Don't wait till you dead man, we don't take no stiffs.

Chui Alfredo: Hey, don't start talkin about stiffs man, we just left Jimmy Lee's funeral man, what a drag.

T-More: Hey Chui quit ruinin your mouth man and fix the shit, man. Get the works, Penny.

Penny: I don't know where they're at.

T-More: You a goddamn lie, you put them away yesterday.

Penny: Well you'all don't never think about nobody but yourselves, all I get is a wet-cotton, Maybe!

T-More: O.K., O.K. we'll give you a hit, now where's the outfit?

(Penny goes to get outfit. Returns)

Don: Hold it y'all. You just got done talkin about Jimmy Lee dyin of AIDS and you gettin ready to fix on the same works.

Chui Aint no queers up in here, ^{now} we aint gettin no AIDS. ~~What~~ WAA CHU MEAN, AIDS.

Don: Jimmy hee wasint ~~no~~ ~~gay~~ gay. You dont have to be gay to get AIDS. All you have to do is keep sharing the same works and not clean-
ing them Right and they gonna be sayin
Here lies Chui, he...

Chui Hey Dont do that man, dont say that. I dont play around like that.

T More Well what we spose to do now? Everybody walk around with their own set of designer works so they can get busted and go back to the joint for parole violation?

Don: Well, it depends on how badly you want to stay alive Bro. Your best move is to get that
Corilla off your back and ^{dirty} needles wont be an issue.
~~thats~~ ^{thats} Plan A. But Chicken George ^{also} always have Plan B, so
~~But~~ until then I wouldnt be a bad idea at
all for everybody to have their own works, dont
let nobody use them and, dont ^{for gods sake} use nobody
elses. ~~thats~~ ~~plan B~~ But I'll go one better than
Chicken George, I'll give you Plan C, if you
just got to use some works somebody else used,
sterilize them.

Penny: I'll get the alcohol.

Don: Naw Penny, bring some bleach.

All: Bleach?

Penny: You mean like regular Clorox.

Don: Clorox, Purex any kind of Bleach. Bleach kills that mean ass AIDS virus. And bring a glass of water.

(Penny Returns)

You take the works apart first and swish ^{all 3 parts} ~~them~~ around in ~~half~~ clorox & ~~half~~ water. Then put them back together and draw up the clorox into the syringe and shoot it back out. Draw it up again and shoot it out again. Then draw up the water into the syringe, shoot it out, draw it up again and shoot it out. That's 2 draws of bleach, then 2 draws of water.

Chui: You guarantee we won't get AIDS Don if we do it that way?

Don: The only guarantee Chui is to square up and cut these drugs loose. I'm just tryin to improve your odds.

T-More: You know needles aint that easy to come by. If they ever find a cure for sugar diabetes, we won't be able to get needles nowhere.

Don: Well this is illegal man, but it aint as bad as death. I just happen to have a couple ~~sets~~ ^{new} needles.

Chui: Here's my last dollar man, that's all I got.

Don: I don't need you money man. I'll give it to you on one condition. Just give me your word that you will keep it ~~y~~ for you and you only. And if you do let somebody else use it that you clean it with bleach and water first, and especially again if you're going to use it after somebody else.

T-More: You got my word Bro. (Don gives him one)

Chui: Me too man.

Alfredo: Me too Don

Don: Alfredo, man, you dealing. You should be supplying your customers with new works so your market won't dry up on you.

Alfredo: I know man. I personally know more and more dopers comin down with AIDS man.

Don: (On his way out) That's right y'all. When you look at all AIDS cases in the United States one out of every four is Black + Latino and most of them are dopers. It could be one of you four.

T-More: Must be Alfredo.

Alfredo: Bullshit, you ~~mean~~ Chui, know Chui Aint been lookin too cool lately man.

Chui: Hey man I told y'all I don't like to play like that. This AIDS shit is scarin the hell outta me man. I'm usin my new ~~shit~~ outfit and don't y'all even think about askin me for my works no more. (Scene closes)

(Everybody is gettin high in very low light, slow motion. Marvin Gaye's ~~Whats~~ ~~Goin~~ ~~On~~ in background. Everyone exits, one at a time, slow motion, leaving T-More and Penny. T-More + Penny start to slow dance, grind, kiss. T-More starts toward bedroom taking Penny by the hand. Penny stops, jerks hand away, music stops, lights up suddenly.)

Penny: No T More, I'm scared.

T-More: What CHU MEAN SCARED? WHATS wrong Baby?

Penny: T-More, I WAS watchin a television program and they SAID that AIDS virus could be passed on through sex

T-More: Shit I Aint got no goddamn AIDS virus. Look AT me. I look like I got AIDS?

Penny: You dont have to have AIDS to be carrying the virus T-more. You could be lookin perfectly healthy, no symptoms and be carryin it T-More. And passin it on to Chui, or Alfredo or even me. You know we always been sharing outfits for years Baby.

T-More: MAN I'd die if I knew I gave AIDS to one of my partners. And I'd kill one of them motherfuckers if I found out they gave it to me. Shit.

Aw that goddamn Don got us so panicky. We been O.K. all this time, Aint nothin wrong with

us. Come on Baby. (Seductively) I got a big surprise for you.

Penny: Honey Please. How about wearin a rubber. ^(She pulls one from breast)

T-More: Now I know you gone crazy. Penny I ain't never used no rubber. I can't keep no hard on with no rubber. A woman can't tell the difference if a man got on a rubber or not, shit, you just lay up there and enjoy it. But a real man can't fuck with no rubber. That's white boys shit. You ain't thinkin about my benefit, you just thinking about yourself.

Penny: No T-More. I ain't just thinking about myself, remember I'm pregnant T-More. How would you feel if you gave your own baby AIDS, T-More. How would you feel? (crying) (They hug)

T-More: I'm goin down to that place to get that AIDS test tomorrow Baby. I'm scared about the thought ~~that~~ I might have ^{the} AIDS virus, but that's not as bad as not knowing. I'd rather know I have the virus than not know at all and be wondering about it every day, every time I get ~~it~~ ^{high}, every time we have sex. (They walk together toward the bedroom)

Where's that rubber Baby. I still got a big surprise for you.

11
(Penny and 2 women walking down street)

1st Woman: Honey what did he say when you pulled ~~out~~ that Trojan.

Penny: Chile, he pitched a bitch, just like I knew he would.

2nd Woman: What can do then Penny?

Penny: Honey, I ^{just} told him no rubber - no nookie.
(All laugh)

2nd Woman: Girl, if I said something to Sam about a rubber, don't chu know I'd never hear the last of it? But I been thinking about it though not just because of AIDS, herpes and V.D, as if that aint enough but I am too old to be shinkin bout gettin pregnant. And I'm tired of all them contraceptions; I done tried them all. I wanna tell Sam: "Why don't you take over the contraceptive department for a while, shit, I'm tired".

1st Woman: Well why don't you tell him.

2nd Woman: Cause I likes the shape of my face; It don't need no massive re-arrangement.

Penny: Naw, honey, let me tell you somethin. I've gotten so good that I gets T-More so hot that he don't even know I've slipped it on that big ol thing. He be sweatin + gruntin and don't know what's happenin - And couldn't care less. (All laugh -) ~~out~~

1ST Woman: Speak of the Devil, here come that good lookin
Don now. Chile I been wantin some of that
since high school.

Penny: Hush crazy.
(To Don) Hi. Don. ~~Now~~

Don: Hey Gorgeous. Who y'all plottin on?

Penny: You know I ~~went~~ got a chance to tell you the other
day that I really appreciated you pullin our coats.

Don: Oh thats nuthin Penny. You know I was right up
there shootin up with y'all not long ago. And when
I found out that just like here on the West Coast,
most people with AIDS are gays, on the East
Coast, most people with AIDS are drug addicts and
it can spread to the West Coast if we don't get
smart.

1ST Woman: Well how come more people don't know about
this AIDS thing Don.

Don: Because a lot of the people who shape opinion in
our community don't see AIDS as a real threat to
the ~~whole black~~ community. They really don't know ^{what} ~~what's~~
happnin. They think its a white gay disease and ^{meanwhile} ~~their~~
sons and daughters are droppin all around them.

Penny: But them so-called ~~black~~ leaders think drug addicts
and gays are the scum of the earth.

Don: Yeah, but who do you think are the mothers and

Fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles,
 neices, nephews and cousins of them dopers and
 gays - them same Black leaders, You think their
 kids are all straight + square? We ARE you - You
 ARE us. One big ~~black~~ Family. Who can say they don't
 have any dopers or gays in their family? Are you
~~sure~~ sure? Won't you please help the fight AGAINST
 AIDS. Help spread the word about ~~unclean~~ needles.
 Help spread the word about unsafe sex
 Help spread the word about unclean needles
 Help spread the word about unsafe sex.

1st Actor in Audience: I'm Rev Howard Gloyd, of Bethel AME Church,
 I'll help spread the word about ~~unclean~~ needles.
 I'll help spread the word about unsafe sex
 (Repeats as he moves toward stage)

2nd Actor in Audience: I'm Supervisor Doris Ward etc.



All: Close with rousing gospel or other moving upbeat message music

A ONE ACT PLAY
"WHA CHU MEAN, AIDS?"
BY SALA UDIN

Scene 1: *CURTAIN OPENS TO SOUND OF GOSPEL CHOIR HUMMING A SLOW, SAD SONG. SOFT LIGHTING RISES ON CASKET WITH WEEPING MAN AND WOMAN FACING IT. THEY EXIT SLOWLY, WEEPING.*

PREACHER'S VOICE (OVER LIGHT CHOIR HUMMING):

Here lies Jimmy Lee Floyd Jr., born Jan'yary 9, 1955 to Amy and Jimmy Lee Floyd Sr. He is survived by his devoted parents and five loving siblings, Carl, Joann, Phyliss, Harold and Jesse.

(Revving up) I last saw Jimmy back in Jan'yary of this year, down on Third St. I said, "Wha chu doin' on this corner boy, standin round drinkin and carryin on?" He said he was celebrating his birthday; he was 31 years old. I said, "Boy, seems like it was just yestiddy I baptized you. I bet chu betta get off corners like these if you wanna keep on celebratin birthdays, and get yourself back into church." He said, " Yes sir Reverend. I'mma be back in church next Sunday." That was the last time I saw him.

His life snuffed out in its very prime, 31 years old. Not by a bullet, not by a knife. He didn't get run over by no car. It wasn't even a drug overdose. We know bout all them causes of death. But over the last nine months of his life, Jimmy Lee Floyd Jr. endured many painful diseases, all

chewin away at his body, all at the same time because his poor body had lost all ability to fight off disease anymore.

Stay wit me church. You see, his body's immune system was shut down, by a mean and vicious germ called the AIDS VIRUS. (*voice lowers*) You know the Lord works in mysterious ways. Evil and sinfulness shall not conquer, The Lord destroyed Sodom and Gamora a long time ago and He's doing it again, have mercy. (*commands*) On your knees sinners and repent, and beg the forgiveness of the Lord Thy God.

To your care Lord, we commit the remains of Jimmy Lee Floyd Jr., no more pain-racked sleepless nights; no more misery. May he rest in peace. Amen. (*Exits or retires to seat, side stage*)

CHOIR DIRECTOR COMES CENTER STAGE, WARMS UP EACH VOICE SECTION OF CHOIR, IN SEQUENCE. THEN IN HARMONY, LEADS THEM IN THE SINGING OF THE OPENING HUMMED GOSPEL "PRECIOUS LORD".

VOICE (OFF STAGE): Is AIDS the wrath of God? Or is it just another disease to be conquered? In many ways the human body stays healthy in much the same way the choir director directs his choir (*SOUND OF HEART BEAT - AUDIENCE IS INSIDE THE HUMAN BODY*)

VOICE : Every day the body is invaded by thousands of disease causing

germs. The immune system is the body's Department of Defense, lead by a brave commander, General T4.

*BODY ORGANS TAKE POSITIONS ON STAGE, SIMILAR TO LOCATION IN BODY;
HEART, LIVER, KIDNEYS, LUNGS, BRAIN.*

*COMMON COLD RUSHES ON STAGE. GENERAL T4 SENDS A CHOIR SECTION TO
THROW IT OUT. SAME WITH FLU, T.B., PNEUMONIA AND CANCER.*

VOICE (continues): But the AIDS virus is smarter than other viruses and germs. (*MAN IN RED TIGHTSUIT WITH SHADES, SLINKS ON STAGE*). The AIDS virus disguises itself so that it can get close to General T4, and kills the General. (*AIDS VIRUS KILLS THE GENERAL*) With the General dead, the immune system is helpless, and the disease germs come in and have a party.

*GERMS RETURN AND PARTY(TO SAM COOK'S "WE'RE HAVING A PARTY")
ATTACKING LUNGS, LIVER HEART, BRAIN, ETC. HEART BEAT SOUND SLOWS
TO A STOP. LIGHTS DIM. CHOIR HUMS "PRECIOUS LORD". LIGHTS OUT.*

SCENE 2. TWO MALES, ONE BLACK, ONE LATIN, ABOUT 30 YRS. OLD ENTER.
THEY JUST LEFT THE FUNERAL

T-MORE: I'm gonna miss ol Jimmy Lee, man.

CHUI : Yeah, he was a good dude, man. But how did he die of AIDS man?

Was he sneakin down on Castro Street,man?

T-MORE: I don't know man. You know he just got outta the joint a year ago and you know how they be bangin them sissies in there left and right.

CHUI: Yeah. Them goddamn faggots. That AIDS shit scares the hell outta me man.

T-MORE: Shit, I'm tired of all this death talk and crying and moanin and shit man, let's go get high, man. Let's find Alfredo, man, he got some new shit that's sposed to be a killer.

CHUI: There he goes, " Alfredo".

*SCENE 3. THE THREE GO OFF TO APARTMENT, T-MORE'S WOMAN IS THERE.
MUSIC GOING. THEY START COOKING UP DRUGS, GET OUT WORKS. KNOCK ON
DOOR. THEY SCURRY TO CLEAN UP. T-MORE PEEKS THRU PEEP HOLE.*

T-MORE: That's just Don. *(EVERYONE RELAXES. RESUMES)*

DON: Hey, what's happnin T-More. Hey Chui, Fredo. Hey Mama, you lookin better every time I see you. T-More better treat you right, cause if he slip up you gonna be mine.*(ALL LAUGH)*

T-MORE: Man don't be puttin that shit in that woman's head. I can't tell her shit now.

ALFREDO: You still workin at the drug program, man?

DON: Yeah, man. Longest gig I ever had in my life.

T-MORE: You sure lookin good,man. I'mma get my shit together soon man.

DON: You say that everytime I see you T-More, when is soon? Don't wait till you dead, man. We don't take no stiffs.

CHUI: Hey, don't start talkin bout stiffs man, we just left Jimmy Lee's funeral man, what a drag.

T-MORE: Hey Chui, quit runnin your mouth man, and fix the shit. Get the works Penny.

PENNY: I don't know where they're at.

T-MORE: You a goddamn lie, you put them away yesterday.

PENNY: Well y'all don't never think about nobody but yourselves, all I ever get is a wet cotton, Maybe!

T-MORE: O.K., O.K., we'll give you a hit, now where's the outfit?

PENNY GOES TO GET OUTFIT. RETURNS.

DON: Hold it y'all. You just got done talkin about Jimmy Lee dying

of AIDS and y'all gettin ready to fix on the same works?

CHUI: Ain't no queers up in here, man. Wha chu mean, AIDS?

DON: Jimmy Lee wasn't gay. You don't have to be gay to get AIDS.
All you have to do is keep sharing the same works and not
cleaning them right and they gonna be sayin here lies Chui,
he was....

CHUI: Hey, don't do that man, don't say that. I don't play around
like that.

T-MORE: Well what we spose to do man? Everybody walk around with
their own set of designer works so they can get busted and
go back to the joint for parole violation?

DON: Well, it depends on how badly you want to stay alive, Bro.
Your best move is to get that gorilla off your back and then
dirty needles won't be an issue. That's Plan A. But Chicken
George said always have a Plan B, so until then, it wouldn't
be a bad idea at all for everybody to have their own works, and
don't let nobody use them. And, for God's sake, don't use nobody
else's. But I'll even go you one better than Chicken George; I'll
give you Plan C - if you just got to use some works somebody
else used, sterilize them.

PENNY: I'll get the alcohol.

DON: Naw, Penny. Bring some bleach.

ALL: Bleach?

PENNY: You mean like regular Clorox?

DON: Clorox, Purex, any kind of bleach. Bleach kills that AIDS virus, and bring a glass of water. (*PENNY RETURNS*) You take the works apart first and just swish all 3 parts around in the glass of Clorox. Then put them back together and draw up the clorox into the syringe and shoot it back out. Draw it up again and shoot it out again. Then draw up the water into the syringe, shoot it out, draw it up again and shoot it out again. That's two draws of bleach, then two draws of water.

CHUI: You guarantee we won't get AIDS Don if we do it that way?

DON: The only guarantee, Chui, is to square up and cut these drugs loose. Until then, all I can do is just try to improve your odds.

T-MORE: You know, needles ain't that east to come by. If they ever find a cure for sugar diabetes, we won't be able to get needles nowhere.

DON: Well...this is illegal, man, but it ain't as bad as death. I just happen to have a couple new needles.

CHUI: Here's my last dollar, man. That's all I got.

DON: I don't need your money man. I'll give it to you; on one condition. Just give me your word that you will keep it for you and you only. And if you do let somebody else use it, that you clean it with bleach and water first, and especially again if you're going to use it after somebody else.

T-MORE: You got my word, Bro. (*DON GIVES HIM ONE*)

CHUI: Me too man.

ALFREDO: Me too, Don.

DON: Fredo, man, you dealin. You should be supplying your customers with new works, so your market won't dry up on you.

ALFREDO: I know man. I personally know more and more dopers comin down with AIDS, man.

DON: (*ON HIS WAY OUT*) That's right y'all. When you look at all AIDS cases in the United States, on out of every four is Black and

Latino, and most of them are dopers. (*WITH A SLY SMILE*) It could be one of you four.

T-MORE: Must be Alfredo.

ALFREDO: Bullshit, you know Chui ain't been lookin too cool lately, man.

CHUI: Hey man, I told y'all I don't like to play like that. This AIDS shit is scarin the hell outta me, man. I'm usin my new works and don't y'all even think about askin me for my outfit no more.

SCENE CLOSES

EVERYBODY IS GETTIN HIGH IN VERY LOW LIGHT, SLOW MOTION, MARVIN GAYE'S "WHAT'S GOIN ON?" IN THE BACKGROUND. EVERYONE EXITS, ONE AT A TIME, SLOW MOTION, LEAVING T-MORE AND PENNY. T-MORE AND PENNY START TO SLOW DANCE, GRIND, KISS. T-MORE STARTS TOWARD BEDROOM, TAKING PENNY BY THE HAND. PENNY STOPS, JERKS HAND AWAY, MUSIC STOPS, LIGHTS UP SUDDENLY.

PENNY: No T-More, I'm scared.

T-MORE: Wha chu mean, scared? What's wrong ,Baby?

PENNY: T-More, I was watchin a T.V. program and they said that AIDS could be passed on through sex.

T-MORE: SHIT! I ain't got no goddamn AIDS virus. Look at me. I look like I got AIDS?

PENNY: You don't have to have AIDS to be carrying the virus, T-More. You could be looking perfectly healthy, no symptoms, and be carrying it T-More. And passin it on to Chui, or Alfredo or even me. You know we been sharing outfits for years, Baby.

T-MORE: Man I'd die if I knew I gave AIDS to on of my partners. And I'd kill one of them motherfuckers if I found out they gave it to me. Shit. Aw, that goddamn Don got us so panicky. We been O.K. all this time, ain't nothin wrong with us. Come on, Baby.
(*SEDUCTIVELY*) I got a BIG surprise for you, Baby.

PENNY: Honey, please. How about wearing a rubber. (*SHE PULLS ONE*

FROM BREAST)

T-MORE: Now I know you gone crazy. Penny I ain't never used no rubber. I can't keep no hard on with no rubber. A women can't tell the difference, if a man got on a rubber or not, shit, you just lay up there and enjoy it. But a real man can't fuck with no rubber. That's white boy's shit. You ain't thinkin about my benefit, you just thinkin about yourself.

PENNY: No, T-More, I ain't thinking about myself. Remember, I'm pregnant, T-More. How would you feel if you gave your own baby AIDS, T-MORE? How would you feel? (*CRYING. THEY HUG*)

T-MORE: I'm goin down to that place to get that AIDS test tomorrow, Baby. I'm scared about the thought I might have the AIDS virus but that's not as bad as not knowing. I'd rather know I have the virus than not know at all and be wondering about it every day, everytime I get High, everytime we have sex. (*THEY WALK TOGETHER TOWARD THE BEDROOM*) Where's that rubber, Baby. I still got a big surprise for you.

SCENE 4. PENNY AND TWO WOMEN WALKING DOWN THE STREET

SHIRLEY: Honey, what did he say when you pulled out that Trojan?

PENNY: Chile, he pitched a bitch, just like I new he would.

TRISH: Wha chu do then, Penny?

PENNY: Honey, I just told him, " No rubber - no nookie.(ALL LAUGH)

TRISH: Girl, if I said something to Sam about a rubber, don't chu know I'd never hear the last of it? But I been thinking about it though; not just because of AIDS, Herpes, and VD, as if that ain't enough But I'm too old to be thinking bout gettin pregnant, and I'm tired of all them contraceptives. I done tried 'em all. I wanna tell Sam, "Why don't you take over the contraceptive department for a while, shit I'm tired."

SHIRLEY: Well why don't you tell him?

TRISH: Cause I likes the shape of my face just the way it is; it don't

need no massive re-arrangement.

PENNY: Naw, honey, let me tell you something. I've gotten so good that I gets T-More so hot that he don't even know I've slipped it on that big ol' thing. He be sweatin and gruntin and don't know what's happnin - and couldn't care less. (*ALL LAUGH*)

SHIRLEY: Speak of the devil, here come that good lookin Don now. Chile I been wantin some of that since high school.

PENNY: Hush, crazy. (*TO DON*) Hi, Don.

DON: Hey, gorgeous. Who y'all plottin on?

PENNY: You know I never got a chance to tell you the other day that I really appreciated you pullin our coats.

DON: Oh, that's nothing, Penny. You know I was right up there shootin up with y'all not long ago. But I found out how many druggies are coming down with AIDS, especially on the East Coast, so I'm pulling everybody's coats.

SHIRLEY: Well how come more people don't know about this AIDS thing
Don?

DON: Because a lot of the people who shape opinion in our community
don't see AIDS as a real threat to the community. They really
don't know what's happnin. They still think it's a white, gay
disease, and meanwhile, their sons and daughters are dropping
all around them.

PENNY: But them so-called leaders think drug addicts and gays are
the scum of the earth anyway.

DON: Yeah, but who do you think are the mothers and fathers,
sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, neices, nephews and
cousins of them junkies and gays - them same Black and Latin
leaders. You think their kids are all straight and square?(*TO*
AUDIENCE)

We are you - you are us. One big family. Who can say they don't
have any dopers or gays in their family? Are you sure? Won't
you please help the fight against AIDS.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT UNCLEAR NEEDLES

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT UNSAFE SEX

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT UNCLEAR NEEDLES

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT UNSAFE SEX

1ST ACTOR IN AUDIENCE: I'M REV. HOWARD GLOYD, OF BETHEL AME
CHURCH

I'LL HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT UNCLEAR

I'LL HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT UNSAFE SEX.

(REPEATS AS HE MOVES TOWARD STAGE)

2ND ACTOR IN AUDIENCE: I'M SUPERVISOR DORIS WARD...ETC.

ALL: CLOSE WITH "AIN'T NO STOPPIN US NOW"

(July 1986)

A One Act Play, "Wha Chu Mean, AIDS?"

Scene 1 CURTAIN OPENS TO SOUND OF GOSPEL CHOIR HUMMING A SLOW SAD SONG. SOFT LIGHTING RISES ON CASKET WITH WEeping MAN AND WOMEN FACING IT. THEY EXIT.

Preacher's voice (over light choir humming):

Here lies Jimmy Lee Floyd, Jr., born January 9, 1955 to Amy and Jimmy Lee Floyd, Sr. He is survived by his devoted parents and five loving siblings Carl, Joann, Phyliss, Harold & Jesse

I last saw Jimmy back in January of this year down on 3rd St. I said 'what chu doin' on this corner boy, standing around drinking and carrying on. He said he was celebrating his birthday; he was 31 years old. I said 'Boy seems like it was just yesterday I baptized you. I bet chu better get off corners like these if you wanna keep on celebrating birthdays, and get yourself back into church.' He said, "Yes sir, Rev. Imma be in church next Sunday" "That was the last time I saw him.

His life snuffed out in its very prime, 31 years old, not by a bullet, not by a knife, he didn't get run over by a car, it wasn't even a drug overdose. We know about all those causes of death. But over the last 9 months of his life he painfully suffered many diseases, all chewing away at his poor body all at the same time because his poor body had lost all ability to fight off disease anymore, because his body immune system was shut down by a mean and vicious virus called AIDS. The Lord works in mysterious ways. Evil and sinfullness shall not conquer. The Lord destroyed Sodom and Gamora a long time ago and he's doing it again. On your knees sinners and repent, and beg the forgiveness of the Lord Thy God.

To your care Lord, we commit the remains of Jimmy Lee Floyd, Jr., no more pain-racked sleepless nights, no more misery, May he rest in Peace. Amen.

CHOIR DIRECTOR COMES CENTER STAGE, DIRECTS EACH VOICE SECTION OF CHOIR, IN SEQUENCE. THEN IN HARMONY LEADS THEM IN A GOSPEL SONG.

Voice: Is AIDS the wrath of God or is it just another disease that will have to be conquered? In many ways the human body stays healthy much like the choir director directs his choir. (Sound of Heart Beat)

Everyday the body is invaded by thousands of disease causing germs. The immune systems is the body's Dept. of Defense, lead by a brave commander, General T4.

COMMON COLD RUSHES ON STAGE. GENERAL T4 SENDS GROUP TO THROW IT OUT. SAME WITH THE FLU, TUBERCULOSIS, PNEUMONIA AND CANCER.

Voice: But the AIDS virus is smarter than other germs. The AIDS virus disguises itself so that it can get close to General T4, and kills the General. With the General dead the immune system is helpless, and the disease germs come in and have a party.

GERMS RETURN AND PARTY, ATTACKING LUNGS, LIVER, HEART, BLOOD, ETC. HEART BEAT SLOWS TO A STOP. LIGHTS DIM. CHOIR HUMS. LIGHTS OUT.

Scene 2 TWO MALES, ONE BLACK, ONE LATIN, ABOUT 30 YEARS OLD ENTER. THEY JUST LEFT THE FUNERAL.

T-More: I'm gonna miss ol Jimmy Lee, man.

* Chui: Yeah, he was a good dude, man, but how did he die of AIDS man, was he sneaking down on Castro St.?

* T-More: I don't know man. You know he just got out the joint a year ago and they be bangin them sissies in there left and right.

Chui: Yeah, goddam faggots. That AIDS shit scares the hell outta me, man.

T-More: Shit, I'm tired of all this death talk and crying and moaning and shit man, let's find Alfredo, man he got some new shit thats sposed to be a killer.

Chui: There he goes, Alfredo,

THE THREE GO OFF TO APARTMENT. T-MORE'S WOMAN IS THERE. MUSIC GOING. THEY START COOKING UP DRUGS, GET OUT WORKS. KNOCK ON DOOR. THEY SCURRY TO CLEAN UP. T-MORE PEEKS THRU PEEP HOLE.

T-More: That's just Don. (everyone relaxes, resumes)

Don: Hey, whats happnin T-More. Hey Chui, Fredo. Hey mama, you looking better every time I see you. T-more better treat you right, cause if he slip up you gonna be mine.

T-More: Man don't be puttin that shit in that womans head, I can't tell her shit now.

Alfredo: You still workin at the drug program man.

Don: Yeah man. Longest I ever had a gig in my life.

T-More: You sure looking good man. I'mma get my shit together soon man.

Don: You say that everytime I see you T-More, when is soon. Don't wait till you dead man, we don't take no stiff.

Chui: Hey, don't start talkin about stiff man, we just left Jimmy Lee's funeral man, what a drag.

T-More: Hey Chui quit runnin you mouth man, and fix the shit, man. Get the works Penny.

Penny: I don't know where they're at.

T-More: You a goddamn lie, you put them away yesterday.

Penny: Well you'all don't never think about nobody but yourselves, all I get is a wet-cotton, Maybe!

T-More: O.K., O.K., we'll give you a hit, now where's the outfit?

PENNY GOES TO GET OUTFIT. RETURNS

Don: Hold it y'all. You just got done talkin about Jimmy Lee dying of AIDS and y'all gettin ready to fix on the same works.

Chui: Ain't no queers up in here, man. Wha chu mean, AIDS.

Don: Jimmy Lee wasn't gay. You don't have to be gay to get AIDS. All you have to do is keep sharing the same works and not cleaning them right and they gonna be saying here lies Chui, he...

Chui: Hey, don't do that man, don't say that. I don't play around like that.

T-More: Well what we spose to do man? Everybody walk around with their own set of designer works so they can get busted and go back to the joint for parole violation?

Don: Well, it depends on how badly you want to stay alive Bro. Your best move is to get that gorilla off your back and dirty needles wont be an issue. That's plan A. But Chicken George said always have plan B, so until then It wouldn't be a bad idea at all for everybody to have their own works, don't let nobody use them and for Gods sake don't use nobody else's. But I'll go one better than Chicken George, I'll give you Plan C, if you just got to use some works somebody else used, sterilize them.

Penny: I'll get the alcohol.

Don: Naw Penny, bring some bleach.

All: Bleach?

Penny: You mean like regular clorox.

Don: Clorox, Purex any kind of Bleach. Bleach kills that mean ass AIDS virus, and bring a glass of water. (Penny returns) You take the works apart first and swish all 3 parts around in clorox. Then put them back together and draw up the clorox into the syringe and shoot it back out. Draw it up again and shoot it out again. Then draw up the water into the syringe, shoot it out, draw it up again and shoot it out. That's 2 draws of bleach, then 2 draws of water.

Chui: You guarantee we won't get AIDS Don if we do it that way?

Don: The only guarantee Chui is to square up and cut these drugs loose. I'm just trying to improve your odds.

T-More: You know needles ain't that easy to come by. If they ever find a cure for sugar diabetes, we won't be able to get needles nowhere.

Don: Well this is illegal man, but it ain't as bad as death. I just happen to have a couple new needles.

Chui: Here's my last dollar man, that's all I got.

Don: I don't need your money man. I'll give it to you on one condition. Just give me your word that you will keep it for you and you only. And if you do let somebody else use it, that you clean it with bleach and water first, and especially again if your goin to use it after somebody else.

T-More: You got my word Bro. (Don gives him one)

Chui: Me too man.

Alfredo: Me too Don.

Don: Fredo, man, you dealing. You should be supplying your customers with new works so your market won't dry up on you.

Alfredo: I know man. I personally know more and more dopers comin down with AIDS man.

* Don: (On his way out) That's right y'all. When you look at all the AIDS cases in the United States, one out of every four is Black & Latino and most of them are dopers. It could be one of you four.

T-More: Must be Alfredo.

Alfredo: Bullshit, you know Chui ain't been lookin to cool lately man.

Chui: Hey man I told y'all I don't like to play like that, this AIDS shit is scarin the hell outta me man. I'm usin my new outfit and don't y'all even think about askin me for my works no more. (scene closes)

EVERYBODY IS GETTIN HIGH IN VERY LOW LIGHT, SLOW MOTION, MARVIN GAYE'S WHATS GOIN ON IN BACKGROUND. EVERYONE EXITS, ONE AT A TIME, SLOW MOTION, LEAVING T-MORE AND PENNY. T-MORE & PENNY START TO SLOW DANCE, GRIND, KISS. T-MORE STARTS TOWARD BEDROOM TAKING PENNY BY THE HAND. PENNY STOPS, JERKS HAND AWAY, MUSIC STOPS, LIGHTS UP SUDDENLY.

Penny: No T-More, I'm scared.

T-More: What chu mean scared? Whats wrong Baby?

Penny: T-More, I was watchin a television program and they said that AIDS virus could be passed on through sex.

T-More: Shit, I ain't got no goddamn AIDS virus. Look at me. I look like I got AIDS?

Penny: You don't have to have AIDS to be carrying the virus T-More. You could be lookin perfectly healthy, no symptoms and be carryin it T-More. And passin it on to Chui, or Alfredo or even me. You know we been sharing outfits for years Baby.

T-More: Man I'd die if I knew I gave AIDS to one of my partners. And I'd kill one of them motherfuckers if I found out they gave it to me. Shit. Aw that goddam Don got us so paniky. We been O.K. all this time, ain't nothin wrong with us. come on Baby. (seductively) I got a big suprise for you.

Penny: Honey Please. How about wearin a rubber. (she pulls one from breast)

T-More: Now I know you gone crazy. Penny I ain't never used no rubber. I can't keep no hard on with no rubber. A women can't tell the difference if a man got on a rubber or not, shit, you just lay up there and enjoy it. But a real man can't fuck with no rubber. That's white boys shit. You ain't thinkin about my benefit, you just thinking about yourself.

Penny: No T-More. I ain't just thinking about myself, remember I'm pregnant T-More. How would you feel if you gave your own baby AIDS. T-More. How would you feel? (crying) (they hug)

T-More: I'm goin down to that place to get that AIDS test tommorrow Baby. I'm scared about the thought I might have the AIDS virus, but that's not as bad as not knowing. I'd rather know I have the virus than not know at all and be wondering about it everyday, everytime I get high, everytime we have sex. (They walk together toward the bedroom). Where's that rubber baby. I still got a big surprise for you.

PENNY AND 2 WOMEN WALKING DOWN STREET

1st Women: Honey what did he say when you pulled out that Trojan.

Penny: Chile he pitched a bitch, just like I know he would.

2nd Women: What chu do then Penny?

Penny: Honey, I just told him no rubber - no nookie. (All laugh)

2nd Women: Girl, if I said something to Sam about a rubber, don't chu know I'd never hear the last of it? But I been thinking about it though, not just because of AIDS, Herpes and VD, as if that ain't enough but I am too old to be thinking bout gettin pregnant, and I'm tired of all them contraceptions, I done tried them all. I wanna tell Sam, "Why don't you take over the contraceptive department for a while, Shit, I'm tired".

1st Women: Well why don't you tell him.

2nd Women: Cause I likes the shape of my face; It don't need no massive re-arrangement.

Penny: Naw honey, let me tell you somethin. I've gotten so good that I gets T-More so hot that he don't even know I've slipped it on that big ol thing. He be sweatin & gruntin and don't know whats happnin - and couldn't care less. (All laugh)

1st Women: Speak of the devil, here come that good lookin Don now. Chile I been wantin some of that since high school.

Penny: Hush crazy.
(To Don) Hi Don.

Don: Hey Gorgeous. Who y'all plottin on?

Penny: You know I never got a chance to tell you the other day that I really appreciated you pullin our coats.

Don: Oh thats nothin Penny. You know I was right up there shootin up with y'all not long ago. An when I found out that just like here on the West Coast, most people with AIDS are gays, on the East Coast, most people with AIDS are drug addicts and it can spread to the West Coast if we don't get smart.

1st Women: Well how come more people don't know about this AIDS thing Don.

Don: Because a lot of the people who shape opinion in our community don't see AIDS as a real threat to the community. They really don't know whats happnin. they think its a white gay disease and meanwhile their sons and daughters are droppin all around them.

Penny: But them so-called leaders think drug addicts and gays are the scum of the earth.

Don: Yeah, but who do you think are the mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins of them dopers and gays - them same Black leaders, you think their kids are all straight & square? We are you - you are us. One big family. Who can say they don't have any dopers or gays in . Are you sure? Won't you please help the fight against AIDS.
Help spread the word about unclean needles.
Help spread the word about unsafe sex.
Help spread the word about unclean needles.
Help spread the word about unsafe sex.

1st Actor in Audience: I'm Rev. Howard Gloyd, of Bethel AME Church,
I'll help spread the work about unclean needles.
I'll help spread the word about unsafe sex.
(Repeats as he moves toward stage)

2nd Actor in Audience: I'm Supervisor Doris Ward.....etc.

All: Close with rousing gospel or other moving upbeat message music.