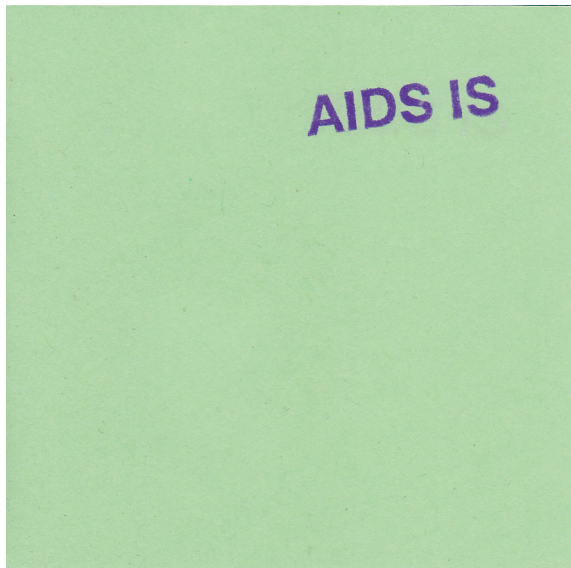


for *DAY WITH(OUT) ART 2012*
VISUAL AIDS presents:

AIDS IS

Using the blank post it below, fill in what AIDS is to you. Share it with friends; use it as a way to start conversations. Does AIDS mean different things to different people? How do we make sense of both the medical meaning of HIV/AIDS and the cultural and social meanings?



UNITED IN ANGER: A HISTORY OF ACT UP

AIDS is a social phenomenon and as such repeatedly enters into the field of representation, always as something else, recombined, with new meaning.

-Gregg Bordowitz

UNITED IN ANGER: A HISTORY OF ACT UP

This Guide Contains:

- Director's Statement by Jim Hubbard
- ACT UP Timeline Highlights
- Thoughts & Questions
- Web Links
- Film Credits
- Suggested Activity: AIDS IS

CREDITS

UNITED IN ANGER: A HISTORY OF ACT UP is a unique feature-length documentary that combines startling archival footage that puts the audience on the ground with the activists and the remarkably insightful interviews from the ACT UP Oral History Project to explore ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) from a grassroots perspective – how a small group of men and women of all races and classes, came together to change the world and save each other's lives. The film takes the viewer through the planning and execution of a dozen exhilarating major actions including Seize Control of the FDA, Stop the Church, and Day of Desperation, with a timeline of many of the other zaps and actions that forced the U.S. government and mainstream media to deal with the AIDS crisis. **UNITED IN ANGER** reveals the group's complex culture – meetings, affinity groups, and approaches to civil disobedience mingle with profound grief, sexiness, and the incredible energy of ACT UP.

Documentary, 93 minutes, HDCAM; DigiBeta
Director: Jim Hubbard, jim@actuporalhistory.com
Producer: Sarah Schulman, Jim Hubbard
Editor: Ali Cotterill, Director of Photography James Wentzy

Distributed for Day With(out) Art 2012 by Visual AIDS
Executive Director: Nelson Santos, nsantos@visualaids.org
Associate Director: Esther McGowan, emcgowan@visualaids.org
Programs Manager: Ted Kerr, tkerr@visualaids.org
Resource Guide Designer: Anna Laytham, annalaytham.com

Visual AIDS utilizes art to fight AIDS by providing dialogue, supporting HIV+ artists, and preserving a legacy because AIDS is not over.

Day With(out) Art began on December 1, 1989 as the national day of action and mourning in response to the AIDS crisis. In 1997 Visual AIDS added the parentheses to (out) to highlight the proactive programming of art project by artists living with HIV/AIDS and art about AIDS that were taking place around the world.



www.visualaids.org



www.unitedinanger.org

THOUGHTS & QUESTIONS

Below are quotes from the film, and related questions to discuss with a group.

“We have to break down the cult of experts in every area of this society. People with AIDS are the experts with this disease.”

-Mark Harrington

**1. In what ways did ACT UP break down the cult of experts?
How did they do it?**

“We thought of the cameras as an extension of ourselves.”

- Catharine Gund

2. How did art, media, and technology played in the success of ACT UP?

“What AIDS revealed is not the problem with the virus. What AIDS revealed are the problems of our society.”

- Zoe Leonard

3. What problems do you think AIDS reveal in our society?

LINKS

Advert (HIV/AIDS info) - advert.org

ACT UP Oral History Project - actuporalhistory.org

ACT UP - www.actup.com, actupny.org

Sero Project - seroproject.com

Visual AIDS - www.visualaids.org

Wisdom in Being - wisdombeingunitedinanger.tumblr.com

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I started making this film 25 years ago, 10 years ago or 3 years ago depending on how you look at it.

I first began filming ACT UP at the Lesbian & Gay Pride March in New York in June 1987. I started filming Gay political events in 1979 in the lead up to the first national march on Washington. In the early 1980s when AIDS first devastated the Gay community, I began thinking about making a film about AIDS, but was stymied because I had no intention of elbowing my way into hospital rooms to show people at their most vulnerable and victimized as the mainstream media were doing. In 1984, my ex-lover, the filmmaker Roger Jacoby, was diagnosed. He wanted to be filmed and during the last year and a half of his life I filmed him and when he died, I inherited his outtakes. Then ACT UP came along with its flamboyantly visual style of politics. Together these two elements formed the backbone of my film “Elegy in the Streets.”

I continued to film ACT UP over the years with my 16mm camera, but the real heroic effort of documenting the AIDS activist movement was carried on by the dozens of AIDS activist videomakers whose work appears in United in Anger. From 1995 to 2000, I worked with the Estate Project for Artists with AIDS to convince many of these videomakers to donate their footage to the New York Public Library’s Division of Manuscripts and Archives. The NYPL’s AIDS Activist Video Collection consists of over 1,000 hours of finished tapes and raw footage. It is an historical resource of immense value and I am exceedingly grateful to the many filmmakers who allowed me to utilize their footage. I bear full responsibility for this film, so if you have complaints direct them to me, but I feel very strongly that the film is the end result of the collective work of dozens of valiant people who videotaped and edited the remarkable body of work that documents the AIDS activist movement.

As I worked on the film I always felt that there was a collective intelligence that shaped it and made it possible.

In June 2001, during the 20th anniversary of AIDS, Sarah Schulman heard a radio broadcast that said in essence that “at first Americans were upset by AIDS, then they got used to it.” We knew we had to do something about this political amnesia that effaced the incredible efforts of thousands of AIDS activists, living and dead. We began the ACT UP Oral History Project. To date, we have videotaped interviews with 128 ACT UPpers and expect to interview at least 100 more before we are finished. James Wentzy who has been documenting ACT UP since 1990 videotaped most of the interviews. Many excerpts from these interviews are in the film and people can download complete transcripts and view more video excerpts (edited by James and me) on the website www.actuporalhistory.org.

I began intensely editing this film about three years ago. I took it as far as I could go, but always knew that for this film to be accessible to an audience that hadn’t been steeped in the AIDS crisis for thirty years, I would have to find a young editor who could make sure that it was intelligible to a wide audience. I was extraordinarily lucky to find Ali Cotterill who worked so incredibly hard on this film and edited it so it became the elegant, smart and comprehensive film that I think it is.

TIMELINE HIGHLIGHTS

1981-1987

Over 40,000 people died of AIDS in the United States. During the crucial first years President Ronald Reagan never said the word “AIDS.”

*March 10, 1987 // **LGBT Center***

Larry Kramer speaks at the New York Lesbian and Gay Center, calling for a new AIDS movement. Two days later, 300 people gather to form ACT UP, The AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power.

*March 24, 1987 // **WALL STREET***

ACT UP's first demonstration target AZT's \$10,000 price tag.

*June 28, 1987 // **LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE MARCH***

ACT UP's float responds to threats of quarantining People with AIDS

*July 21 -24, 1987 // **MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING HOSPITAL***

ACT UP stages a 96-hour picket demanding expanded drug trails.

*January 15, 1988 // **JUST SAY NO TO COSMO***

ACT UP women's caucus responds to a life-threatening article in Cosmopolitan magazine “Why Women Are Not at Risk for AIDS”.

*March 24, 1988 // **WALL STREET***

ACT UP celebrates its first anniversary by returning to Wall Street.

*April 29 – May 7, 1988 // **NATIONAL SPRING AIDS ACTIONS***

Nine days of AIDS activism around the country, each day its own theme.

*October 11, 1988 // **SEIZE CONTROL OF THE FDA***

ACT UP's first national demonstration forces the Food and Drug Administration to approve and release drugs faster.

*March 28, 1989 // **TARGET CITY HALL***

ACT UP demands benefits and housing for People with AIDS.

*June 4, 1989 // **MONTREAL AIDS CONFERENCE***

ACT UP takes over the conference opening, demanding inclusion of People with AIDS

*September 14, 1989 // **SELL WELCOME***

ACT UP protests at the New York Stock Exchange, insisting traders sell their shares of Burroughs Wellcome, the manufacture of AZT. Four days later, Burroughs Wellcome lowers the price of AZT by 20%.

*December 10, 1989 // **ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL***

ACT UP protests Cardinal O'Connor, archbishop of New York, for his condemnation of condoms and his attack on abortion laws.

*APRIL 21-23, 1990 // **NATIONAL AIDS ACTION FOR HEALTHCARE***

ACT UP / New York joins activists from around the country in Chicago to “Cure the Healthcare System”.

*May 21, 1990 // **STORM THE NIH***

ACT UP protest to demand inclusiveness in AIDS Clinical Trial Groups (ACTG) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

*March 1989 // **CHANGING THE DEFINITION***

ACT UP starts a 4-year campaign against the Center for Disease Control to change the definition of AIDS to include women and IV drug users.

*October 11, 1992 // **THE ASHES ACTION***

March spreads ashes of loved ones on the White House Lawn

*April 25, 1995 // **THE CITY IS OURS***

As part of a broad coalition protesting massive cuts of city services, ACT UP blocks the Midtown Tunnel.

*1996 // **HAART (Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy)***

Anti-retrovirals becomes available, revolutionizing treatment, and extending the lives People with AIDS who have access to healthcare and medication.

*MARCH 29, 2007 // **20th ANNIVERSARY***

ACT UP demands Healthcare for All.

*March, 2012 // **25th ANNIVERSARY***

Thousands march in the streets of New York, reminding the world that AIDS IS NOT OVER.