

STILL AROUND

82 minutes, color, 2011

Executive Producers

Marc Smolowitz, Jörg Fockele

Directors

Emmanuelle Antolin, Daniel Cardone, S. Leo Chaing, Deborah Craig, Robert Dekkers, Véronica Duport Deliz, Jörg Fockele, Stuart Gaffney, Amir Jaffer, Sade Huron, Tim Kulikowski & Iam Wolfley, Rick Osmon, Anne Siegel, Marc Smolowitz, Debra A. Wilson



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STILL AROUND

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Still Around is a feature length compilation of 15 short films about HIV/AIDS commemorating the 30-year anniversary of the epidemic in 2011. The film weaves a diverse slate of stories into one powerful video AIDS quilt of our times to paint an unmatched emotional portrait of how people thrive and survive in the face of long term illness.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Commemorating the 30-year anniversary of the epidemic in 2011, **The HIV Story Project**, a San Francisco based film collective, commissioned and produced 15 short films that portray people living with HIV/AIDS from the San Francisco Bay Area - a region that has been deeply affected by the disease. The end result is **Still Around**, a feature length compilation that weaves a diverse slate of stories into one powerful video AIDS quilt of our times. From straight forward vérité documentary, to spoken words piece, dance film or experimental short anything goes. Each piece is 4-5 minutes in length and tells a personal story in a truthful and forthright manner.

Connecting 16 of the San Francisco Bay Area's most established as well as emerging directors with 15 individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS, the voices of women, men, transgender, gay and straight, young and old, and of many ethnic backgrounds come together to paint an unmatched portrait of how people thrive and survive in the face of long term illness.

BACKGROUND

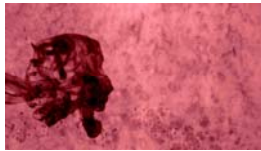
In July 2010, the Center for Disease Control estimated that more than 1 million people are living with HIV in the U.S. One in five (21%) of those people is unaware of their HIV+ status. An estimated 56,300 Americans of all ages and backgrounds becomes infected with HIV each year. Worldwide the numbers of people living with the disease are staggering -- estimated to be nearing 40 million, almost 6% of the of our planet's population.

It is in this continuing context of global crises that **The HIV Story Project** was launched in June 2009 as a non-profit, multi-platform media endeavor about HIV/AIDS at the beginning of the 21st Century. Thirty years into one of the world's most substantial and long-term health pandemics, **The HIV Story Project** has brought together individuals living with HIV/AIDS, non-profit organizations addressing the disease, and top filmmakers to participate in one of the largest cross-agency and cross-disciplinary efforts to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS the world has ever seen.

THE FILMS



Hoping Wishing Praying directed by Sade Huron
“Hoping Wishing Praying”, an experimental short by filmmaker Sade Huron, emotively illuminates the intensely personal poem “What’s inside of me” by spoken word artist Roxanne Hanna Ware. Abstract images and insightful words interact to expose the raw pain, profound isolation and defiant *strength* of living with HIV for over a decade. Ultimately the film is a poignant celebration of the alchemy of adversity.



Blur directed by Amir Jaffer
Dr. Richard Jones, a retired optometrist recalls homophobia and being shunned by friends soon after the AIDS epidemic began. Not your average trip down memory lane by a survivor who lost many friends due to ignorance and politics of the early eighties.



Instant Dad directed by Rick Osmon
“Instant Dad” reveals the filmmaker’s struggle and determination to live through the height of the AIDS epidemic when he unexpectedly became the legal guardian for his 10 year-old nephew.



Ward 86 directed by Debra A. Wilson
After an unknown virus hits the San Francisco gay community in the 80’s Ali, a social worker and activist, was impelled to devote her life’s work to HIV/AIDS and Ward 86.



Secrets of a Sister directed by Anne Siegel
Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch of the Order of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence spills the beans.



Paws directed by Tim Kulikowski & Ian Wolfley
“Paws” explores the relationship between Richard, a spirited long-term AIDS survivor who’s weathered life-threatening illness and a year of paralysis, and his best friend—a playful dog named Dexter.



Full Circle directed by Stuart Gaffney
While living in a sleepy Northern California town, Elaine is shocked to learn of her unexpected HIV diagnosis with her fiancé by her side. Despite the news, they marry and raise a beautiful daughter. For better and for worse, the three of them face HIV together as a family. With her husband and daughter always beside her, Elaine learns to tell her story to women and students everywhere so that they can learn from her experience.

Elaine shows us a different face of the epidemic and how each of us can make a difference, one story at a time.



Ours directed by Robert Dekkers
“Ours” intimately examines the universality of our need to touch and be touched- both physically, emotionally and spiritually. The film explores seven

intensely personal relationships, each expressing a unique connection, which collectively reveal the deeply rooted bond between physical touch and our emotional experiences.



Ritual

directed by Jörg Fockele

One man's journey to coping with his HIV infection through a hooking ritual.



Construct

directed by Daniel Cardone

One night, HIV positive crystal meth addict Matthew Blanchard passed out in his apartment. He awoke 12 days later, suffering from a brutal bacterial infection that had destroyed his face. He is now clean, sober and in the process of reconstructing his life, and his physical self.



To Live

directed by Emmanuelle Antolin

From the roots of injustice to the seeds of disease, "To Live" is the journey of one man's life struggle on the flipside of the American dream - from his beginnings as a foster child, to his yearning for hope, as he lives with HIV today.



Tita

directed by S. Leo Chiang

Tita Aida, HIV/AIDS-educator-activist-superstar for the queer Asian & Pacific Islander community, is still fabulous, and still kicking ass.



I'm Gonna Be Here

directed by Deborah Craig

"I'm Gonna Be Here" is a 5-minute film about Sylvia Young, an HIV positive Latina / Native American woman. Sylvia is a mother and a grandmother—a strong and thoughtful woman who derives solace and strength from her spirituality. She also now works with other HIV positive women to help guide

them through the ups and downs of their journey living with the virus.

Sylvia is not a victim but a powerful and inspiring role model who shows us how HIV need not be an ending but can instead be the start of a new road in life.



Tell Me

directed by Véronica Duport Deliz

Through the lens of his camera, a man discovers a path to discussing his HIV status with an unexpected face-to-face encounter.



Sorrow & Joy

directed by Marc Smolowitz

"Sorrow & Joy" tells the story of Alic Shook -- a 30 year-old trans, gay man who is a writer, competitive swimmer, and health educator.

When Alic was a woman, he went to live in Thailand to help children living with AIDS. As a trans, gay man living in present day San Francisco, he

negotiates the challenges of safer sex and dating while also being an HIV educator for the San

Francisco Department of Public Health. He faces the threat of becoming infected with HIV by finding his voice as a writer and by swimming through the sorrows and joys that come with his generation.

His is story of hope that dreams of day when HIV will no longer be a threat to anyone.

~~Still Around~~

CREDITS

Executive Producers	Marc Smolowitz, Jörg Fockele
Co-Producer	AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Directors	Emmanuelle Antolin, Daniel Cardone, S. Leo Chiang, Deborah Craig, Robert Dekkers, Véronica Duport Deliz, Jörg Fockele, Stuart Gaffney, Amir Jaffer, Sade Huron, Tim Kulikowski & Ian Wolfley, Rick Osmon, Anne Siegel, Marc Smolowitz, Debra A. Wilson
Associate Producers	Ian Wolfley, Tim Kulikowski, Jok Church, Robert Cline, Howard Roffman
Directors of Photography	S. Leo Chiang, Wilfred Galila, Amir Jaffer, John Lore, Alexander du Prel, Nickolas Rossi, Joshua Smith
Sound Technicians	Daniel Armstrong, Jen Covens, Douglas Robertson, Chris Runde, Johnny Symons, Brian Tracey
Editors	Emmanuelle Antolin, Véronica Deliz, Milena Grozeva Levy, Tim Hahn, Yasufumi Higuchi, Sade Huron, Amir Jaffer, Daisy Morin, Eva Moss, Alexander du Prel, Ondine Rarey
Post Production Supervisor	Alexander du Prel
Post Production Services	Kinolaboratorium Berlin
Colorist	Alexander du Prel
Sound Editor	Ma Raab
Sound Mix	Hartmut Teschemacher, Konken Studios Hamburg
Motion Graphics Artist	Steve Ogden
Community Consultants	Derrick Mapp, Luis Guerra, Wendy Levy
Development Consultants	Don Brown, Reginald Evans, Meghan Moroney
Original Musical Composition "Still Around,"	written and produced by Laurie Lewis, James Morgan, Incommon Music

"Fearless," written by Everett Bradley & Tanya Leah, performed by Everett Bradley, Used by permission from "Titania Music/Songs of Note"

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KEY PERSONNEL

Marc G. Smolowitz – Executive Producer/Director (Sorrow & Joy)

Marc is an Academy Award nominated film, television & new media producer (The Weather Underground '03, Trembling Before G-d '01) with 20 years of diverse professional experience across all aspects of the entertainment business. He works as an Executive Producer and Consultant to a dynamic slate of Bay Area-based media and technology companies. Most recently, he was the Producer at TellyTopia, a Silicon Valley new media startup that provides IP-TV & VOD solutions to cable operators, satellite companies and online media channels. He recently completed “The Power Of Two,” a feature documentary that he’s both directing & producing that tells the life stories of twin double lung transplant recipients. He’s also an Adjunct Faculty in the Digital Filmmaking program at the Art Institute of California-San Francisco. Learn more at <http://www.linkedin.com/in/marcsmolowitz>.

Jörg Fockele – Executive Producer/Director (Ritual)

An award-winning filmmaker and tv producer, Jörg has written and directed over ten short films and documentaries, numerous music videos and produced/ directed television shows such as “Queer Eye” and “Wife Swap”. Of the awards and distinctions he has received, the most important ones are retrospectives at the Goethe Institutes NYC, San Francisco, Chicago and Mexico City, 2 Emmys and a special prize from the Intl. Film Festival Berlin. Originally from Hamburg/ Germany, Jörg lived in New York for 13 years before moving to San Francisco in 2008. He is making a living directing segments for the Sundance Channel's “The Green” and for The Discovery Channel “Planet Green” programming blocks while at the same time working on two feature scripts. For more information visit http://www.elevationtalent.com/JorgFockele_TV.html.

Ian Wolfley – Associate Producer/Co-Director (Paws)

Ian Wolfley earned a degree in Moving Image Arts from the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico. His documentary work has been shown at festivals across the country, including the Museum of Television and Radio in New York, Slamdance in Utah, and Frameline. He is currently involved in a variety of film and media projects in San Francisco.

Tim Kulikowski – Associate Producer/Co-Director (Paws)

Tim Kulikowski has ventured through the realms of advertising and marketing, website project management, multimedia consulting, teaching English in Tokyo, and most recently, filmmaking. Currently at work on a travel book based on two years of exploring five continents, Tim earned his MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Phoenix, Arizona. He works and lives in San Francisco.

Emmanuelle Antolin – Director (To Live)

Emmanuelle Antolin is an independent filmmaker and editor whose work cuts across many genres, such as fiction, experimental and documentary, and encompasses a wide variety of themes. Emmanuelle has worked as an editor or assistant editor for Wieden+Kennedy and Lucas Film, and on award-winning films including “Sam Cooke: Crossing Over” and “Her

Urge”, among others. Her work has shown in Solar World Cinema, the San Francisco International Women’s Film Festival, art galleries, and in other venues and festivals. Before filmmaking, Emmanuelle worked as an advocate and counselor for youth. Emmanuelle completed her BA at the University of California, Berkeley and an MA in Feature Film at Goldsmiths College, University of London. She is currently producing a documentary about the lesbian response to the early AIDS crisis.

Daniel Cardone – Director (Construct)

Graduating from Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia in 1994, Daniel Cardone made a series of largely unseen short films - *Everybody’s Dead*, *Curious* and *Napalm* - which combined urban mystery and miscommunications with lurid dialogue, before moving to Melbourne in 1999. In Melbourne he worked with acclaimed production company Big & Little Films, including working on the features *Call Me Mum* and *The Home Song Stories*. Daniel has also worked in production on the hit Network Seven Australia TV show *City Homicide*, the HBO/DreamWorks miniseries *The Pacific*, and the award-winning feature, *Animal Kingdom*. In 2006 he co-produced the wildly popular short film *Outland*. Daniel was Associate Producer for the sitcom based on *Outland*, with Princess Pictures and the Australia Broadcasting Corporation, which will air on ABC TV (Australia) in 2011. He currently lives in California.

S. Leo Chiang – Director (Tita)

S. Leo Chiang is a Taiwan-born, San Francisco-based filmmaker. His most recent film, *A Village Called Versailles*, about the rebuilding and transformation of the Vietnamese-American community in post-Katrina New Orleans, picked up eight film festival awards, aired on PBS’ Independent Lens series, and has been acquired by more than 200 academic and public libraries. His previous films include *To You Sweetheart*, *Aloha* (PBS broadcast ’06), *One + One* (CINE Golden Eagle Award ’02), and *Safe Journey*. Leo also collaborates with other documentarians as an editor and as a cameraman. Leo received his MFA in film production from University of Southern California. He is also an active member of New Day Films, the social-issue documentary distribution co-operative.

Deborah Craig – I’m Gonna Be Here

Deborah Craig is a Bay Area filmmaker, photographer, musician, writer, and public health professional who has made several award-winning films about HIV positive women. Deborah has a B.A. in History from Columbia University. She has been a jazz drummer from an early age and has also pursued fine art photography since her teens. Like many artists, Deborah worked in the software industry for numerous years to earn a “real” living, publishing over a dozen books. Most recently, Deborah received her masters in public health at San Francisco State University. Her current work combines her interest in writing, the visual arts and public health. Her films use the power of media to depict the human side of health crises.

Robert Dekkers – Director/Choreographer (Ours)

Recently named ’25 To Watch’ by *DANCE Magazine*, Robert Dekkers has danced professionally with Ballet Arizona, ODC/Dance, and Company C Contemporary Ballet. Since he began choreographing in 2001, his works have been presented at venues including the Tanzsommer Festival (Vienna), the Ballet Builders Showcase (New York City) and the World Ballet Competition (Orlando). In 2008, Dekkers was named Resident Choreographer of NovaBallet, where he created several critically acclaimed new works for the company.

In 2009, Dekkers founded Post:Ballet with the vision to create multidisciplinary collaborations that use dance as a means, not an end, to artistic expression. Dekkers has developed numerous works for Post:Ballet since its inception, working closely with diverse artists to create and present works through various mediums including film, photography, and live performance.

Véronica Duport Deliz – Director (Tell Me)

A native of Switzerland, Véronica has traveled extensively throughout the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe. She is fluent in five languages and has worked overseas as an interpreter, diving instructor, and dolphin trainer. She began her filmmaking career as a protagonist in a 6x52' documentary about the rescue and release of a dolphin in captivity, *The Blue Beyond*. In Europe, Véronica worked with Swiss National Television where she co-directed several 5x25' documentary series. Currently, she works as a Director and Editor of full-length documentaries and short films, and has directed numerous features and documentaries in Haiti, India, Sikkim, Nepal, Norway, France, Switzerland and the United States. Véronica attended San Francisco State University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with special distinction from the Cinema department.

Stuart Gaffney – Director (Full Circle)

Stuart Gaffney has been making films and videos about HIV/AIDS and his Asian, Hapa and gay identities since 1994. The Guggenheim Museum included Stuart's videos on HIV/AIDS in their "Fever in the Archive" program of AIDS Activist Video. His award-winning works have been screened and broadcast worldwide.

Stuart and his husband John Lewis, together 24 years, were plaintiffs in the California lawsuit for equal marriage rights, and legally married in 2008 after the case prevailed before the California Supreme Court. Stuart was born and raised in Milwaukee. He studied English literature at Yale University, and he works as a Policy Analyst at the University of California, San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

Sade Huron – Director (Hoping Wishing Praying)

Originating from Wales in the United Kingdom, Huron now lives and works in the San Francisco Bay area. Her art encompasses video, performance, interactive installation, and photography.

Huron's work has been exhibited, screened and performed internationally, at among other sites: The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, The National Film Theatre - London, England, The Directors Guild of America - Los Angeles, CA. the Oakland Art Gallery - Oakland CA, the Walter and McBean Gallery - San Francisco CA. Select publications of her work are included in the book, 'Acts of Passion, Gender and Performance' by Haworth Press and in 'Blue' Australian photography magazine.

www.sadehuron.com

Amir Jaffer – Director (Blur)

Amir Jaffer was born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan, and has been residing in the Bay Area since 1998. He began exploring the world of filmmaking with his father's video camera at the age of thirteen. In 2004, he realized his childhood dream by co-founding Aisha Media to tell intriguing and captivating stories through moving pictures. With a Bachelors Degree in International Relations and a passion for filmmaking, Amir believes in making movies that are meaningful and make people think. His storytelling style is influenced by the works of Pedro Almodovar, Deepa Mehta and Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Rick Osmon – Director (Instant Dad)

Rick Osmon arrived in San Francisco in December 1978 and has loved the city ever since. During the 1980s, he wrote for the Bay Times about AIDS, the bathhouses and sex clubs. His articles were reprinted in the Journal of Homosexuality, Autumn 2007.

In 1992, after losing his lover and best friend to AIDS, Osmon did not expect to live much longer, but the arrival of his 10 year old nephew gave him an ironclad resolve to stay alive to fulfill his parental obligations.

After being a sponsor at Frameline since the late 1990s, Osmon quit real estate to become a filmmaker. He showed two shorts at Frameline's 2010 Festival and is currently finishing work on a fisting documentary and producing a feature length fiction film "Le Séjour Paradisiaque" in Cannes, France.

Anne Siegel – Director (Secrets of a Sister)

Anne Siegel is an award winning filmmaker, TV and radio journalist and writer. She has worked as a foreign correspondent in Israel and Palestine, produced features in Iceland, Denmark, GB, the United States and North Africa. She is also the co-creator of several German comedy TV shows. In addition she wrote, directed and produced a number of documentaries as well as video-installations.

Debra A. Wilson – Director (Ward 86)

Bay Area based producer/director Debra A. Wilson made her national debut with her film *Butch Mystique*, which she wrote and directed. The film has been screened in more than thirty film festivals; won numerous awards and aired on Showtime's Black Filmmakers Showcase. She directed her next documentary *Jumpin' the Broom: The New Covenant*, which aired on Showtime and Logo.

In 2009, Debra co-produced the award winning feature film *Mississippi Damned*. While on the festival circuit, *Mississippi Damned* amassed an impressive eleven awards from participation in thirteen film festivals including airing on Showtime (2011).

She earned a B.A. degree in Television Film Production at Cal-State University Northridge. Debra is currently in development on her next feature *Man Up Above* as producer.