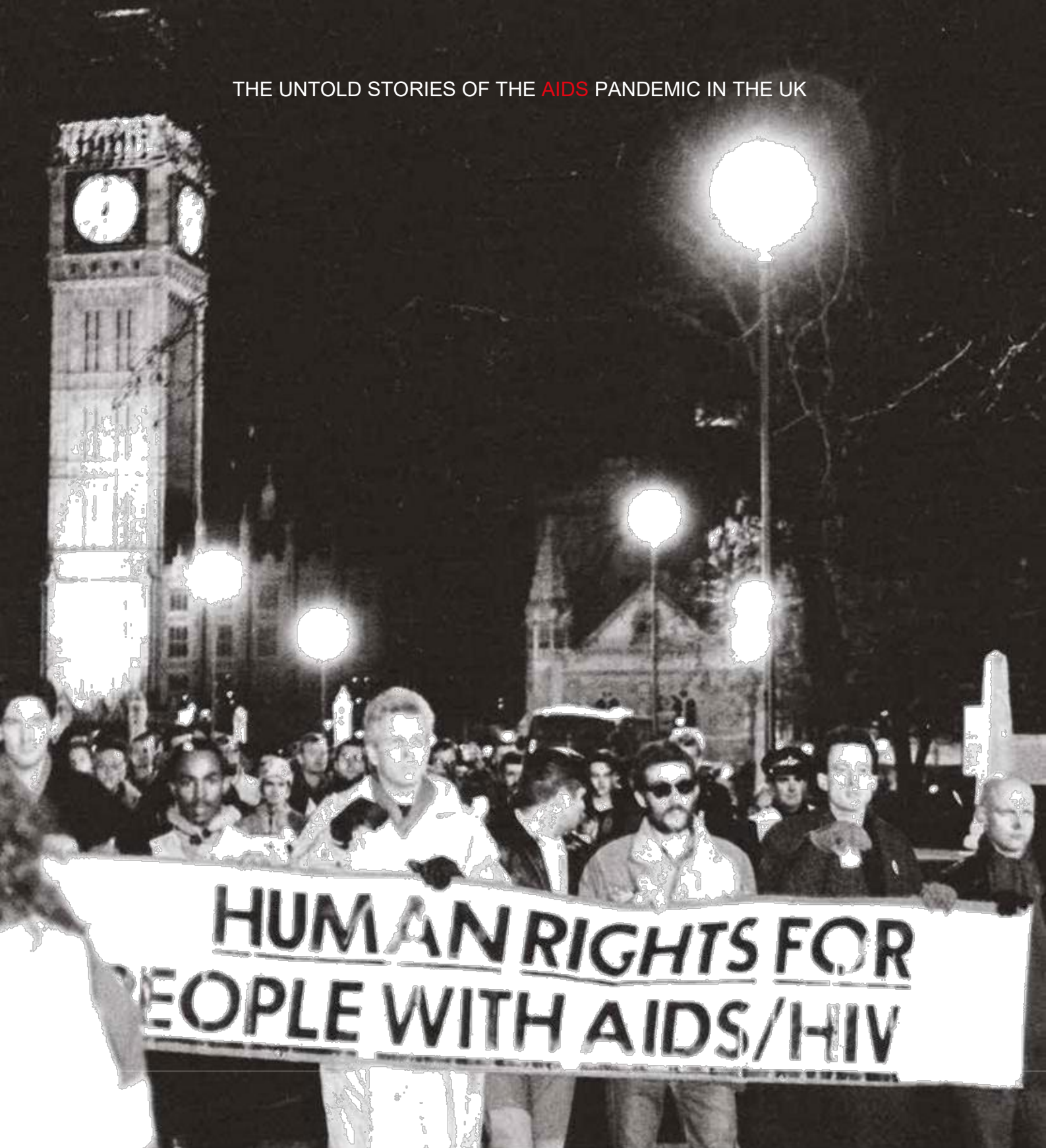


# AFTER 82

THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE AIDS PANDEMIC IN THE UK



A film by  
**Steve Keeble & Ben Lord**

# AFTER 82

**Narrated by**

**Dominic West**

**Scriptwriter for Dominic West**

**Rob Young**

**Camera**

**Karen Fraser-Clay**

**Richard Fluery**

**Michael Spry**

**Director of Photography**

**Simon Clay**

**Music and original score by**

**David Knight**

**Sound**

**Christian Bourne**

**David Kenny**

**Editor**

**Martin Taylor**

**Producers**

**Steve Keeble**

**Ben Lord**

**Directed by**

**Steve Keeble**

**Ben Lord**

**Assistant to Mr Keeble and Mr Lord**

**George Brereton**

**Executive Producer**

**Peter Fraser**

**Dominic Geraghty**

**Steve Keeble**

**Ben Lord**

# GAY MENACE DOCTORS FEAR AN EPIDEMIC

doctors fear that Britain is  
ling for an epidemic of the  
sex disease AIDS which has  
t the U.S.

37 confirmed cases so far the  
"Plague" seems to be following the  
pattern as in America, where the  
of victims

20 dead—and  
toll could go  
into hundreds

## ABOUT AFTER 82

**J**uly 4th 2017 marks 35 years since the HIV/AIDS pandemic first became prominent in the UK following the death of Terry Higgins, one of the first people to die from an AIDS-related illness in the UK.

Five years in the making, *After 82* looks back over these years using first-hand personal accounts from the people who were affected and those people and organisations that were, and still are, there to support them. What makes this documentary unique is that for many, this is the first time they have ever spoken publicly about what really happened.



## FILM-MAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

**After 82** is directed/produced both by Steve Keeble and Ben Lord. The film was made over a five-year period. It is their first feature film.

Steve Keeble is a film-maker. He studied BA (Hons) Film Production at London Southbank University. He previously worked as occasional actor and appeared in **EastEnders** (BBC) and **Holby City** (BBC).

Ben Lord studied BA (Hons) Film Studies at London Southbank University. He is a film-maker/writer and photographer. Ben wrote a play called **Voice**, which is based on the documentary **After 82** and was performed at ImmerCity Theatre. He has also worked as casting director and location manager. His previous work includes **EastEnders** (BBC), **New Tricks** (BBC) and **Holby City** (BBC).

Ben and Steve's partnership includes working with the Oscar-winning script writer Christopher Hampton. They filmed his stage adaptation of **Faith, Hope and Charity** at Southwark Playhouse and his interview with Christopher Hampton.



## Q&A WITH THE FILM-MAKERS



### What was the basic idea behind *After 82*?

**Ben:** Steve and I decided to make a film about HIV. Initially *After 82* started out as short film in which a friend of my father agreed to talk about his experiences of living with HIV.

### What made you want to tell this story?

**Steve:** I lived through the 1980s as young gay man and saw many friends die from the virus. I lived through the fear of the possibility of becoming infected and the bigotry the gay community faced from society and the media. Over the years I pushed the horror of what I went through to the back of mind until I started working on the film. It was only through the process of making this film that I realised how much I was affected by the whole experience of the AIDS pandemic.

### What did you find out during the making of *After 82*?

**Ben:** I grew up as a child in the 1980s and I was aware of HIV/AIDS from a distance. I was never told about it during sex education at school. It was only later on when I started going out on the gay scene that the older generation of gay men told me to protect myself against HIV. When I started work on the project I did not realise how much of the history of AIDS pandemic was hidden from view. I did not know

about the stories of young gay men dying in bedsits, people living with the virus being chucked out of their homes and people going to funerals practically every week for lovers, friends and family. This history of my community was never told to me in my younger years (or even later years) and I wouldn't have found out had I not worked on this film.

### How did the project actually come together?

**Steve:** I think both Ben and I are coming from different perspectives working on this project. For me it is to acknowledge my history and for Ben it is to learn about the history of the LGBT community. Importantly both Ben and I agree that the history of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the UK needs to be recognised in much wider detail through schools and across all sections of society.

### How did the project actually come together?

**Ben:** We never expected the project to get this big and receive so much interest. The interest has come from everyone, in particular the heterosexual community. The experience of HIV/AIDS has affected many people - with some people being public about their experiences, while others kept quiet about it for many reasons. Somehow though, those who kept quiet wanted to unburden their pain and grief, share it with us on camera. What has been very humbling is



that this is the only time they have said they wanted to tell their personal stories. Never again will some of these people share their stories on camera. Thankfully, this moment of history - which was destined to be buried forever - is now ready to be told to generations to come.

This project has overtaken our lives and it has been very tough on so many levels. Some people have told us to give up this project because of the personal, emotional, physical and financial struggle we have faced. The film has taken over five years to complete and we cannot and will not give up on our project or the people who have shared their stories with us. We as community cannot forget the countless people who died, whose loved ones have gracefully shared their memories on camera. That is why this film needs to be seen and heard.

### Did you find people willing to talk about their experiences?

**Steve:** We had been two months in pre-production when we started receiving emails and calls from people asking us, 'have you spoken to so and so?'

People wanted to share their stories about their personal experiences of HIV/AIDS. It was like a hidden world had risen up and wanted to be heard.

### Who have you interviewed?

**Ben:** We have been lucky enough to interview Lord Norman Fowler who was part of the Conservative Government under Margaret Thatcher's premiership. He raised awareness of HIV/AIDS and fought many battles against bigotry in doing so. We have also interviewed many people who were diagnosed in the early 1980s and who are thankfully alive today to tell the world their story. We have been lucky enough to have Stephen Fry narrating the website for the film. It was real honour to work with him. The actor Dominic West is narrating the film and was introduced to us by Jonathan Blake (who was interviewed for our film), who funnily enough was played by Dominic West in the film *Pride*. We are really grateful to everyone who has given their stories and time to our project.

Extracts from interview with *Boyz* magazine December 2016.



## CONTRIBUTORS



### Dr Rupert Whitaker

Dr Whitaker was 19 when he contracted HIV and following the death of his then partner, Terry Higgins, he went on to co-found the charity Terrence Higgins

Trust in his name. A lifelong HIV/AIDS campaigner, Dr Whitaker has also gone on to found the Tuke Institute.



### Shaun Dellenty

Shaun Dellenty experienced homophobic bullying as a teenager growing up under the shadow of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the United

Kingdom in the 1980s. Due to his experience he has launched his charity Inclusion For All, which combats homophobic bullying in schools. He is also a deputy head teacher and actor.



### Tony Calvert

Tony Calvert is a former actor and was a friend and flatmate of Terry Higgins for many years.



### Garry Brough

Garry Brough is HIV positive. He is also an HIV activist and lives with his partner in London.



### Lisa Power MBE

Lisa Power co-founded Stonewall and later went on to work as Policy Director at Terrence Higgins Trust.



### Martyn Butler

Martyn Butler was a friend of Terry Higgins and following his death he set up Terrence Higgins Trust with Dr Rupert Whitaker. He was

the charity's first chairman.



### Peter Madders

Peter was co-founder of London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard and regularly manned the phones at the height of the pandemic.



### Peter Tatchell

A world-renowned human rights activist, Peter was instrumental in raising HIV/AIDS issues and keeping them at the forefront of people's

minds during the height of the pandemic.



### Lord Norman Fowler

Lord Fowler was Secretary for Social Services under Margaret Thatcher's Government at the height of the AIDS Pandemic. He implemented the first

official drive to educate the British public to the dangers of AIDS.



### Dr Caroline Bradbeer

Caroline Bradbeer was starting her training as a junior doctor when the first cases of HIV/AIDS became apparent. She is now retired.



### Michelle Ross-Turner

Michelle Ross-Turner is a trained counsellor and founder of CliniQ. She started working at Terrence Higgins Trust during the height of the

HIV/AIDS pandemic.



### Tony Whitehead

Tony Whitehead has lived with HIV for many years. Tony first came to prominence in the mid seventies when his then employees British Home Stores discriminated against him for being gay. Tony was the second chairman.

### Jonathan Blake



Jonathan Blake is an actor and was a member of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners. He was diagnosed with HIV in the early 1980s. The BAFTA award-winning actor Dominic West

portrayed Jonathan in the film *Pride*.



### Jonathan Grimshaw MBE

Jonathan Grimshaw was the founder of Body Positive. He was diagnosed with HIV in the early 1980s and was one of the first people to go public in the media about his HIV status.



## CONTRIBUTORS



### Patrick Lyster-Todd

Patrick Lyster-Todd is Director of Community Engagement at Pride in London. He was a prominent member of Gays in the Military.



### Simon Watney

Simon Watney is HIV positive and was a prominent member of ACTUP in the USA and United Kingdom. He is an author and historian.



### Danny West

Danny West was diagnosed with HIV in the 1980s. He works as a life coach.

A huge thanks to everyone who was involved in this project and helped make it happen.



Above (left to right): Peter Fraser: Executive Producer, Steve Keeble & Ben Lord: Directors/Producers, Dominic West: Narrator, Jonathan Blake: interviewee and Rob Young: Script Writer for Dominic West.

Right: Dominic West records the narration for After 82.





## QUOTES FROM THE DOCUMENTARY



**Jonathan Blake:** *'That was it, I was going to commit suicide.'*



**Danny West:** *'I was told that because I was gay I probably had it. That was the extent of my pre-test counselling at the time.'*

**Dr Caroline Bradbeer:** *'A colleague of mine said, "I think everybody is going to get AIDS in the end."'*



**Shaun Dellenty:** *'On a nightly basis people would come up to me and call me Rock Hudson and say, "When are you going to die? Because that is what you deserve."'*

**Michelle Ross-Turner:** *'I cannot remember their names, but I see their faces and they are all gone now.'*



**Lisa Power MBE:** *'When I was working at Switchboard in the early 1980s we ended our conversation with every gay man asking them if they had heard of AIDS.'*

**Patrick Lyster-Todd:** *'I had lost the two things that had mattered the most to me, in the space of 48 hours.'*



**Garry Brough:** *'The doctor told me that as it was an early diagnosis he thought that I could expect about five years of life.'*



## QUOTES FROM THE DOCUMENTARY



**Lord Norman Fowler:** *'The ward was full of young men dying of AIDS and there was nothing we could do about it.'*



**Jonathan Grimshaw:** *'I never used to stand too near the edge at Underground stations just in case someone thought I hadn't been punished enough by God.'*

**Tony Calvert:** *'People were dropping like flies. Every day someone was getting night sweats and sickness.'*



**Dr Rupert Whitaker:** *'When I was nineteen I was told I had eighteen months to live.'*

**Simon Watney:** *'I really didn't think this would happen to me and it devastated me to be honest.'*



**Peter Tatchell:** *'Living through the AIDS pandemic was like living through a war.'*



**Peter Madders:** *'You couldn't put the phone down before another call was coming through at Switchboard.'*



## Q&A WITH FIVE PEOPLE FROM THE DOCUMENTARY

Photograph by Colin Harkness



### PETER TATCHELL

#### What made you wish to be interviewed for the film?

I wanted to help the film document the history of HIV in the UK: the decimation of LGBT lives, the media and political bigotry that HIV unleashed, the fightback against the pandemic and the moral panic it generated, the early Government inertia and the successes of safer sex education in slowing the spread of the virus.

#### What impact do you think the film will have upon its release?

The film will be a reminder to older generations of what they went through and an eye-opener to younger people of the horrors they have been spared. The impact will, I hope, be huge - and educative about how the greatest modern threat to public health was tamed in less than two decades.

#### Why do you think it has taken so long for the story of the early years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic to be told?

People were so preoccupied with saving lives - their own and others - that taking time out to tell the HIV story seemed a distraction and diversion. For many, until now, it was too soon. There were so many raw emotions from the loss of so many friends and loved ones.

### JONATHAN BLAKE

#### What made you wish to be interviewed for the film?

The reason is that I think this is a really important film; there are fewer of us early diagnosed and I feel it's important our voices are heard.

#### What impact do you think the film will have upon its release?

I hope that people will now have a fuller sense of those early frightening years - nowadays the medication seems to be prime, but in those early years it was about 'community' without which none of the various charities such as Terrence Higgins Trust would exist.



#### Why do you think it has taken so long for the story of the early years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic to be told?

I don't know but I suppose it has only been since 1996 that the medication began to make headway and until they were proven people's heads were there. After 30 years it seems appropriate that our story is told and I think people now have lots of data to underscore our stories.



## DANNY WEST

### What made you wish to be interviewed for the film?

I think that it is very important to promote positive role models of people living with HIV and it is essential that we archive and chronicle our story of the HIV epidemic before it is lost and forgotten. I also think that this documentary will be a very important testimony to the thousands of gay men who have died as a result of HIV/AIDS.

### What impact do you think the film will have upon its release?

I think that this documentary has the potential to educate society and gay men's communities and challenge HIV stigma, discrimination and prejudice.

### Why do you think it has taken so long for the story of the early years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic to be told?

Essentially I think that stigma has been the key causative factor in preventing this film from being made in the past. I also think that the experience of the HIV epidemic has been extremely traumatic for gay men and that many gay men have been reluctant to tell their stories.

## GARRY BROUGH

### What made you wish to be interviewed for the film?

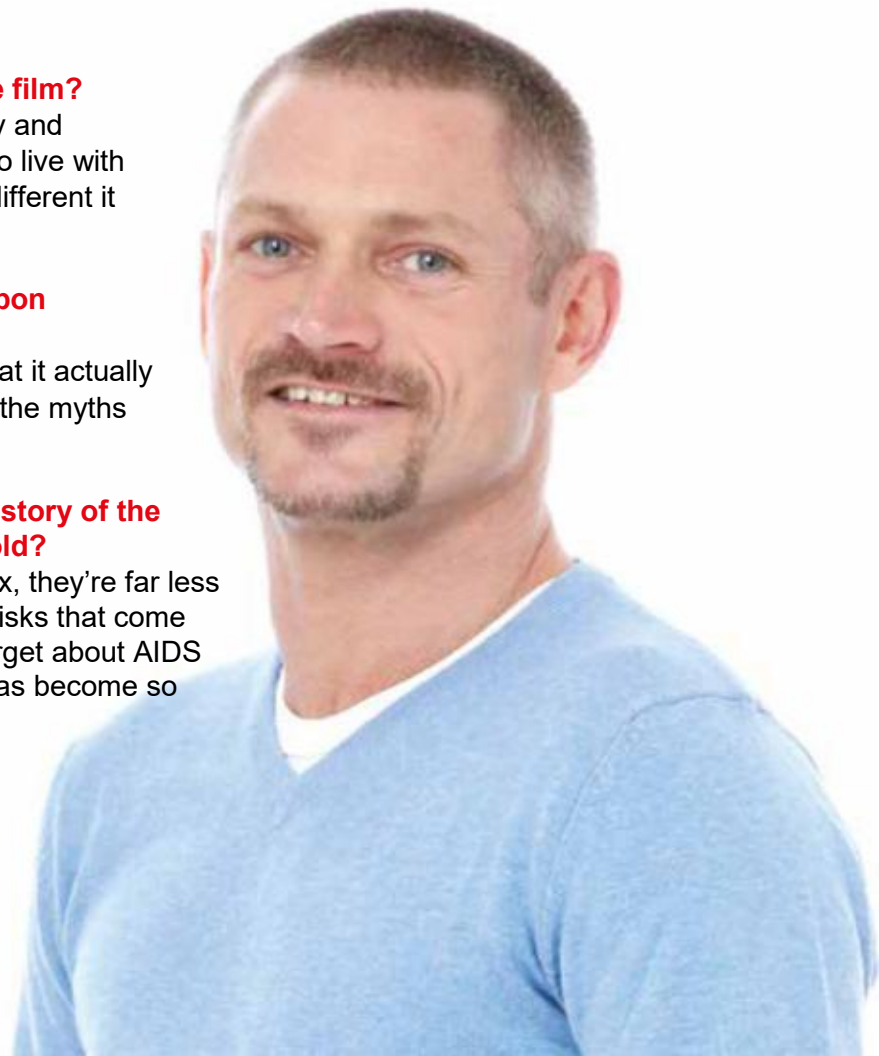
The fact that so few people talk about HIV openly and because personal experiences of what it meant to live with HIV before medication was available - and how different it is now - need to be heard.

### What impact do you think the film will have upon its release?

I would hope that it would raise awareness of what it actually means to live with HIV today and dispel some of the myths and stigma that arise around HIV.

### Why do you think it has taken so long for the story of the early years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic to be told?

Because while people are very happy to have sex, they're far less comfortable talking about it - and to discuss the risks that come with sex is even harder. I think people want to forget about AIDS (especially the gay community, when marriage has become so much more important), because how they feel about it and people who may have it, raises difficult questions that most people don't want to consider.







## JONATHAN GRIMSHAW

### **What made you wish to be interviewed for the film?**

Very few people diagnosed with HIV in the earliest years of the AIDS crisis are still alive and, as one of them, I wanted to give a sense of what it felt like at the time and what we did in response.

### **What impact do you think the film will have upon its release?**

I hope it will bring alive, particularly for people too young to remember the early years of the epidemic, the history of how a maligned community was devastated by a disease but rallied to support its own, assert its humanity and inspire respect.

### **Why do you think it has taken so long for the story of the early years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic to be told?**

Because no one until now has had the balls and determination to raise the money for a film which tells the story from a gay community perspective.

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## HIV TODAY

Unbelievably, 35 years have now passed since 1982.

Thanks to incredible advances in HIV treatment, HIV is no longer a death sentence. People who are taking effective HIV treatment and have an undetectable viral load cannot pass on the virus to others, and can live long and healthy lives. But it's not over.

Ian Green, Chief Executive of Terrence Higgins Trust, explains:

*'These stories need to be told, and this film must be seen – both by the younger LGBT generation, and by the general public, as well as those of us who remember the period all too well.'*

*'The film reminds us that we've come a long way since the dark days of the 1980s, but also that the fight against HIV is not over yet. The oppressive weight of complacency, coupled with ongoing stigma, still causes huge barriers even after decades of medical progress in treating the virus. We are also seeing the first generation of people to grow older with HIV.'*

*'Over three decades since our namesake Terry lost his life, we're proud to publicly support the After 82 project. We must never forget and never give up.'*

Terrence Higgins Trust, the HIV and sexual health charity, was set up by friends of Terry Higgins after his death in 1982. Today, the charity continues to work towards a world free from HIV transmissions, and where people living with HIV can live healthy lives, free from stigma and discrimination.

## OUR SUPPORTERS

**Stephen Fry**



**Tilda Swinton**



**Dan Nicoletta**



**Dominic West**



# AFTER 82

THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE AIDS PANDEMIC IN THE UK



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***www.after82movie.com***

Running time: **100 mins**

Year of production: **2017**

Country of Production: **UK**

Format: **HD 16:9**

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