

news release **QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development**



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For Immediate Release

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**FRAMING AIDS, Queens' Annual Observance of World AIDS Day Through the Arts**, a program of **QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development**, presents for 2007 an Art Exhibition, Film Screenings, Panel Talks, and Multimedia Animations for the Web from Saturday, December 1 through Sunday, December 16, 2007 in various venues in Queens.

(Queens, NY- November, 19 2007)- For the third consecutive year, Queens' youngest non-for profit cultural organization, **QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development**, has organized the presentation of **FRAMING AIDS**, the annual observance of World AIDS Day through the arts in the borough. The multidisciplinary event consists of: **ART EXHIBITION [ + i ]** at **The Queens Museum of Art: Community Gallery** where paintings, photographs, and mixed media works created by artists living with HIV/AIDS will be on display from December 1 - 16, Opening Night: Saturday, December 1, 4-7 PM. The **FILM SCREENINGS** at **La Guardia Performing Arts Center, Little Theater, La Guardia Community College**, on Sunday, December 2, 3 – 5:30 PM, feature Thom Fitzgerald's award winning film "**3 Needles**," about the AIDS Pandemic in different continents, and a selection of shorts: "**Reflections**," "**He said, She Said**," and "**Don't Dance With Death**" written by high school students and directed by known filmmakers. **FRAMING AIDS** also includes the presentation of **S.T.A.R.**, a collection of wearable art created by high school students, and the online presentation **+ animation**, a selection of multimedia animations from college students.

## ART EXHIBITION [ + i ]

Opening Reception: Saturday, December 1, 4 – 7 PM

Artists Talk: Saturday, December 15, 5 -7 PM

Location: Queens Museum of Art: Community Gallery

This year's theme focuses on a selection of works created by established and emerging artists living with HIV/AIDS. The exhibition presents their visions and concerns through works that not only raise awareness about the disease, but also explore representations of Self, gender, identity, and constructions of sexuality. Paintings, photographs, sculptures, and mixed media works portray the body and the metaphors of illness constructed around the physical appearance of the human form. "Positive Eye" or "Positive I," as one could interpret the symbolic name of this exhibition, is a statement of the will, courage, and endurance of human creativity even when confronted with a terminal ailment. The eyes, vision; the Self, I, are qualified by the positive sign which can also be read from various angles; the affirmation and/or the condition of the individual as well as the optimistic visions through the eyes of artists affected by the World pandemic.

Participants:

George Box  
Brian H. Crede  
Derek Jackson  
Timothy Lonergan

Ali Miranda  
Luna Luis Ortiz  
Carmine Santaniello  
John Lathram

Thomas Sommerville  
JD Talasek  
Marguerite Van Cook  
Laurence Young

This exhibition was curated by New Media Artist, Hector Canonge based on the archives of **Visual AIDS**, organization that utilizes the visual arts to promote AIDS awareness and, through **the Frank Moore Archive Project**, historicizes the contributions of artists with HIV and the estates of artists lost to AIDS.

Wearable art, **S.T.A.R.**, Inspired by personal stories of individuals who tested positive for HIV and by realities of the pandemic, students in the summer 2007 arts unit, "The Cure: HIV Fashion Fusion", developed the slogan and logo for their brand of fashion with a focus. "Start Thinking Act Responsibly", or S.T.A.R. was designed to educate their peers about making safe and healthy choices. The shirts in this exhibit were designed by students (Elyse Bruny, Jodie Massie, Damaris Patterson, Chanelle Sturkey

and Daquasha Walker) concerned with making current and relevant fashion statements. The artist educators were Myra Hellerstein and Alex Monzon.

This part of FRAMING AIDS 2007 Art Exhibition was facilitated by The Renaissance University for Community Education (T.R.U.C.E.), a Harlem Children's Zone site, is nationally recognized after-school program for youth development through the arts, media literacy and academic success.

## **FILM SCREENINGS**

Screening Date: Sunday, December 2, 2007, 3:00 – 5:30 PM

Location: La Guardia Performing Arts Center, Little Theater, La Guardia Community College.

**Three Needles** (Dir. Thom Fitzgerald, USA, 2006, 127min).

This intense social drama from writer-director Thom Fitzgerald chronicles the spread of AIDS on three continents -- Asia, Africa and North America -- and the wrenching, controversial choices that three sets of people make to cope with the disease. An all-star cast including Stockard Channing, Lucy Liu and Cloe Sevigny leads this powerful exploration of the ignorance, misinformation, stigma and greed that have fed the spread of the global epidemic.

**Reflections** (Written by Keyana Ray. Dir. Gina Prince-Bythewood, USA, 2006, 19 min).

Three best friends learn to take the risk of HIV/AIDS seriously as they navigate romantic relationships in an urban environment mired in economic strife, drugs, and limited options.

**He Said, She Said** (Written by Zakai Cotman, Salvador Garcia, Ravi Lambert, Aristides Legakis. Dir. Doug Liman. USA, 1999, 3.5 min).

Tonight is the night... or is it? The story of a guy and his girlfriend dealing with the awkwardness of and embarrassment about safe sex.

**Don't Dance With Death** (Written by drama students from Options and PSJA, North High Schools in south Texas. Dir. Hector Galán. USA, 1999, 3.5 min).

Based on the Mexican myth Devil in the Dance Hall, a night of fun turns serious for four young girls when an unwanted image appears.

These short films were produced by **SCENARIOS USA**, a non for profit organization that that uses writing and filmmaking to foster youth leadership, advocacy and self-expression in under-served teens. Teens are asked to write about the issues that shape their lives for the annual "What's the REAL DEAL?" writing contest. The winning writers are partnered with some of Hollywood's finest filmmakers to transform their stories into award-winning short films. Scenarios USA believes that the visions and opinions of teens can have an impact on promoting healthy relationships and lowering the rate of HIV/AIDS, STDs and pregnancy among teens.

**A panel discussion and Q&A session with writer Ravi Lambert; Jacob Swiss, Scenarios USA, Director; and Robert Steptoe, representative of AIDS Center of Queens County, ACQC, will follow the screening presentations.**

### **ONLINE MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: + animation**

Date: Official launch Friday, November 30, 2007, Midnight.

Location: [www.qmad.org/framingaids2007](http://www.qmad.org/framingaids2007)

Digital animations, created by NYC college students in their senior year, tell stories about living with HIV/AIDS. Young designers wrote the stories, made their story boards, and animated their work in 3 – 5 minute movies. Among the works to be presented are: “Star Athlete” by Akim Robinson, “The Lowdown Shame” by Boris Cachanov, “Dancing With Your Enemy” by Chris Maniaci, “Healthy Happy Baby,” by Kaori Akiyama, “The Affected” by Keith Landon, “Am I Clean?” by Kenta Tanaka, “My Secret,” by Quan Zeng, “A Horrible Fate,” by Tracey Broadbelt, and many more.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

**Queens Museum of Art** (NYC Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park).

Take #7 Train to Main Street, Flushing. Exit at Shea Stadium, walk in the direction of the park until you see the metallic globe structure.

**La Guardia Community College** (31-10 Thomson Avenue, LIC, N.Y. 11101).

Take the 7 train to 33<sup>rd</sup>/Rawson or the E, G, V, R to Queens Plaza. 10 minutes from Grand Central Station.

## **ABOUT QMAD**

**QMAD, Queens Media Arts Development**, is a non-for profit cultural organization that produces and implements programs in the arts communications media to encourage Queen's multicultural communities to actively participate in the forging of an artistic identity for the borough. Based on one of the city's most diverse areas, QMAD acknowledges the artistic potential of residents in Queens, and facilitates access to educational activities, cultural events and resources so people participating in the various programs can gain agency in their creative and artistic goals. All QMAD's programs are FREE OF CHARGE and of benefit to underserved populations of the borough.

As part of World AIDS Awareness, QMAD created and produces **FRAMING AIDS** since 2005. The program is intended to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS affecting the communities of Queens, and NYC at large. Hosted by institutions like Elmhurst Hospital Center, La Guardia Performing Arts Center at La Guardia Community College, The Queens Museum, and in partnership with local organizations like AIDS Center of Queens County, ACQC, MetroPlus, and other non for profits like Scenarios USA, and VISUAL AIDS, FRAMING AIDS has become **Queen's Annual Observance of World AIDS Day Through the Arts**.

For More information: [www.qmad.org](http://www.qmad.org); [info@qmad.org](mailto:info@qmad.org)

ALL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

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