

WE WERE HERE

DIALOGUE LIST

TRT: 1:29:51

Prepared By:

**CaptionMax
441 N. Varney Street
Burbank, CA 91502
(818) 295-2500**

March 23, 2011

WE WERE HERE

1:00:08	ED (VO/ON)	There was nothing extraordinary about the fact that you'd lose the people that you love, 'cause it's gonna happen to all of us. It's just that it happened in this targeted community of people who were disenfranchised and separated from their families. And a whole group of other people stepped up and became their family.
1:00:36	PAUL (VO)	We are not some network of people who just like to have sex. We are not some ephemeral subculture that comes and dissolves and goes. This is a community that was tested in a way almost no community on earth is ever tested, and succeeded in what it was trying to do, which is save as many lives of people as it could, stop the civil rights attacks and then try to use that example to transform the world.
1:00:52	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest sign)	WE DON'T LET OUR FRIENDS GET HURT
1:01:00	PAUL (CONT'D)	If you're ever facing a natural disaster as extraordinary as AIDS was in the- the last quarter of the- the last century, you should be so lucky as to be in a community like the queer community of San Francisco.
1:01:15	DANIEL (VO/ON)	When I talk to young people particularly, they'll say, what was it like? I mean, the only thing I can liken it to is a war zone, but most of us have never lived in a war zone, but it was-- It's-- You never knew where the bomb was gonna drop. I decided to do this interview because I've- I've been around for the entire epidemic, and I've seen so many parts of it, and I think there's a lot of people from-- I mean, none of my friends are around from the beginning. So I want to tell their story as much as I want to tell my story. I think that's why.
1:02:02	MAIN TITLE	We Were Here
1:02:18	GUY (VO)	I came to San Francisco back in the late seventies.
1:02:19	TITLE	Guy
1:02:24	GUY (ON/VO) (CONT'D)	You know, there were more gay people coming here. There was all these love children. It was right at the end

WE WERE HERE

		<p>of the hippies. You know, and everybody-- I mean, if you had a bus ticket, it better be saying San Francisco, you know, because that was the place to come. I was the dancer. I thought I could dance better than anybody on the West Coast. Center stage, I would get up there. I'd climb up on that stage, and I'd dance myself into a frenzy every Sunday night at the tea dance. And if you got too close, you might slip off the stage because you were too close to me. (laughs) But I thought I had it goin' on. My dad said one day that I should sell flowers. That's a good business. And I thought, I'm gonna sell flowers in San Francisco because, you know, they got these songs, <i>Where Have All the Flowers Gone</i>, and <i>If You're Going to San Francisco, Wear a Flower in Your Hair</i>, and so I was ready for it. A friend of mine came up in a pickup and took me right over into the Castro on Fifteenth and Noe, and I've been there for twenty-eight years. Hey, I'm one of the family members. You know, come buy my flowers. So I would put up these rainbow flags, and I, you know-- And you could see 'em from a block away. If you looked down the street, you could just see that little ribbon... until all the colors faded. (laughs)</p>
1:04:01	EILEEN (VO)	I always knew I was gonna come out to the Bay Area.
1:04:04	TITLE	Eileen
1:04:04	EILEEN (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>And I think a lot of us came out here because we didn't quite fit where we were. Back in college, I s- helped start the first woman's newspaper. Uh, we started the first childcare center. Stuff like that. So I was very involved. We had a women's center on Haight Street, so I started going to the women's center, and we sat around and said, let's open up a women's clinic, and then we just did it.</p>
1:04:31	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on banner)	HAIGHT-ASHBURY WOMEN'S CLINIC
1:04:32	EILEEN (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>It was the era of illegal abortions. It was a time when we as women weren't as educated about our body. I was getting a little older, my late- later twenties, and I thought, Eileen, you're mu- you might want a real job sometime. So I thought, I'll just go to nursing school and see how I feel about it. And uh, I loved it. I loved bedside nursing. Once I started working in the hospital, there were all these gay men, and it was really fun, 'cause we'd go</p>

WE WERE HERE

		clubbing together, to the I-Beam, to the Stud. You know, places like that. I'd dance and go home and go to sleep. So the-- You know, we had a good time. It was like really fun. Unfortunately, none of those guys are alive today.
1:05:31	PAUL (VO)	You know, it's the- so the end of the hippie era in America, and I was a queer kid who knew he was different, didn't really know what to do...
1:05:34	TITLE	Paul
1:05:38	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	and basically left Buffalo, New York and hitchhiked around the country for a number of years with the guy I was sleeping with, and deliberately tried to be free was our, sort of our goal, and I remember at one point, uh, thinking, well, I've got nothing but the backpack and my boyfriend, and we literally actually had nothing. (laughs) Uh, I guess we must be free. (laughs) And it was that sort of mentality that we were pursuing. A phrase that I've sort of come to like is crazy dreamers, and I would say at that time, I thought San Francisco and California was like full of crazy dreamers, and that was where I wanted to be. I belonged to a- a little commune of leftover sixties folks who were trying to establish an alternative lifestyle, and I was struggling with was I gay, was I bisexual. You know, what is going on? So I come out of the closet in this terrifying moment of coming to the gay student union at San Jose State in uh, ni- September of nineteen seventy-five, and the minute I walked through the door--and I'm sure most gay men of my generation, most gay peo- queer people are gonna have the similar experience--it was like you're- you're home. It was like it all felt familiar. It all seemed like, oh, (laughs) how did I not realize this is where I was supposed to be. (laughs)
1:06:53	DANIEL (VO)	My father really wanted me to get a master's degree, and I really didn't care.
1:06:56	TITLE	Daniel
1:06:58	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	So the- the compromise was I would go to San Francisco State, 'cause San Francisco was where I wanted to be. I liked the people here. They just seemed more open, and I always wanted to meet a nice blonde surfer. When I moved out to California, I was still in the closet. I didn't come out of the closet until after college. Um, I came out

WE WERE HERE

		with a bang. I was in a production of <i>The Boys in the Band</i> . (laughs) For quite a few years, I was a bit of a workaholic. I was in my studio all the time. By the time I was twenty-seven, I was having one man shows in New York at galleries, good galleries in New York, and I didn't know it was supposed to be that easy. It was just easy, and I was pretty obsessed with my work, and I was for quite a long time, and until I got sick, really.
1:07:50	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on campaign sign)	SUPERVISOR HARVEY MILK
1:07:51	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	I was first living in the Haight, and I remember walking down Haight Street, and there was this guy handing out leaflets on the corner, and it was Harvey. It was his first campaign, the first time he was running, and he introduced himself, and I talked to him. So I went to work for him, and I was handing out leaflets, and, you know, door hangers and things like that. And that was very exciting, 'cause I had been somewhat political in college. I had gotten sick of it because all my roommates were SDS, and it was very militant. And Harvey was just a lot gentler (chuckles) and a lot more fun. My partner at that time, Steve, was also fairly political. Any time there was a march or a demonstration or a candlelight thing, we were always there. Um, it was important to us. Those were the things that made us feel connected to the community.
1:08:48	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on street sign)	CASTRO 18TH ST
1:09:09	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	Castro Street was just starting to happen, and you would always run into people you knew. And it really felt like a village, and Ca- the Castro just started to feel like the village you always wanted.
1:09:32	PAUL (VO/ON)	If you took a bunch of young men and said, have as much sex as you can have, how much sex would they have? A lot of sex. The sense was if gay is good, gay sex is good, you know, and more gay sex is even better. And people often say of- of- of my generation that we came to San Francisco to be gay.
1:10:18	ED (VO)	I remember, like, January, nineteen seventy-seven, I went right down to Castro Street.

WE WERE HERE

1:10:20	TITLE	Ed
1:10:20	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>Here I've lived in Greenwich Village all these years. This- this is gonna be amazing. I went down and, you know, as you know, it's like one block long and like a block in either direction, and like there were a lot of gay men, and as with any group of people, it was already pretty quickly falling into little cliques. You know, there was like this kind of military look, and the kind of the- the outdoorsman look. And there was a preppy look, and there was already this like kind of western look and a leather look. It was already starting to happen. People quickly identifying as certain male images. And I, you know, I just didn't like fit in. There wasn't like a longhaired, high voiced, basketball look or something, you know? I was just kind of me. I mean, I tried. I would go and pick up guys and bring them home, and like they would go- want to go from zero to sixty so fast. I couldn't do it. I was terrible at anonymous sex. I didn't know how to go like-- (gestures with eyes) Or uh, you know, I just-- I couldn't do it. (laughs) I was like, hi, my name's Ed. Who are you? You know, and it just-- It didn't- it didn't click.</p>
1:11:44	DANIEL (VO/ON)	I tend to be somebody who has a partner almost my whole life. But I've always been in open relationships, so my sexual outlet was always the bathhouses. And they were there, and they were fun.
1:11:58	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper ad)	<p>JOIN IN! Ritch Street Health Club</p>
1:11:59	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>And I would go with my friends. It wasn't like something I would sneak out and go on my own. It was this- It was something of an outing, we would go with friends. I remember coming out of one bathhouse at like three o'clock in the morning and walking home across the city in the middle of the night and just thinking, gee, if my mother could see me now, she'd be just shocked. But it just felt so good. It was like a club, and we- we called it church. (laughs) It's going to church.</p>
1:12:23	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on poster)	<p>something is always happening at</p>

WE WERE HERE

		dave's
1:12:27	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on billboard)	Sweat it Out at 330 Ritch St. Club San Francisco
1:12:28	PAUL (VO/ON)	Part of it, you're having sex to have fun. Part of it, you're having sex to find love. Part of it you're having sex to uh, uh, to- to rebel against um, the people who said you couldn't have sex. All of America was feeling very confident that you could be much more sexual, and that was okay. Venereal diseases and unwanted pregnancies, it's all curable with a shot or a pill or something to that effect.
1:13:01	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	City Hall Murders MOSCONE, MILK SLAIN --DAN WHITE IS HELD San Francisco Chronicle Mayor Was Hit 4 Times
1:13:07	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	VERDICT ON DAN WHITE San Francisco Chronicle It's Voluntary Manslaughter --Maximum Penalty 8 Years
1:13:08	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	It's May of nineteen seventy-nine, and the verdict has come down, a verdict on Dan White for the murder of Harvey Milk, and we're all at City Hall protesting. There's this enormous rage. Thousands of people arrive. The police attack. We're tear-gassed, we're beaten. Police cars are burned. So this is not a community that's feeling really good about the political establishment going into (laughs) the nineteen eighties. The next night is Harvey's birthday party.
1:13:34	ON-SCREEN TEXT	HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WE WERE HERE

	(on sign)	HARVEY "MY DEATH SHOULD NOT BE AVENGED BY VIOLENCE"
1:13:36	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	And so the streets close off. Tens of thousands of people show up, and they give very, very angry speeches. Anne Kronenberg gives a very fierce speech, and at the end of her speech, she starts a chant. Welcome to the eighties, welcome to the eighties. We couldn't know, of course, that even then, HIV was present. HIV arrives first in San Francisco probably in seventy-six, and by nineteen seventy-nine, probably ten percent of the gay men in that crowd were infected. And um, by the time we discover that there is such a thing, AIDS is even happening, in June of eighty-one, roughly twenty percent are infected. And by the time we actually get the test, so people can find out if they're infected, close to fifty percent of the gay men of San Francisco are already infected.
1:14:36	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on parade sign)	GAY PRIDE 79
1:15:02	ED (VO/ON)	Eighty-one was a big year. I landed a really good job, and for the first time, I was part of a large office staff with a lot of other gay men. I was finishing my graduate degree in creative writing. I went to Europe, I had this great job. All these new gay men I was working with, and um, I felt like, well, the eighties, somethin's gonna shift. Like I moved to New York in seventy-one. Now I'm really here in San Francisco in eighty-one. And- and so that is when everything changed. Because that was-- You know, that was the year in the Castro, running down. I will never forget it. It's uh-- I went to the Castro Theater. Great double feature. Two Bette-- I think it was uh, it was like <i>Now Voyager</i> and <i>Casablanca</i> on the big screen, and I remember like running down to the- the old Star Pharmacy...
1:15:56	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on signage)	STAR pharmacy
1:16:00	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	'cause we were gonna smoke some pot, and we didn't have any papers. And I remember looking in the... I remember looking in the window of Star Pharmacy, and

WE WERE HERE

		<p>there were these little Polaroid photographs uh, that this young man had made of himself. There were at least three, maybe four of them. Uh, the first one was like this. (gestures, mouth open) And inside... these big, purple splotches. And then there was another picture, and he had taken his shirt and pulled it up like this. It was of his chest. These big purple splotches. And they were just on the window, and underneath it was a handwritten note that said something like, watch out, guys. There's something out there. Something like that. And uh, oh my God, it made this huge impact on me. And then like I was really stoned, and I went and watched the movie, and with the whole movie, I was just thinking about that. It really made an impact on me. I went to see the movies with my- a friend of mine named Michael, and he and I worked together, and he had woken up kind of recently with this like red splotch in his eye. And he kept going like, what is this? What is this? And um, he um, he had been going to the eye doctor, and they hadn't been able to figure out what it was, and-- (sighs) You know, uh-- Um, it turned out to be KS. He had KS in his eye. So it was right there in the movie lying with us, like already. Like it was already there.</p>
1:17:57	REPORTER (VO)	<p>The pictures show the progression of how a few red bumps turn into the mark of Kaposi's Sarcoma. It's a rare cancer normally found in the elderly, but now it's striking young men, most of whom are gay, like Bobby Campbell. After one month, tests are still being done on the red bumps on his foot.</p>
1:18:13	BOBBY CAMPBELL	<p>I don't know how I got it. I fit the profile, kind of the typical Kaposi's patient in my age in that I'm gay and-- But I don't know how I got it.</p>
1:18:26	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper and headline clip)	<p>Gay Men's Strange Diseases</p> <p>Mysterious gay cancer</p>
1:18:26	DANIEL (VO/ON)	<p>The first time I heard about AIDS, I think it was called the gay cancer. It was KS. It was terrifying. And we had friends who were dying r- r- right at the beginning of the epidemic. I mean, this one person who helped my career greatly, who was a curator of the Brooklyn Museum, gave me a show at the Brooklyn Museum, and he died before the show happened. And that was bef- we-- Now,</p>

WE WERE HERE

		looking back, I know he died of AIDS, but back then there was no name for it.
1:19:02	EILEEN (VO/ON)	I was hanging blood one day in the hospital, and this was the, you know, before the times that you wore gloves, and the infectious disease fellow came in and said, "Eileen, why don't you put gloves on. We don't know what this is."
1:19:22	GUY (VO/ON)	I was selling flowers at that time, and there was a guy down the street. Five days. One day, he went to the hospital. Five days later, he was dead.
1:19:36	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper and headline clip)	The Mystery Maladies Who Can I Turn To...? Disease That Hits Gays
1:19:38	PAUL (VO/ON)	I'm looking through the gay periodicals, and in one of them, new cancer described. And so I'm aware something has occurred. And I note it. I think everybody who was paying attention to the community noted, well, this could be something to pay attention to. And so we-- I did.
1:19:56	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper and headline clip)	[text obscured by time code] Shorts "GAY MEN'S" PNEUMONIA" Two diseases hit state's gays
1:20:01	PATIENT	(breathes heavily)
1:20:06	EILEEN (VO/ON)	People were coming in with pneumocystis pneumonia who were quite well, you know, one day. You know, uh, out there swimming, playing tennis, you know, buffed, coming in and were dying. I mean, were dead ten days later.
1:20:25	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on magazine cover)	bluboy A KILLER Kaposi's Sarcoma

WE WERE HERE

1:20:27	EILEEN (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	People would come in with Kaposi's Sarcoma. There might be one little lesion or two little lesions, then they would grow. And maybe a lesion would cut off circulation in their leg, and their leg would balloon up. Or maybe it would get into their lung, and they couldn't breathe, and maybe they would just waste away.
1:20:49	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper and headline clip)	a Plague That's Killing Gays Gay Disease Syndrome
1:20:50	PAUL (VO/ON)	Very early, certainly within the first eighteen months, I assumed that a number of our- my friends were- were likely infected and probably myself and uh, and all the people in my group were infected.
1:21:45	EILEEN (VO/ON)	From the beginning, I just couldn't stand the homophobia and the prejudice that was going on. And the fear. There was incredible fear, right, that these people were coming in and dying, and nobody knew what it was, and people get afraid. There were people who were afraid to go into rooms, and so I found myself going into the rooms. If you are not a family member, they wouldn't talk to you. So if somebody's partner was in there, the doctors might not explain to them what was going on. So I found myself talking to them. It was a weird time in the hospital because they didn't want to be associated as an AIDS hospital because no one would want to come to the hospital if they knew we were an AIDS hospital. So there was a lot of struggle there. I remember my mom. (chuckles) She was saying, "why do you have to do this?" You know, 'cause I've already put my mom through lots of stuff, and I remember saying to her, "Mom, it didn't choose uh-- I didn't choose it, it chose me." 'Cause you're there, and this terrible thing is happening and you're a nurse and you can help. And sometimes that's just helping somebody die, but I, you know, I couldn't turn my back to it.
1:23:20	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on obituary)	Todd Coleman
1:23:22	ED (VO/ON)	Something was happening. That these gay men were showing up at places like United Way, looking for a support group or um, uh, social services because they had no m-- They had no family.

WE WERE HERE

1:23:42	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	<p>because it matters... we ask you to volunteer</p> <p>○</p> <p>Shanti Project</p>
1:23:43	ED (VO) (CONT'D)	I saw an ad in the Bay Area Reporter. Shanti Project was looking for people who'd be willing to be a buddy to someone with this illness.
1:23:53	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	Shanti Training
1:23:53	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	And I took the second Shanti volunteer training that occurred here in San Francisco. And I got matched with someone immediately. I hadn't met a person with AIDS yet who was just kind of like off on his own and like expecting that someone was gonna come and like he-help him. And um, I just remember going to his apartment and here's him opening the door and--
1:24:33	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on memorial photo)	Ed Banks
1:24:34	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	He said his name was Ed. I said, s- my name is Ed, too. And, you know, like lo and behold, my way of being with gay men suddenly was perfect. Like, hi. Like, who- who are you? How are you doing? I took my training in July of eighty-three, and of course I was close to all these gay men. There were seven gay men working in this office, and I was coming in and telling them, like oh my God, and, you know, they think it's- it's transmitted sexually, and they're thinking condoms is a way to protect us, and they're telling us (sniffs) don't use poppers. And I go, it's already like disseminating information.
1:25:28	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	<p>GAY PHYSICIANS KNOCK POPPERS</p> <p>No 'Smoking Gun' Gay Diseases Still Baffle Scientists</p>
1:25:30	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	Back then especially there was this whole dynamic about

WE WERE HERE

		<p>how are you getting it. Who are you getting it from? Whose giving it to who? Um, and in that little office, some of that feeling-- Like, I'm pretty sure they had all sex with one another, but once again, in my kind of mismatched way, I hadn't had sex with any of them. Um, (clicks tongue) they all- they all got infected, and they all died except one.</p>
1:26:09	DANIEL (VO/ON)	<p>My partner, Steve, was an immunology researcher. We had been together for quite a while, probably about eight years. And all of a sudden, people were coming to him and asking him to explain what's going on, and it was interesting. I mean, his self-esteem sort of turned around because he was a holder of very important information. He ended up working in Jay Levy's lab, which was one of the most important AIDS research labs in the world. We got tested because Steve took my blood and brought it into Jay Levy's lab. So we were like some of the first people who knew that we were actually positive, 'cause the test wasn't even available. When Steve came back from Jay Levy's lab and told me that we were both HIV positive, it-- I ch- Uh, my- my life changed completely. Um, I- I had had five people working for me. Um, and I let them go, and uh, luckily, I had saved some money, and I just started doing sculpture.</p>
1:27:27	PAUL (VO/ON)	<p>Here am I, the- the kid from San Jose, come up here. I'm now the vice president of some little gay Democratic club where maybe fifteen or twenty people show up. And suddenly, the community starts to die of these extraordinary, horrible diseases, and they want help. How do we, you know, how do we s- eh, keep them alive? How do we make sure they don't die of starvation because they can't cook? How do we-- And meanwhile, there's all these attacks that are occurring. Meanwhile, there's this tremendous debate within the community about, well, maybe these are all wrong decisions. Maybe we shouldn't be sexually free. Maybe uh-- And all these other debates are occurring. But it's occurring-- The leadership, such as it is, is guys like me, who are suddenly in this little group. We're uh, forced to deal with this unbelievable circumstance of a community that, in addition to being hated and under attack, is now forced alone to try to figure out how to deal with this extraordinary m- medical disaster.</p>

WE WERE HERE

1:28:23	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	Hits the Castro
1:28:25	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	People would see my picture in the BAR and come up to me and say, "I was diagnosed. What do I do? Do you know a doctor? What do I do? Is it true, you know, this might occur? What do I do?" We held a series of town hall meetings, and a group called Mobilization Against AIDS was created. And I was their first ED, and that's sort of how I formally enter into AIDS work.
1:28:48	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on flyer)	Mobilization Against A.I.D.S. PUBLIC FORUM "The Government's inadequate Response to A.I.D.S. with Dr. Neil Schram
1:28:49	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	Mobilization's purpose was to demand a greater response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The first response was to try to s- take care of the sick. That's the first response. The second response was to try to stop people um, from getting infected.
1:29:04	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banner)	MOBILIZATION AGAINST A.I.D.S.
1:29:04	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	The third response was how do we advocate. How do we now get other people involved to be able to generate resources?
1:29:11	PAUL (VO/ON) (on archival film)	We are here to try to spark across the land general citizen support for the actions that are being led so overwhelmingly by people with AIDS to try to get the nation to move into an effective response to this epidemic.
		[APPLAUSE]
1:29:26	PAUL (VO)	We lead a delegation of people with AIDS to Washington. Now, here's guys, very sick. They're in end sta- By definition, they're in end stage AIDS. There is no treatments to- to speak of. May- maybe there's some

WE WERE HERE

		<p>experimental treatments they're starting to get. And here they are flying on planes, going across the country with no money, sleeping four to a room, to be able to go do lobbying. And my experience is, my belief is, all those folks thought they would die. None of them thought they would survive AIDS. They were doing it because they thought in so doing they would make it so other people from the community and beyond were- were able to live. And that happened many, many, many times, where people with AIDS would just do extraordinary things.</p>
1:30:06	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on sweatshirt)	<p>AIDS POSTER BOY</p>
1:30:09	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	That's who was, in fact, leading the response.
1:30:17	ED (VO/ON)	<p>When he went to the hospital, I followed him there. So I went to five-B, which was right here at San Francisco General Hospital to- to visit him as his Shanti volunteer. And um, five-B was a seven-bed unit in the old intensive care unit that had been turned into the first AIDS-dedicated hospital unit in the world. And everybody who worked there was there on a volunteer basis. Nineteen eighty-three, which they weren't sure how it was transmitted. They didn't want anybody working there who was gonna have contagion issues. So they wanted to make sure here at San Francisco General that you were not gonna be coming from that kind of fear. You'd be volunteering to work here.</p>
1:31:06	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on name tag and button)	<p>sfgh Diane Jones, RN 5A CLINICAL PRECEPTOR</p> <p>Ask Us About AIDS WORLD AIDS DAY</p>
1:31:07	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>This is where I started encountering like lesbians coming and working on the AIDS unit with all these gay men who were dying. It was so moving, because certainly gay men were- were not making a whole lot of room for lesbians. Let's put it that way, back then. Um-- (sniffles) (sighs) So I got this sense of this group of people who were really</p>

WE WERE HERE

		caring for these men who were dying.
1:31:44	DANIEL (VO/ON)	Steve became more and more obsessed with trying to find out what the latest treatments were. He wanted to save our lives. He wanted to figure out, you know, w- you know, how we were gonna beat this thing. And he found out about a study that was done in Africa with a drug called Suramin. And they were doing- they were doing the study here at San Francisco General.
1:32:12	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on vial)	SURAMIN
1:32:12	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	And he got us both into the study. Across the country, there was like three study sites. There were like eighty people in the study, and the drug was hideous. It was-- You'd go in, and it was like two hours of IV, and for the next two days, you f- literally felt like you'd been run over by a truck. And I was a wuss, (chuckles) and I could-- I just-- After a month of this, I just said, I can't take this. It's just, you know-- I'd- I- it-- I was just- it just made me so sick, and I hated it. But Steve just kept on going, and he had had chronic hepatitis B from a needle stick that he'd gotten in the lab when he was working in a lab. And it activated his hepatitis, and within-- We started, I think, the study in July. He quit the study in October, (sighs) and he was d- (chokes up) (sighs) (pauses) He was dead by January. (cries) (sighs) It was really quick. Uh, and everybody in that study died except for me. (sighs) 'Cause I was a wuss. (chuckles) I couldn't take it. And I'm so glad I took care of myself that way. But I talked to a doctor in the study afterwards, and he-- They had a meeting of all the doctors and people who had-- researchers across the country, who had been involved in the study. They said he never (sighs) he'd never been in a room of doctors sobbing before. They had lost all their patients... very quickly. So that was one of the first disasters in AIDS treatment. I think it really made everybody really careful afterwards. Um-- (sighs) Steve was thirty-five. Two weeks after Steve died, my best friend died, Peter. Two days before Steve died, another good friend died. I mean, it was just- it was an avalanche. (sighs)
1:35:41	PAUL (VO/ON)	Within a mile of epicenter of Castro and Market, large numbers of people died. And not just your friends who

WE WERE HERE

		died, but, you know, the people you didn't know--the friend of the friend. You know, you'd go get a coffee, and the person who used to give you coffee has died. You--you would, you know, whatever it was you were-- Your banker, your mailman, your-- All that mass, mass death, to the point where you, to some degree, would stop asking if people weren't around, where they were. Unless you wanted to get into a discussion of them being dead or them being sick.
1:36:11	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on obituary)	AIDS Death Notices
1:36:12	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	So for a number of years, people are all assuming we've got this disease and it's very likely we'll be dead soon.
1:36:23	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on obituary)	He Spawned a World of Music Jon Sims is Dead at Age 37
1:36:25	GUY (VO/ON)	Everybody was reading the obituaries because they went from like this (gestures small) to like this (gestures large). You know, it was just like, oh my God, and everybody would get the BAR every week just to see who's gone. Being the flower man, I was thrown into the middle of it because a lot of people would say, "Guy, uh, my friend died, and I don't have enough money to buy flowers, and I need some help. Can you help us?" They wanted to bury their friends with a lot of dignity and beauty and-- And I came to you to help me out. You know, I'm emotional because it's the first time I thought about it. I- I can't even count the funerals that I did, you know, and if it wasn't no more than-- You know, some people would bring me a vase, and they said, "Guy, this is all I can afford. Can you put some flowers in it or--." You know, and I did that, and I, you know, it was never about money, it was about love. You know, it was about these people, not letting my friends down. You know, just helping them to other side. Mmm.
1:37:57	DR. MERVYN SILVERMAN	Today I have ordered the closure of fourteen commercial establishments which promote and profit from the spread of AIDS.
1:37:58	TITLE (on archival film)	Dr. Mervyn Silverman S.F. HEALTH DIRECTOR

WE WERE HERE

1:38:06	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspapers)	AIDS scares S.F. gays into being careful with sex lives
1:38:06	PAUL (VO/ON)	There was a broad view that there was a sexual transmission component of the disease. So here we are debating, how do we continue to have sex? How do we continue to love each other? How do we continue to be- to pursue the- the- the- the dream of the community that we want to have in the midst of this plague? And so then comes the discussion, well, the government would like to shut down some institutions, (chuckles) and some of these are old, core institutions, which is the bathhouses. There've always been bathhouses. They precede the gay community as we know it, where gay people would go and meet and have sex. And some people thought that was a good idea. The bathhouses are run by irresponsible business owners who are just- don't care about the pandemic and are ripping people off. And other people thought this is a dangerous precedent, that your friend the government would like to shut down these institutions. Is that- is that okay with you? A majority of the community felt that we were in a crisis right now, and the baths needed to be shut down.
1:39:04	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on signage)	CLUB SAN FRANCISCO
1:39:08	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	And a lot of people were very afraid of it. And so the community divided. And to some degree a split also between the women's community, the lesbian community, and gay men, where gay men uh, uh, kept being controversial to a degree by ha- insisting on having as much sex in as many places as they were doing. And the- the women's community was (stammers) you know, to some degree saying, you know, we don't know. This is not the commu- this is not the core definitions of the community, that we should think the community should be fighting over. We don't think the central battles of GLBT liberation should be about, you know, public sex, for example. (chuckles) We think it- there should be a- a broader discussion.
1:39:47	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest signs)	TODAY THE TUBS,

WE WERE HERE

		<p style="text-align: center;">TOMORROW YOUR BEDROOM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SAFE SEX EDUCATION NOT Sex Rites Confiscation</p>
1:39:48	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	So it was a high, high tension debate.
1:39:56	GUY (VO/ON)	Since I did sit on the corner for twenty-eight years, I just saw the progression of people. You know, it's so scary just to-- All of a sudden, you know, they'd be walking down the street, and the next time you see them, they would be walking with a cane, or they'd be in wheelchair. And that was devastating to-- Oh, I remember him.
1:40:26	DANIEL (VO/ON)	Here is the gay community, which, for better or for worse, is very concerned with appearances, and here comes this disease that manifests itself and destroys your physical appearance. It's the first thing it does, whether it's KS or wasting. I mean, people were just losing uh, many, many pounds, and people-- It looked-- People-- It looked like, you know, we were living in a concentration camp. I mean, people were just losing so much weight in their faces and their bodies, you know, a third of their body weight very, very quickly, mysteriously. They didn't know what was, you know, what part of the disease was causing it. Um, so it was these very physical manifestations that were horrifying to people, and were very scary to people. And if you, especially if you had AIDS, and then you saw somebody who was much worse off than you, you almost had to turn away. It was just- it was too scary. I was losing all the fat in my face and my butt and everywhere, and I would walk by a store window and see myself in the window and just jump. It's like, who is that? Um, and I remember my mother saying, couldn't you stand on your head and make some of the f- stuff f-flow down to your face? (laughs) You've got nothing in your-- You know, you're just- you're skin and bones.
1:41:54	ED (VO/ON)	The AIDS epidemic allowed me to move into the community in a very powerful way. And, in fact, in many ways, I began to thrive, because it was like being in the

WE WERE HERE

		<p>Army. Like I was really, for the first time other than being super involved in my family, I was involved in something else. Like I rolled up my sleeves and I wanted to be a part of this. The AIDS ward was a, it was a terrible and beautiful place at the same time. My primary role was to be one of the Shanti counselors there, which was someone who is trained to be able to sit and be and witness and have conversations and support people through their process there. I worked with people there who were like eighteen years old. We had people there who were in their sixties. But in general, they were sexually active, gay men. People were coming into the hospital with diseases like toxoplasmosis, which you can get from a potted plant or a canary cage. I mean, people were extremely susceptible to any number of things. So there had to be like a controlled environment. There was this idea that we were there to cure and heal and- and not to minimize any of that, but- but- but really, back then what people were doing is they were dying of AIDS, and we were trying to help them as best we could. You could go a couple days, and uh, no one would die. And then in one day, like six people would die. We saw many I- lover couples come in. One would die. The other, you know, the partner would be there, go through the whole process. Some time would pass, and then the next lover would come in. There was a mom who came to five-A, and one, two, three times she lost her boys there. I would stand in the hallway, a gay man myself in my mid-thirties, visiting and talking to a mother and father who had just stepped out of a room, who had just found out that their son had pneumocystis and had three months to live or whatever. And the father would stand there and go, "You know, (smacks lips) it's harder for me to find out that my son is a fag than to find out that he's gonna be dyin' soon." And there I would be, like trying to comfort him.</p>
1:45:23	DANIEL (VO/ON)	<p>When Steve died, my friends were there for me. I felt so supported. My family was very, very much there for me. Also, I had other friends who were sick, and so I r- It pulled me out of myself 'cause I could go help take care of them. And I think I mentioned Peter, who was one of my (sighs) dearest friends. He's one of the first people I met when I moved to San Francisco. He was tall and handsome and grew up in a trailer park, and he was-- He called him-- He- he used to keep these diaries, and he always wanted them published after he died as <i>Diaries of</i></p>

WE WERE HERE

		<p><i>a Illiterate Homosexual.</i> (laughs) Peter was such an original. He was just amazing. He died two weeks after Steve. He had moved back here to die. He and his lover. I had introduced he and his lover, George, and then they moved to Rhode Island where George was from. And then when Peter started getting sick, they moved back to San Francisco 'cause care was better and their core group of friends was here. And Peter was getting sicker and sicker, and they told him, you know, you have like four or five days to live, and he was just in so much discomfort that he decided to take his own life. So we, you know, we got together all the- the drugs and the cocktail that was gonna kill him, and we had a party at his house. He was in bed, sort of like a- like a queen sit-- you know, holding court. And we each got to go up and say our goodbyes. And I remember him saying, "You know, when I was single, you were married, and when I was married, you were single. Do you think if we'd both been single at the same time, we would have been partners?" And I said, "Yeah, I know we would have been." And then he gave me one of the most passionate kisses (chuckles) I've ever had in my life. (sighs) And then we all went away. (sighs)</p>
1:48:18	EILEEN (VO/ON)	<p>I was the charge nurse in the medical clinic, and we were starting the first AZT trials, and Doctor Jay had come on to help that. And he looked at me one day, and he said, "I think we could do this. We could do clinical research." And so we started the Quest Clinical Research Center together. You know, both of us had never done research. We just kinda did it. You know, back then there weren't as many um, regulations. The reason that you wanted to do research back then was because there was nothing. And all you were doing was helping people die, and you just felt like you had to work on these trials and, you know, figure out what was working, figure out what the problems were and get these drugs approved so that everybody could have 'em. By doing this and working really hard and getting these drugs on the market, you know, maybe we could save lives. In the early days, I would go to people's houses. They were too sick to come in to get their medicine, I'd go to their house. I'd draw their blood. They would come in very educated, wanting the newest treatment. Sometimes they would know more than I did 'cause they had, you know, researched so much. And um, I would learn from them. There was</p>

WE WERE HERE

		really a camaraderie there. You know, of course, you know, we made mistakes. Uh, you know, when we first started the AZT trials, we were giving way too much. You know, that's why people got so sick on it, and it got a bad rap. If you ever come to our office, we have this picture of this guy who uh, is almost like a skeleton, and he's holding a sign, man can't live on AZT alone.
1:50:20	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest sign)	MAN CAN NOT LIVE ON AZT ALONE
1:50:22	EILEEN (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	And every time I see that picture, it brings me back to those days of we need more treatments. We need more than AZT, and in-- And we need them to happen quickly.
1:50:37	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper clippings)	Compound Q HPA-23 Pentamidine DNCB IL-2
1:50:40	PAUL (VO/ON)	I remember one fellow particularly said to me, "You know, I'm at the end of my chemical rope." Um, and I thought, boy, what a phrase from our, you know, from this time.
1:50:50	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on headline clips)	Co-enzyme Q10 Ganciclovir AL721 Septra DDC Ribavarin
1:50:52	GUY (VO/ON)	These doctors were coming up with every kind of pill that you should take. It seemed like every day they were coming up with a new cure, but my friends were Guinea pigs, and those cures didn't work.

WE WERE HERE

1:51:06	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on obituaries)	<p style="text-align: center;">Queer Nation SF co-founder dies at 37</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sylvester AIDS Claims Disco Diva</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leon H. McKusick, Ph.D. S.F. AIDS Doctor, Dies at 43</p>
1:51:06	GUY (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>And they were still dying, and they were still dying and not even just my friends, my relatives. You know, my- my cousin, he died of AIDS. You know, and it was like the whole family kept it, you know, zips the lip. Nobody wanted to say that people were gay, you know, and we didn't speak about it. We just said Romeo was sick, and um, he just succumbed to AIDS and he died very quietly.</p>
1:52:07	DANIEL (VO/ON)	<p>I think my biggest fears around getting sick was blindness. There was a lot in the early days of AIDS of CMV, cytomegalovirus, which attacked the eyes, and people were losing their eyesight in a short period of time. And, you know, I could deal with pain, or they could, you know, they could manage pain and all that, but the idea of losing my eyesight was really-- I think it really, really scared me.</p>
1:52:40	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper headline clip)	<p style="text-align: center;">FDA Expands Availability of AIDS Blindness Drug</p>
1:52:41	EILEEN (VO/ON)	<p>We worked on this trial for CMV retinitis. It uh, it affected, infected people's eyes. We wanted to do research, so we would ask them if we could take their eyes when they died. And (sighs) you know, that was a hard conversation to have, but people were into it. They were going, this awful thing is happening, and, you know, if I can give my eyes to advance this, I'm willing to do that. Any time anybody is ill, you're meeting them at a very vulnerable place in their life, and these relationships can grow very intensely, very quickly. So it was my job to go into the autopsy room um, when the pathologist would come and remove the eyes, and uh, I would have to put them in this little like urine container, and then put them in a paper bag and take them to the lab. And that was really, really hard. I mean, these were people I really knew and uh, loved, liked, whatever you want to say, and it was really hard to um, watch this. And something that I'll never</p>

WE WERE HERE

		forget actually, but one of my patient's sisters really helped me, because she said to me something like, it makes me feel better to know that you're gonna be with him when this is happening, that I was there to watch over these people and make sure they were treated with respect and that their body was handled with love. And I just was so grateful for her to give me that job.
1:55:19	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on memorial card)	James J. Harning April 29, 1961 - March 20, 1992
1:55:29	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on archival news graphic)	AIDS
1:55:29	TOM BROKAW	How deeply are Americans worried about AIDS? A Los Angeles Times poll found that fifty percent of Americans favor quarantine for AIDS victims. Forty-eight percent said they should be issued special identification. Fifteen percent said AIDS victims should be tattooed.
1:55:46	PAUL (VO/ON)	We were preoccupied for those first four years with extraordinary civil rights attacks. In nineteen eighty-six in California, there was an initiative put on the ballot by Lyndon LaRouche, and it was an initiative to enforce the quarantine laws relative to HIV in California.
1:55:59	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on banner/protest leaflets)	RALLY, HERE: NOW! MARCH STOP LAROUCHE
1:56:04	PAUL (ON/VO) (CONT'D)	And it was- it was written in such a way as to be- sound medical, but the intent, as interpreted by the queer community and everyone else, was this is to stigmatize people with HIV/AIDS and could go so far as to have them be quarantined under doctor's orders. And when that ballot initiative first was put forward, um, the-- It was overwhelmingly favored. It was overwhelmingly favored.
1:56:30	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banner)	VOTE NOV. 4 NO ON LaROUCHE
1:56:31	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	And a statewide campaign formed, and we organized throughout California to defeat the initiative and defeated it. And it came again two years later. It was put forward a

WE WERE HERE

		second ti- (laughs) a second time um, in- in eighty-eight. And simultaneously there were laws that were- that was people could be fired for being HIV-positive. People could be mandatory tested. In other words, you could be tested ag- without your consent, um, and then those results made available to people.
1:57:00	PAUL (on archival video)	Fact is the Reagan administration has been criminal in its response, and they've done so because they thought it was a disease of the gay community.
1:57:01	TITLES (on archival video)	Paul Boneberg Mobilization Against AIDS Atlanta
1:57:06	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D) (on archival video)	What needs to be done is a federal program that's equivalent to our effort to get to the moon, that's equivalent of our effort to develop the atomic bomb. If we im- implement that, we can stop AIDS. But the way to go is not to start violating civil rights. I mean, the way to go is not to start turning American against American in times of crisis.
1:57:22	TITLE (on archival video)	Rev. Jerry Fawell The Moral Majority
1:57:23	JERRY FALWELL (on archival video)	And I believe that when you live immorally, whether you're a heterosexual or a homosexual, and you violate the laws of God--and homosexuality does--you become wide open to every kind of sin and sickness.
1:57:36	PAUL (VO/ON)	I think the- the country as a whole understood that the queer community was taking care of each other, that our principal response was food banks and care programs, and that it was a response that America should be proud of. And that maybe the- the Pat Buchanans and the- the- the bigots who were attacking us and who basically just wanted us to die, were wrong. And at a certain point, the- those attacks just stopped.
1:58:04	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banner)	PEOPLE WITH AIDS ALLIANCE
		[APPLAUSE...]

WE WERE HERE

1:58:06	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	They just couldn't get traction to continue to stigmatize people with AIDS.
1:58:12	DANIEL (VO)	AIDS organizations were just popping up everywhere.
1:58:13	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banner)	San Francisco AIDS Foundation
1:58:16	DANIEL (VO) (CONT'D)	I mean, that was-- It was called the San Francisco model. I think one of the reasons the San Francisco model worked...
1:58:20	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banner)	AIDS HEALTH PROJECT
1:58:21	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	was 'cause of the size of San Francisco and because of Castro Street itself, that there was a center. San Francisco, people came here not for career. They came here because they wanted to live here.
1:58:37	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banner)	FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES
1:58:39	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	And when AIDS came along, the community was sort of inherent in that, that all it needed was the AIDS epidemic to really make it coalesce.
1:58:50	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banners)	Pets Are Wonderful Support P.A.W.S. PAWS
1:58:51	DANIEL (VO) (CONT'D)	You know, whether it was taking care of people's pets if- when they were in the hospital, or bringing them food, like Open Hand. Everybody wanted to do something.
1:58:55	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on archival photo)	PROJECT OPEN HAND Founder, Ruth Brinker
1:59:00	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest banner)	BCA SF BLACK COALITION

WE WERE HERE

		ON AIDS
1:59:01	DANIEL (VO) (CONT'D)	It was a way the community came together in an amazing way that-- You know, politics had never done that.
1:59:05	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on archival photo)	PROJECT inform founder, Martin Delaney
1:59:09	DANEIL (CONT'D)	And it brought together the women's community, the gay women's community and the gay male community in ways that had certainly never happened before.
1:59:19	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	WOMEN FIGHTING THE EPIDEMIC Sentinel
1:59:21	PAUL (VO/ON)	Again and again, in every situation, every circumstance, there's lesbians there leading the fight. All the women had friends who were gay guys who were sick. I was walking up Castro Street one day to- to my apartment, and in the early days of these ter- horrible tests, people would become anemic, severely anemic.
1:59:41	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on headline clip)	Community Blood Drives Reinstated in Castro
1:59:42	PAUL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	There was also a blood shortage because of the HIV in- in blood. Lesbians weren't at risk for HIV and- and could donate blood and did. And so I'm walking up Castro Street, and I see a poster. And I believe it was from the lesbian caucus of the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club. And it said, our boys need blood.
1:59:59	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on flyer)	OUR PWAs NEED BLOOD Women's Day Blood Drive, August 22 Lesbians: Help Solve an urgent crisis in our community. Stand with our sister & brothers in fighting the AIDS epidemic.
2:00:00	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	Lesbian caucus blood drive for people with AIDS, San

WE WERE HERE

		Francisco. And I remember thinking, this is just a wonderful thing.
2:00:11	ED (ON/VO)	People came to San Francisco to go, what is happening here that the response is so heartfelt. I think what made five-A such a spectacular place and such a powerful response were the people who worked there. It's also true of Shanti Project. I mean, I mean, literally, it was thousands of people who volunteered thousands of hours.
		[TAP DANCING...]
2:00:46	TV NEWS REPORTER (VO) (on archival video)	Every other Sunday, there is a party on ward five-B. The hostess is a travel agent named Rita Berger, but the nurses and the patients know her as Rita Rocket.
2:00:56	ED (VO/ON)	She came on an Easter to offer to do an Easter brunch. It went so well it turned into like she would come on Sundays. And she would come with this- the whole group of men who spent a good part of the week like baking all the food that was gonna be eaten.
		[APPLAUSE/CHEERS]
2:01:24	DANIEL (VO/ON)	I got together with some friends and we started an organization called Visual Aid. I thought, okay, you know, just start in the community that I know, which is artists. And I was seeing artist friends who were having to make the choice between medical care or art supplies.
2:01:45	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on poster)	ARTISTS FIGHTING AIDS VISUAL AID
2:01:46	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	When art was-- You know, it was also therapy. It keeps you going. So we started this organization called Visual Aid, which would give artists access to art supplies. We had great t-shirts, and we would sell them at every street fair and gay- gray- gay pride parade, and we actually made a lot of money, and I'd remember s- in one meeting saying, you know, Christmastime is a time when people are buying lots of gifts, and there's no street fairs. We should do something about that. We should have a place where we could sell these things. And so I had this idea to start a store. I had pulled together a board of directors...

WE WERE HERE

2:02:23	TITLE (on archival video)	Grand opening of Under One Roof
2:02:24	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>and they wanted to name it AIDS Mart. (laughs) And I said no. (chuckles) I said I am gonna pull rank here. I'm the president, and it's not gonna be called AIDS Mart. (laughs) They said AIDS Mart, AID-Smart. See? I said no. (chuckles) Nobody's gonna shop at a store called AID-Smart. But Under One Roof just sounded right. I remember working the cash register, and, you know, when you're working at a store, you'll usually say thank you to the customer. I swear, every customer would just say thank you. Thank you for doing this, 'cause, you know, people who weren't doing anything in the community felt so powerless, and here was one even little way, by shopping, by buying a mug (laughs) or a t-shirt for their Aunt Tillie-- What ended up happening is most of our volunteers were people with AIDS who were on disability. People were sick, but they could get out of bed one day a week and work the cash register. And it became, for a lot of our volunteers, their social life, their only time out of their houses.</p>
2:03:35	GUY (VO/ON)	<p>I felt as though we were more compassionate. We were going through things that other people didn't go through, other people didn't understand. It just went over everybody's head, and I just remember how close that brought everybody together. You know, it was just like we didn't care who you were, but we all had the same burden. And that was just like-- It was just like the glue.</p>
2:04:06	DANIEL (VO/ON)	<p>Gay people were never seen as caregivers. They were seen as, you know, uh, good time people, you know, having fun, being wild, and all of a sudden, we were the ultimate caregivers.</p>
2:04:18	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on archival photo)	<p>Maitri</p> <p>Maitri Hospice founder, Issan Dorsey</p>
2:04:19	DANIEL (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	<p>It changed people's view of the gay community in a huge way. I remember my father saying--'cause I was spending so much time taking care of my friends--and he was saying, "These aren't family." And I said, "Yes, they</p>

WE WERE HERE

		are.” (sighs) “This is my family.” He got it. He ended up taking care of my friends, too.
2:04:57	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on banner)	FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES
2:05:41	ED (VO/ON)	When I was in the thick of it, I became--and- and I suspect many people like me did, whether you were infected or uninfected--it was hard to imagine the future. I didn't look much further than the next week or two, because the whole thing was so impossible to grasp, that all this was really happening. I went into a long period of being isolated, very sad. You know, all the years at five-A and all of the death and dying years had really taken its toil on me. I had been there, you know, for three years, and it- and it did cross my mind, like, wow, how do you- how do you stop? How do you stop working in a place like this?
2:06:44	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	BAY AREA REPORTER
2:06:44	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	We have a local newspaper here in San Francisco called the Bay Area Reporter. And there was one issue. They decided to run just all the photos of the people that had died in the last year. It was just page after page after page after page of all these primarily gay men who had died on the unit. I just felt something like right here. It was a physical like click. Because I saw all these faces, and I was stunned by how many of them I knew from working on the unit. And I, you know, I- I realized I couldn't- I just couldn't- couldn't do it anymore.
2:08:01	EILEEN (VO/ON)	There's times when you just think, I can't take it anymore. I don't want to watch this. I don't want to see it. There's just too many images that I don't want in my head, and, you know, you're feeling of wanting to run away. It was my generation that was being infected, and so that, of course, made it even heavier, because, you know, we were way too young to die, and I felt like I was too young to go through all this. Why? You know, all this loss. When you're doing this work, you have to figure out how to take care of yourself, and not feel it all the time. But sometimes when somebody would die and I'd find myself crying, I would feel like I was crying for everyone. It wasn't just that person. It just felt overwhelming, and uh, I

WE WERE HERE

		<p>just-- 'Cause sometimes you just really had to cry. You had to let it out.</p>
<p>2:08:14</p>	<p>DANIEL (VO/ON)</p>	<p>I think there were probably some times during the epidemic for me where I would hear somebody was sick, and it was just I- I wouldn't call them, or I- I just- I couldn't see them. It was just too much. It was just like I- I- I- somehow knew my limits, and I couldn't take one more sick friend on. And it- it- it felt bad. But it was- it's so easy to just become part of a caregiver's group and, you know, that's your life for the next many, many months, and sometimes I just couldn't do it. Especially during the late eighties and early nineties. I was sick, and it was just enough to get, you know, get me out of bed. A lot of times it was the side effects of the drugs. It wasn't just the- the disease itself. You were- you were just so caught up with dealing--whether it's nausea, or wasting, or dizziness or fatigue--that you don't have time to worry about what else could happen. It's just you're dealing with what is happening. Tim was my partner during this time, but he was also HIV-positive, and I just didn't think I could do it again. I could not lose another partner, and I told him that. But we liked each other. We had really good times together. And we kept seeing each other, and after about six months, he said, you know, are we together or aren't we? Are you here or aren't you? And I just, you know, said, you know, I really love this person, and what happens, you know, happens. We would sort of take turns being sick. You know, I would get really sick, and then he would- could take care of me. Then he would get really sick, and I would take t- care of him, and thank God we were never both sick at the same time. He- he was not feeling well, and I called the doctor, and I said, I'm going to the hospital. And I bundled him into the car, and driving down Dolores Street, (sighs) he-- I guess an aneurysm. He just- his mouth just locked shut, and there I am, driving like eighty miles an hour down Dolores Street, (sighs) trying to pry his mouth open, just saying, breathe, breathe. And we were supposed to go to CPMC, but I knew that was way too far away, and Davies was closer, and I just-- I mean, thank God I didn't kill anybody on the street. I was really going down, running every light on Dolores Street, just honking my horn and just driving. (sighs) And by the time I got to Davies, he was dead. (sighs) It was so quick. I was in a total state of shock. (sighs) I w- I thought I was gonna lose my mind. It just</p>

WE WERE HERE

		<p>felt like it would be real easy to just not be here anymore. Most of my friends were dead, and there just didn't seem to be any reason to stick around. But I didn't, and I'm really glad (chuckles) I didn't kill myself, but it was-- It's the only time I've ever been suicidal. It just-- And it was odd. It wasn't- it wasn't a crazy suicidal. It just felt very like, I don't, you know, I don't need to be here. There's no reason for me to be here. It seemed very logical. Um, I still can understand it looking back.</p>
2:13:29	<p>ON-SCREEN TEXT (on medical journal issues)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BETA Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ANTIVIRALS FOR HIV INFECTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AZT UPDATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE EARLY PROMISE OF COMPOUND Q</p>
2:13:30	<p>PAUL (VO/ON)</p>	<p>There was some hope on treatments, some hope on research. Some of the money had begun to float, and it had paid off with some early drugs. Experimental drugs were more accessible. Uh, gay activists were meeting with pharmaceutical companies to actually talk about medicines. So, yeah, there was f- And then Act Up comes as like this wave of sort of brilliant young artistic New Yorkers is how I see it. (laughs) It's like uh, thing about Act Up is it's true they were political, but they were political artists.</p>
2:13:58	<p>ON-SCREEN TEXT (on logo and posters)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SILENCE = DEATH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AIDSGATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IGNORANCE = FEAR SILENCE = DEATH FIGHT AIDS ACT UP</p>

WE WERE HERE

2:13:58	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	From their very opening statement, Silence Equals Death, it's art, it's culture, and it was, you know, it transformed the dialogue.
		[PROTEST CHANTING]
2:14:07	PROTESTORS (on archival video)	Sixty thousand dead from AIDS! Where was George?! Fight back! Fight AIDS! Health care is a right! Health care is a right!
2:14:16	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on protest sign)	GREED = DEATH STOP AIDS PROFITEERING
2:14:20	EILEEN (VO/ON)	That was the first time I crossed a picket line. I wanted to go in to the AIDS conference because there was information I wanted to get inside. And what they were screaming and hollering about I agreed with, so-- But then I- I realized that everybody is doing what they need to do. They need to be out there screaming and hollering and pushing because things don't happen unless you push, and I needed to go in to get that information so I could take care of them. And so maybe (chuckles) once I figured that out it was a little easier to cross that picket line.
2:14:58	PROTESTORS (on archival video)	Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS! Act up!
2:15:01	EILEEN (VO)	I mean, that was when drugs weren't on the fast track, where it took ten years to get a drug approved, and the activists really worked for that to change.
2:15:11	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on t-shirt)	ACT UP
2:15:18	CLEVE JONES (VO)	Neil Yeager. James Martin Case.
2:15:25	DANIEL (VO/ON)	One of the way I s- came back into the world was through the Names Project, which was the AIDS memorial quilt, which Cleve Jones started.
2:15:35	CLEVE JONES	...and my friend Marvin Feldman.

WE WERE HERE

2:15:39	DANIEL (VO/ON)	He came up with the idea that people would make panels memorializing their friends and children and lovers. It was a creative, positive way to focus their grief and sew it all together and make a powerful political statement.
2:15:59	GUY (VO/ON)	When they went to Washington and unfolded those blankets, it was like, you know, to me, lotus flower after lotus flower after lotus flower, and each petal was a person, you know? And it was so powerful. It was so powerful you didn't even have to say anything. The tears would just come.
2:16:30	ED (on archival video)	How are you?
2:16:31	PATIENT (on archival video)	I'm good.
2:16:32	ED (OS) (on archival video)	Nice.
2:16:33	PATIENT (on archival video)	(overlapping) Nervous but good.
2:16:34	ED (OS/ON) (on archival video)	Sure. The results are negative.
2:16:36	PATIENT (on archival video)	Okay. Good. (chuckles)
2:16:38	ED (on archival video)	Very good.
2:16:39	PATIENT (on archival video)	(overlapping) Good.
2:16:40	ED (VO/ON)	I still wanted to be involved. After my work in the hospital, it was fairly easy for me to translate, take those skills and move into working in testing clinics and working with people who are at risk for HIV, as well as occasionally having to tell people that they were infected.
2:17:03	PAUL (VO/ON)	When the test occurred, one of the main things we could

WE WERE HERE

		do is figure out how we're doing on prevention, and we were able to turn that around. So the likelihood that more and more people were being infected eh, had- had been changed.
2:17:14	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on headline clip)	Major Drop in Infections Encouraging S.F. AIDS Study
2:17:14	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	So less despair, less sense of absolute crisis.
2:17:20	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on buttons and banner)	STOP AIDS PROJECT
2:17:20	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	We're now getting into a sense of maybe there's a place to go here.
2:17:26	GUY (VO/ON)	Some things seemed to be working. I'm not saying that there was a cure, but there was a slowdown. You know, people weren't dropping like flies anymore. Some people were uh, hangin' on. And there was this one guy, he was in a wheelchair. He used to come by on a bicycle, and then he was in a wheelchair, and then he had a patch over his eye. And I really hated to look at him because I remember when this guy used to come by on his bicycle and buy flowers for his sister. And we would just laugh and everything, and I couldn't laugh at him anymore because he was coming by in the wheelchair, and it was like he was almost on his way out, and I just thought, God, where are you? Look at what's happening. And he was one of the first who, the next time I saw him, he wasn't in a wheelchair. He was walking. He had a cane. And then the next time I saw him, he didn't have that eye patch on anymore. And then, hey, I swear to you, yesterday I saw him at my flower stand, on his bicycle, and he was back. He wasn't back like he was in the beginning, but, you know, I'm not the way I was twenty years ago either. (laughs) But he was there and he had gone through the storm. And he had weathered the storm, and his spirit was just as bright and effervescent as it was in the beginning.
2:19:11	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on headline clip)	Multidrug use suppresses HIV in the long-term
2:19:13	PAUL (VO/ON)	The Washington Post came out with a headline, and it showed death from AIDS, and it was a graph going down.

WE WERE HERE

		And it basically said cocktail proves effective against HIV/AIDS.
2:19:25	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on newspaper)	Bay Area Reporter No obits
2:19:26	PAUL (VO) (CONT'D)	This means that AIDS work as we know it is transformed.
2:19:34	TITLE	Between 1994 and 1997, the number of yearly AIDS deaths in San Francisco declined from 1592 to 422.
2:19:42	TITLE	By that point, 15,548 San Franciscans had died in the epidemic.
2:19:49	DANIEL (VO/ON)	I remember my friend Ben saying in the old days that he would never go to Costco and buy one of those big things of toilet paper, 'cause he didn't think he'd ever use it all up. And now he can. (chuckles) That's the difference. I would never take a commission more than five or six months out, 'cause I didn't think I'd be able to finish it. Now I'll take a commission that's, you know, a year out. And now I have a partner whom I love and whom I hope to be with for a very, very long time, and so I'm imagining a future. I'm allowing myself to imagine a future. And that's- that's scary, too. There are still- I can-- I mean, I can feel it right now. There's like butterflies in my stomach. It's like I'm hoping. I'm feeling that hope again. And I could lose it, and I have to remember that, 'cause, you know, you get sick and, bam. You just sink right down again.
2:20:46	ED (VO/ON)	My friend John, who has studied Buddhism, talks about this metaphor of people who have been through some huge experience of loss, who cannot find their way back, if you will, to the land of the living. But they still walk the Earth, hungry, hungry for connection, hungry for some way to regain a sense of life and balance and that-- I- I do, when I walk through the Castro sometimes, I see- I see people who haven't been able to do that, and that's something that could have easily happened to me, in that I could have, you know, become one of those hungry ghosts. And, luckily for me, uh, it changed. I met someone, and I encountered life again. Here was this man walking down the street, and thank God I got it

WE WERE HERE

		together, and I said hello. And he's younger than me. Like much younger than me. And it's been a powerful, powerful experience to love and be very close to someone who's younger than me, who did not have the experience that I had with the AIDS epidemic and all that terrible loss...
2:22:14	ON-SCREEN TEXT (on banner)	AIDS HEALTH PROJECT
2:22:14	ED (VO/ON) (CONT'D)	and go on with my life having that inside me and- and it not be the all-consuming experience that I had had. And as much as I think about my father and what he went through in the war, I don't want like my war to do to me what it did to him.
2:22:44	PAUL (VO/ON)	In January of two thousand seven, I became the executive director of a um, GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco. And uh, and it surprised me that basically the conversation about AIDS that I had been having for so many years wasn't still going on in that group or in the community of- the GLBT community of San Francisco. Because for me it had continued, 'cause I was doing international AIDS work and working with AIDS groups. So suddenly no one was talking about AIDS. Peo- there weren't people with AIDS who everyone was sort of uh-- or where there-- If they were around, they were, took me a while to figure out who they were. (chuckles) And uh, an entire, you know, part of uh, um, of how I had perceived the community had changed.
2:23:33	EILEEN (VO/ON)	I don't have to worry when I'm old, you know, in looking back at my life, that I didn't do anything. And in terms of my politics, this was the thing that I got to do the most. Without all these people participating in these clinical trials, we would not be where we are today. And I really wish that some of them were around today to see where we are, because I don't know, they just gave a lot.
2:24:16	GUY (VO/ON)	This tragedy, it taught us how to be humble, it taught us how to be honest, it taught us how to- to love in spite of- of what's at the end of the tunnel. You know, how to be a little bit more considerate of another person. It-- (sighs) It showed us how to find spirituality. It taught me. I can only speak for myself. It taught me how to find my spirit and how to, you know, make my flame brighter.

WE WERE HERE

2:24:55	ED (VO/ON)	<p>You know, it's like the AIDS epidemic is not over. I still have friends who are living with HIV. Every once in a while, someone I know becomes infected. I mean, it continues. What has stopped continuing, at least in San Francisco and in most of the- of the developed world, is the- the- the vast amount of sickness and death. I would really like to be able to live long enough to know like how does the epidemic actually come to an end. Like will the treatments come and- and finally and effectively stop people from becoming sicker? And- and will the vaccine come and- and stop people from being able to transmit and acquire it? And- and will it all just finally, finally just stop?</p>
2:26:03	DANIEL	<p>You know, when people say how did you get through it, it's like I don't know. You know, you just do, and everybody does. I mean, anybody who's got cancer or AIDS, and there's like, oh, you're-- You know, so amazing you've- you've gotten through this. It's like, do I have a choice? You know, I want to stay alive and I'm gonna take care of myself the best I can. And you just do it. And it's not heroic. You just do it. And same thing with losing a partner. It's, you know, so many, you know-- Most people in the world lose partners, you know, at one time in their lives or another. And you just- you live through it, and it's horrible, but you do live through it. I know I have so many friends who died so young. That's-- I mean, that's-- That, to me, is the most painful part. Wh- what would the world be like now if they were alive? It would be different. It would be very different. Um, so many powerful people, talented people (sighs)... I miss. (sighs) I miss a lot of them. A lot.</p>
2:27:31	CLOSING CREDITS	
We Were Here		
Produced and directed by David Weissman		
Editor/ co-director Bill Weber		
Director of Photography Marsha Kahm		

WE WERE HERE

Location Sound
Lauretta Molitor

Music
Holcombe Waller

In Order of Appearance:

Ed Wolf
Paul Boneberg
Daniel Goldstein
Guy Clark
Eileen Glutzer

Additional Music
Doug Hilsinger

Post Production Supervisor
Bill Weber

Audio Post-Production
James LeBrecht - Berkeley Sound Artists

Color Correction
Gary Coates

Project Consultants
Irene Taylor Brodsky
Gail Silva

Post Production Services
Spy Post
Video Arts

Camera and Lighting Equipment
Robert Dockendorff

Archival Research
Gerard Koskovich
Elizabeth Pepin Silva

Archival Support
Alex Cherian
San Francisco Bay Area Television Archive
Rebekah Kim

WE WERE HERE

GLBT Historical Society

Budget Support
Sophie Harris

Editorial Intern
Jared Morgan

Humanities Advisors

Jonathan Katz
Paul Boneberg

Grantwriting (CCH Grant)
Jeff Jones

Legal Services
Kate Fritz, Jennifer Stanley, et al
Fenwick and West

Producer's Representative
Jonathan Dana

Distribution Consultants
The Film Collaborative

Publicity
MPRM Communications

Archival Footage

Many thanks to these amazing filmmakers who so powerfully
documented the AIDS epidemic in the early years.

Fighting for Our Lives: Facing AIDS in San Francisco - Ellen Seidler

Living With AIDS - Tina DiFeliciano

Silverlake Life - Peter Friedman and Tom Joslin

Chuck Solomon: Coming of Age
Marc Huestis and Wendy Dallas

Additional Archival Footage

Chuck Roseberg
Ellen Seidler
KQED San Francisco
KPIX San Francisco

WE WERE HERE

Network for Continuing Medical Education
and other sources

Archival Photos
Crawford Barton
Robert Pruzan
Marie Ueda
Henry Leleu
(all the above courtesy of GLBT Historical Society)

Greg Day
Marc Geller
Rich Gerharter
Sibylla Herbrich
Jim James
Hans Kwiotek

Dan Nicoletta
Mariella Poli
Alon Reininger
Rink
Yeli Sanchez
Frank Yamrus

and many unknown photographers

Nude self-portraits by John Davis
(with appreciation to Terri Davis and J. John Priola)

Special Acknowledgement
Tom Burtch, for digitizing the BAR obituaries

Major Funding Provided by

California Council for the Humanities/The Skirball Foundation
Silva Watson Moonwalk Fund
Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation
San Francisco Foundation Bay Area Documentary Fund
The Small Change Foundation

Frameline Completion Fund
Nathan Cummings Foundation
San Francisco Film Society/Film Arts Foundation Grant

Fenwick and West
Further Foundation

Major Donors

Alvin Baum
Cynthia Lovelace Sears and Frank Buxton
Joseph Garrett and Spike Lomibao
Robert Dockendorff
Susan Shaw

WE WERE HERE

(in memory of Nicholas Vance Zuckerman)
Darren Star

Individual Donors

Rudd Canaday and Gerald Walker
Howard Roffman and Duane Waters
Murray Edelman
Ann Jeffries

Stephen Martin and Douglas Schmidt
Julie Benello
Dennis Chicola and Ron Newman
Karl Christiansen
Jay Cohen
Michael Ehrenzweig
Eileen Glutzer
Elizabeth Katz and LeeAnn Thompson
Tom Kelley
Thomas Lauderdale and Philip Iosca
Thomas Mills

Adam Berman, Adam Blum and Gary Long, Robert Croonquist
Mark Garrett and Eric Smith, David M. Helbraun and Boone Callaway
Dr. Jay Lalezari, James Mattingly, Michael Ritter and Peter Toscani
Rebecca Westerfield, Ron Zuckerman, and many more!

Fundraising Support
The Incomparable Ron Zuckerman
Brenda Laribee

Special Thanks

David Cohen, for suggesting that I make this film

Rich Aranow
Al Baum
Linda Blackaby
Christian Bruno
David Boyer
Alex Cherian
Lenore Chinn
Karl Christiansen
Pam David
Rob Epstein
Jeffrey Friedman
Russ Gage

Mark Holmes
Sharon Johnson
Lori Joseph
Steve Keith
John Killacky
Brent Kirsten
Vivian Kleiman
Jason Lahman
Brenda Laribee
Gene London
Dawn Logsdon
Jimmy Loyce

Stephen Pullis
Kirk Read
Myke Reilly
Clayton Robbins
Danny Sauro
Veronica Selver
Matthew Simmons
Alan Snitow and Deborah
Kaufman
Aaron Star
Peter Stein
Strange de Jim

WE WERE HERE

Mark Garrett and Eric Smith Donnie Gayer Dan Geller and Dayna Goldfine Daniel Goldstein	Kevin M. Lyons Chris Martin Joey Plaster	Sam Tucker and Lewis Nightingale Michele Turnure-Salleo Louise Vance Natalia Vekic
©2011 David Weissman		
2:29:51	END OF PICTURE	