IN OUR DAY

COMMUNITY GATHERING

DECEMBER 4, 2022
THE CULTCH

Welcome to the Gathering

10:00AM- 8:00PM

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OUR GATHERING TAKES PLACES ON THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE HOMELANDS OF THE MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH, AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. THESE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, AND ARE A CRUCIAL PART OF HIV HISTORIES AND PRESENT-DAY RESPONSES.

.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

10:00	WELCOME (Historic Theatre)
11:15	PANELS, WORKSHOPS, DISCUSSIONS
12:15	LUNCH (Wise Hall)
2:00	IN MY DAY (Historic Theatre)
4:15	PRODUCTION TALK BACK (Historic Theatre) INTERACTIVE CHOIR (Culture Lab)
5:30	APPETIZERS & COCKTAILS

FOR FULL SCHEDULE SEE PAGE 8

ABOUT THIS GATHERING

Welcome to our community gathering, a space where community members, researchers, and supporters have been invited to come together to celebrate, remember, and share in discussions, artistic creations, research, and theatre. This intergenerational community gathering for people living with HIV, healthcare professionals, scholars and policy makers provides an opportunity not only to view the production, but also for collectivity, collaboration, and creation. In addition to a matinee performance of *In My Day,* guests will have an opportunity to attend panels, participate in a community choir, and hear stories of people's experiences living with HIV. Be sure to check out our gallery exhibition of art and ephemera.

IN MY DAY: THE PRODUCTION

In My Day, by Rick Waines, is a verbatim work of contemporary drama centred around HIV's impact in Vancouver. It is a story of a pandemic response with extraordinary victories and heartbreaking failures. This work includes content from the interviews conducted for HIV In My Day, a community-based oral history research project, initiated in 2017 at the University of Victoria. With stories from long-term survivors and caregivers who lived through the first 15 years of the HIV pandemic in BC, these testimonies are part of an archive that contributes to remembering the past and shaping the future of HIV responses in Canada.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Nathan Lachowsky & Ben Klassen

HIV in My Day began as a series of informal conversations between researchers and community members about the importance of preserving our local history. Collecting these stories was particularly important given that many community members, who lived through the 1980s and early 1990s before effective HIV treatment was available, were now passing away from old age and suicide.

From the outset, HIV in My Day was rooted in the principles of greater and meaningful involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS and community-based research. Our team included people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) and organizations serving PLHIV and interested in supporting intergenerational knowledge exchange, including the Vancouver Island Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society and YouthCO HIV & Hep C Society. We also held town hall events in Vancouver and Victoria to invite input from community members on our approach, priorities, and future directions.

Our team believes that participants' stories are essential to our HIV/AIDS histories and should be used to inform contemporary HIV prevention and treatment paradigms and fuel intergenerational and intercommunity conversations about the epidemic in the present. The emotional resonance of the play will help to foster destigmatizing conversations about HIV, health equity, and oppression that remain important as we continue to confront HIV in the present, alongside other new and emerging health crises.

Many of the interviews from the project are available as text transcripts, audio tracks, and/or video recordings online in a public archive at the University of Victoria Libraries (vault.library.uvic.ca).

THE CARE TEAM

JP Catungal, William Flett, Sandy Lambert and Surita Parashar

The Committee for Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE) stewards commitments to principles and practices of anti-racism, inclusion, and equity at all stages of the production of *In My Day*. The CARE team provided feedback on various drafts of the script and acted as a resource especially for the creative and producing teams on equity concerns, both on and off the stage.

With *In My Day*, Rick Waines harnesses the power of art as historiography. With the play, Waines helps to keep participants' stories and the history of HIV/AIDS in Vancouver and Victoria alive. We have a responsibility to help honour the gift of these stories. We are committed to helping ensure that these stories are told in the right way. We want the historical and political complexity that they, collectively, bring to the surface to be recognized.

We regard people's stories as important knowledge and as lived and living evidence of an important time in history. These oral histories enable people whose narratives are often missing from the official record to intervene through the sharing of their memories. As we get farther in time from the early years of the pandemic, the wisdom embedded in these oral histories has much to offer us as we navigate the shifted, if not continuing, challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The work of CARE was not always easy. By definition, our task requires bringing up challenging topics. As a team of Indigenous people and people of colour, we are aware that our work exists in the context of societal level white supremacy, a context that has also shaped the theatre world in terms of which stories get told and who has power to make curatorial, casting, and programming decisions. We are grateful that our experience, so far, has been good. We have experienced openness and support from most people in the creative and production teams, who have fondly nicknamed us the 'CARE Bears'.

We want to thank the research, creative, and production teams for enlisting us to help advance our shared commitment to equity. We look forward to continuing this necessary work.

EXHIBITION OF ART & EPHEMERA

Jackie Haywood and Robert Ablenas, Co-Curators

This exhibition aims to reconstitute, make familiar, and then help linger the cultural, political, economic, and social environment in which people in British Columbia lived their lives during the late 80s through 90s — the early years of AIDS. The posters, magazines, newspapers, adverts, paintings, sculptures, T-shirts, pins, logo, photos, and timeline collectively piece together the vibe of those times. Among the themes that emerge are bridge-building across communities; unsung heroes; sources of emotional and practical support; hopes; fears; and activism.

Items on display serve as tangible, extensive footnote to details mentioned in the oral history research project, HIV in My Day (2017–present) and the play *In My Day* which also aim to respect, honour, and preserve this past. The overarching vision of the exhibition, the research project, and the play is a future in which we have learned lessons from this past toward making a better world that includes working together, supporting each other, and mutual understanding.

We hear your voices.
For those who left us too soon and those who survive today.

The Co-Curators wish to thank the following:
Sharon Tenenbaum, Dawn Brennan, John Kozachenko, Jake Thomas, Anthony Walters, Lee Van Paassen, Allan Morgan, Lisa Lowe, Ken McDonald, Monica Emme, Terry Howard, Val Nicholson, Melody Burton

POZ WOMEN SHOW OFF

Peggy Frank & Leah Tidey, Co-Facilitators and Co-Researchers

"In the beginning my light in the dark was very dull"
- excerpt from "HIV Taught Me To Fly"

In the earliest days of HIV's appearance in our communities, women were left on their own, with no feminist approach to managing HIV. Most resources were targeted at cisgender, trans, and gay men. Despite efforts to carve out space for women, there were too many instances of women living in isolation - feeling alone, misunderstood, not included, and generally overlooked in research and the literature, as well as programming. As part of the HIV in My Day project, a collective of eight HIV-positive women, living outside metro Vancouver, decided to share their stories in an arts-based workshop and public art installation at Theatre SKAM, located on the traditional and unceded territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən speaking peoples, including the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ peoples (colonially known as Victoria, British Columbia).

The term women is used broadly, since we are a group that includes and welcomes cisgender women, Two-Spirit individuals, trans people, and non-binary folks. Co-led by HIV activist and artist, Peggy Frank, and arts-based researcher and certified sexual health educator, Dr. Leah Tidey, the women's collective explored various art forms as methods of self-expression and knowledge sharing regarding the impact of HIV on women. Community members used art materials they self-selected, using various arts-based methods to share their stories about living with HIV. One collaborative piece was a group poem – "HIV Taught Me To Fly."

You can view some of the art and the group poem on display at the Cultch from November 29th-December 27th, as well as a 28-foot timeline, which identifies some of the major events, disruptions, and collaborations from the very early days of HIV's appearance in British Columbia's herstory.

We invite you to speak with some of the artists at the Living Library, taking place today in the Founders Lounge. Please also contribute to the timeline on display in the hallway.

SCAN ME

LISTEN TO
"HIV TAUGHT ME TO FLY"

PLAYWRIGHT'S STATEMENT

Rick Waines

HIV continues to ask me to write. As anachronistic as that seems to me in these times, I continue to do so. This time it has taken the form of a verbatim drama arranged from over 20,000 pages of interviews collected by an oral history research project — HIV In My Day — out of the University of Victoria. These interviews are the stories of the living: those of us that survived, and they are also a memorial to those who were left behind.

I*n My Day* belongs to the world of memorial art, and while I recognize the importance of remembering for its own sake, it is important that *In My Day* does more than simply keep us from forgetting — "not forgetting is insufficient" — Ted Kerr. With this in mind, I have done my best to ensure that *In My Day* would support our current goals in the world of HIV activism. It is important that young people, who identify as belonging to communities disproportionately affected by HIV, know what their communities have gone through and how that may impact them today. It is equally important, for those of us who lived through the first 15 years of HIV, known as the plague years, to become acquainted with how a younger generation's experience can help us build strategies to confront our old foes: racism, misogyny, classism, and homo/transphobia today.

FULL SCHEDULE

Time	Historic Theatre	Founders Lounge	Culture Lab	Gallery	Wise Hall
10:00-11:00	Opening Remarks	-	-	-	-
11:15-12:15	Flame Storytelling	Living Library	Plague of the Gorgeous	Art & Ephemera Exhibitition	-
12:15-1:45	-	----- (1:00) Creative Rituals: Shrine Making	-	Art & Ephemera Exhibition	Lunch
2:00-4:00	**IN MY DAY**	-	-	-	-
4:15-5:30	Talk Back	Living Library & Creative Rituals	--- (4:30) Interactive Choir with Marcus Mosely	Art & Ephemera Exhibition	-
5:30-8:00		Creative Rituals: Shrine Making	Cocktails & Appetizers	Cocktails & Appetizers	

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Welcome & Territory Acknowledgement
Our opening session is not only an overview of the project, but an invitation to reflect on where we are, how we arrived, and what is to come. Sempúlyan Stewart Gonzales, Two-Spirit Elder from the Squamish Nation, will provide a welcome to the territory to open our day. As an integral community member and contributor to the HIV In My Day project, Elder Sandy Lambert will then provide opening words on HIV and AIDS in British Columbia, followed by a welcome and overview of the activities by Jackie Haywood.

Exhibition of Art & Ephemera
The gallery exhibition showcases art and ephemera from the early years of HIV in British Columbia. Co-curated by Jackie Haywood and Robert Ablenas, with support from photogapher Sharon Tenenbaum, the exhibition provides a window to the past through art, politics, and activism. The exhibition runs from November 29th-December 27th.

Flame Storytelling
In October 2022, seven people living with and affected by HIV participated in a two-day storytelling workshop with Deborah Williams, where they shared their personal lived experiences. Join this incredible opportunity to hear their works: stories about their lives and experiences with HIV. Continuing the important work of witnessing testimony and recording our diverse pasts, the Flame Storytelling presentation is an opportunity to remember, to listen, and to witness stories of people living in BC.

Plague of The Gorgeous
In 1993, in the heart of the AIDS crisis, a small group of gay men decided that Vancouver should have a professional queer theatre company. And so Out West Performance Society was created. One of their major projects was *Plague of the Gorgeous and Other Tales*, a collection of five short HIV-themed scripts that were to be performed together. In this session, actors will be reading selected excerpts of *Plague of the Gorgeous*, followed by a panel discussion with the performers and authors of two of the scripts, Colin Thomas and Lisa Lowe. The discussion will be facilitated by JP Catungal.

Living Library
Pull up a chair and come chat with artists and community members who participated in the Poz Women Show Off showcase.This community-based project adds women's stories of living with HIV to existing and archived data from the HIV In My Day project. Co-led by HIV activist/artist, Peggy Frank, and arts-based researcher, Dr. Leah Tidey, eight women living with HIV came together for a full-day arts-based workshop exploring movement, painting, collage, storytelling, stained glass creation, and poetry. They continue to meet to create poetry, art, and creative collaborations. Come join in the conversation, ask them about their art, experiences, and have them share their stories.

Interactive Timeline of Stigma and Understanding around HIV
YOU are invited to add to his 28 foot timeline located in the hallway leading into the theatre. Mark events and memories of the early years using Post-it notes (across from the banner). Artist Peggy Frank used several sources for information to create this living art and writes of her work, "My view of the world of HIV (from 1980 to 2022) is through an HIV-positive woman's lens. As an activist, I am drawn to showing the mixed messages of undetectable viral loads and criminalization."

In My Day
In My Day is a verbatim work of contemporary drama that exists at the cross section of disability and memorial arts. Centred around HIV's impact on Vancouver, it is a story of a pandemic response with extraordinary victories and heartbreaking failures.

This work is inspired by a community-based oral history research project in 2017, HIV In My Day, which was initiated at the University of Victoria interviewing long-term survivors and caregivers who lived through the first 15 years of the HIV pandemic in British Columbia. The collected stories and reflections would honour the voices of women, people of colour, Indigenous folks, trans, people who use[d] injection drugs, and others, alongside those of cis-gender gay men.

***In My Day* Talk Back**

Join members of the creative, production, and research team to talk about the context and creation of the play and how it fits into the larger research project. This is both an opportunity to learn more about the production and to ask your questions to performers, researchers, and creative contributors.

Creative Rituals: Shrine Making for Personal Grief and Community Honourings

Starting at 1:00 pm join Marina Szijarto (Artist in Residence at and co-creator of All Souls at Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver BC) in the Founders lounge, to create a simple memorial, a way to remember those we have lost. The shrine will be up today from 1:00 until 8:00. Afterwards, you may take your contribution home. Should you choose, Marina will take shrine pieces with her to ceremonially burn memorials by the banks of the Fraser River - releasing the names and memories into the flowing waters.

Interactive Choir

We end our day together in song, an opportunity to come together as a collective, share space, and create together. Join singer and choir leader Marcus Mosely and his ensemble as they lead participants in a singing session together.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Robert Ablenas
Sarah Chown
Jackie Haywood
William Flett
Ben Klassen
Michael Montess
Rick Waines
Fuqan Waleed
Laine Halpern Zisman

CARE COMMITTEE

JP Catungal
William Flett
Sandy Lambert
Surita Parashar

GALLERY CURATORS

Robert Ablenas
Jackie Haywood

POZ WOMEN SHOW OFF

Charlene Anderson
Penny Bradford
Dawn Clouthier
Levi Mymko
Denise Wozniak
Kath Webster

Facilitated by:
Peggy Frank &
Leah Tidey

CONTRIBUTORS & RESEARCHERS

We are grateful to everyone who has participated, organized, and supported the activities associated with HIV In My Day and associated research. This project is only possible because of the interviewees, researchers, community members, and artists who contributed time and energy to this ongoing project. There are no words of gratitude that can express how valuable the testimony, scholarship, and artistic work has been. We would like to thank: Ben Klassen, whose original masters thesis became a University of Victoria Oral History research project led by Nathan Lachowsky and Terry Howard. Researchers, supporters, and community members who helped to guide many aspects of the project: Robert Ablenas, Charlene Anderson, Bruce Budden, JP Catungal, El Chenier, Sarah Chown, Craig Dales, Jasmine Desjardins, William Flett, Peggy Frank, TJ Furlani, Jackie Haywood, Art Holbrook, Terry Howard, Rob Hurst, Matt Huculak, Kai Jacobsen, Ben Klassen, Nathan Lachowsky, Sandy Lambert, Faelan Lundeberg, Christiana Miewald, Michael Montess, Andrés Montiel, Surita Parashar, Anya Slater, Christopher Szekeres, Leah Tidey, Rick Waines, Furqan Waleed, Sarah Wilson, Michael Yoder, Laine Halpern Zisman.

IN MY DAY

PRESENTED BY THE CULTCH
CO-PRODUCERS NORMAN ARMOUR, RICK WAINES, ZEE ZEE THEATRE

FEATURING:

Patti Allan*, Nick Miami Benz, Scott Button*, Ivy Charles*, Alen Dominguez*, Braiden Houle*, Allan Morgan*, Cameron Peal, Sabrina Symington, Jackson Wai Chung Tse, & Kelsey Kanatan Wavey

RICK WAINES
Writer

SHAWN MACDONALD
Direction and Dramaturgy

JACK BUMBALA
Assistant Director

CHRISTOPHER DAVID GAUTHIER
Costume Design

TARA CHEYENNE FRIEDENBERG*
Choreography

MEGAN GILRON
Lead Intimacy Direction

KARYN MOTT*
Intimacy Coordination

JOHN WEBBER
Lighting Design

ASH SHOTTON
Production Manager

MONICA EMME
Props Designer

MJ COOMBER
Sound Design

KIMIRA REDDY
Set Design

ANGELA BEAULIEU*
Stage Manager

LIAM KEARNS*
Assistant Stage Manager

*THE PARTICIPATION OF THESE ARTISTS IS ARRANGED BY PERMISSION OF CANADIAN ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE DANCE/OPERA/THEATRE POLICY (DOT).

COMMUNITY PARTNERS, SPONSORS, & SUPPORTERS

AIDS VANCOUVER
Prevent • Act • Support

cbrc
Community-Based Research Centre

University of Victoria

VPWAS

YOUTHCO
YOUTH LEADING THE HIV & HEP C MOVEMENT

THE CULTCH

vancouver foundation

Sharon Lewenbaum
Award Winning Fine Art Photographer
Educator | Author | Civil Engineer

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des arts du Canada

UBC

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL | BRITISH COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

Michael Smith Health Research BC

MCLEAN FOUNDATION

THE MCGRANE-PEARSON ENDOWMENT FUND