



**National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)**

# **Positive Youth Institute 2008**

**August 7 & 8, 2008 • Atlanta, GA**



## **Event Report**



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
PEOPLE WITH AIDS**

My Future  
Is BRIGHT

## The National Association of People with AIDS

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) was founded over two decades ago as a network of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWH/A) working to better the quality of life for all. NAPWA has been the central mechanism for various social and community groups of PWH/A to articulate their voice on Capitol Hill, organize for treatment education, and connect with other people going through similar struggles. Today, NAPWA remains a strong voice in policy, capacity building, leadership development, and social networking.

## Positive Youth Institute Summary

HIV-positive young people face a unique combination of issues related to their age and HIV status. Most HIV efforts targeting youth are based in education and screening, discounting those who already have an HIV-positive diagnosis. In addition, clinical services are comprehensive, but limited in range. Medical care alone does not address integral familial, social, community, and personal issues. Social support, access to community and treatment, and developmental issues are complicated by: HIV transmission route (e.g. perinatal or behavioral); time since diagnosis; family medical and social histories; geographic location; age and other demographics.

NAPWA began the Positive Youth Institute in an effort to train HIV-positive young people from across the country in the life skills required for good health. The workshops run the gamut of social and medical issues, and have included in the past: public presentation; resume building; media spokesperson issues; creative arts; medical care and treatment, and body image. Workshops are taught by professionals in their respective fields.

Planning for the Positive Youth Institute began in January 2008. NAPWA convened a Youth Advisory Committee made up of past participants from across the country. The Youth Advisory Committee selected the topic areas and appropriate instructors were procured by NAPWA. The participants attended two days of training workshops.

## Goals & Objectives:

The Positive Youth Institutes will engage the youth participants in both self-expression and personal development.

Positive Youth participants will report increased:

- comfort and ability in self-expression (including but not limited to disclosure)
- knowledge in health care access
- interest to participate in local, regional, or national HIV activities
- access and usage of social networks for health-seeking behaviors

## PARTICIPANT SUMMARY

Participants came from all over the US, including Puerto Rico, to attend the Positive Youth Institute in Atlanta, GA. Of the 81 registrants, approximately 34% identified as female, 65% as male, and 13% remained anonymous. In addition, 62% identified as African American or Black, 4% White, 7% Latino, 1% Native American, and 26% remained anonymous. In terms of age, 44% identified as 19 or younger, with the remaining 56% between the ages of 20 and 25 years of age.

Geographically, about 47% of participants were from the Southern states, with an additional 20% from the Midwest, 22% from the Northeast corridor, 8% from the West Coast, and 2% from Puerto Rico.



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## DAILY SCHEDULE

### August 7<sup>th</sup> 2008

Time	Agenda Item   Objective
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Breakfast</b>   Most important meal of the day & Coffee
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Welcome</b>   Why there? • Ground rules • Day Schedule
9:45 – 10:15	<b>Ice Breaker</b>   Introductions • Expectations
10:15 – 10:45	<b>Speaker: Advisory Committee</b>
10:45 – 10:50	<b>Break</b>   Bathroom and phone
10:50 – 12:10	<b>Session 1</b>   WORKSHOP
12:10 – 1:10	<b>Lunch</b>   Sustenance & Socialization
1:10 – 2:20	<b>Session 2</b>   WORKSHOP
2:20 – 2:30	<b>Break</b>   Bathroom and phone
2:30 – 3:50	<b>Session 3</b>   WORKSHOP
3:50 – 4:15	<b>Closure</b>   Issues that Came Up, Next Day Plans

### August 8<sup>th</sup> 2008

Time	Agenda Item   Objective
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Breakfast</b>   Most important meal of the day & Coffee
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Welcome</b>   Why there? • Ground rules • Day Schedule
9:45 – 10:00	<b>Ice Breaker</b>   Warm Up, Introductions
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Speaker: Darryl Stephens</b>
10:30 – 10:35	<b>Break</b>   Bathroom and phone
10:35 – 11:55	<b>Session 1</b>   WORKSHOP
12:00 – 1:00	<b>Lunch</b>   Sustenance & socialization
1:00 – 2:20	<b>Session 2</b>   WORKSHOP
2:20 – 2:30	<b>Break</b>   Bathroom and phone
2:30 – 3:50	<b>Session 3</b>   WORKSHOP
3:50 – 4:15	<b>Closure</b>   Issues that Came Up, Next Steps
6:00 – 8:00	<b>Evening Social</b>   Dinner

## POSITIVE YOUTH INSTITUTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DeMarquis Cobb  
*Montgomery, AL*

Reginald Davis  
*Washington, DC*

Cree Gordon  
*Portland, OR*

Chelsea Gulden  
*Charlotte, NC*

Kevin Johnson  
*Detroit, MI*

Adolph St. Arromand  
*Atlanta, GA*

Tyler TerMeer  
*Phoenix, AZ*



Frank J. Oldham, Jr., NAPWA's President and CEO (left) with a participant.

## DAY 1: Creative Expressions

### WELCOME SPEAKER: ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In Day 1, participants were split up into three groups. Each group participant chose among two different options in each area. The Group schedule was:

	10:50 – 12:10	1:10 – 2:20	2:30 – 3:50
Group 1	VISUALS	TEXTS	BODY
Group 2	TEXTS	BODY	VISUALS
Group 3	BODY	VISUALS	TEXTS

### VISUALS

**T-Shirt Making** | Instructor: Brandon Jones

**Photo Art & Body Image** | Instructor: Luna Ortiz

### TEXTS

**Creative Writing** | Instructor: Alphonso Morgan

**Panel Making & the Quilt** | Instructor: Gert McMullin & Jada Harris / The NAMES Project

### BODY

**Body Image, Self-Esteem, and the Ideal Man** | Instructor: Marcus Bolton & Darwin Thompson

**Performance / Body Movement** | Instructor: Catron Booker

## DAY 2: Life Skills

### WELCOME SPEAKER: DARRYL STEPHENS

In Day 2, participants were assigned into three groups. Each group participant chose among two different options in each area. The Group schedule was:

	10:50 – 12:10	1:10 – 2:20	2:30 – 3:50
Group 1	HOME LIFE	PUBLIC LIFE	HEALTH SERVICES
Group 2	PUBLIC LIFE	HEALTH SERVICES	HOME LIFE
Group 3	HEALTH SERVICES	HOME LIFE	PUBLIC LIFE

### HOME LIFE

**Journal Writing** | Instructor: Tyler TerMeer

**Self-Esteem & Life Choices** | Instructor: Moya Brown

### PUBLIC LIFE

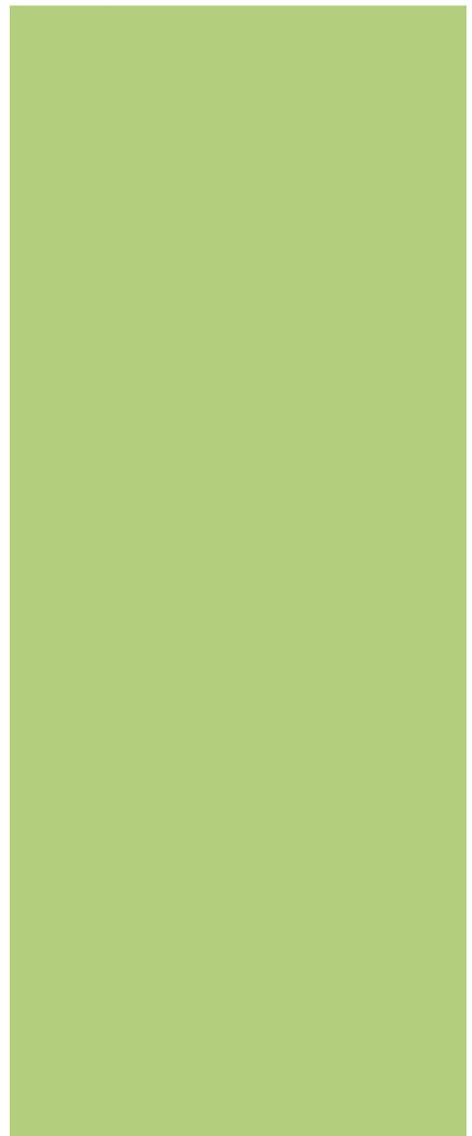
**Professional Presentation** | Instructor: Andrew Spieldenner

**Media Skills: Telling Your Story to the Press** | Instructor: Takirra Winfield

### HEALTH SERVICES

**Getting the Best Care Possible: Interactive Discussion with Medical Provider** | Instructor: Steve Bromer

**Getting Healthy: Expanding Health & Wellness** | Instructor: Kaijson Noilmar



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### VISUALS

#### T-Shirt Making

Instructor: Brandon Jones

Youth have increasing visual literacy rates, yet few outlets to practice and understand the visual expression. In this workshop, faculty will instruct participants in ways to express themselves using canvas and color, and then to transfer the images to t-shirts.

Key Workshop Questions:

- What does each participant want to express publicly?
- What are the barriers to expressing that self?



#### EVALUATION DATA:

39% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.

91% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.

95% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (20%) or "Excellent" (75%).

98% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (16%) or "Excellent" (82%).

#### Photo Art & Body Image

Instructor: Luna Ortiz

With messages bombarding youth from all sides in magazines, music videos and movies how can anyone cultivate a positive body image? The Photo Art & Body Image workshop will present the basics of creating images using Polaroid Photography, Paint, Canvas and other art tools to recognize the power they have to create positive connections with themselves. Youth will gain a greater capacity to express themselves through visual media by creating photo cut-outs of their image and creating their ideal persona. Youth will be encouraged to see the gender stereotypes and commercial interests behind the media's version of "ideal beauty."

Using creative and interactive discussions, this workshop helps young people not only see themselves in a different light but will also stimulate their self confidence.

#### EVALUATION DATA:

40% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.

90% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.

100% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (30%) or "Excellent" (70%).

100% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (10%) or "Excellent" (90%).

### TEXTS

#### Creative Writing

Instructor: Alphonso Morgan

Creativity takes many forms – writing, music, words. Participants will learn additional basic skills and exercises in following their own passions and rhythms with words. From stories to songs, participants will enhance their own skills with writing exercises and examples, both professionally and artistically.

#### EVALUATION DATA:

27% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.

94% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.

97% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (39%) or "Excellent" (58%)

94% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (12%) or "Excellent" (82%).

### Panel Making & the Quilt

Instructor: *The NAMES Project (Gert McMullin & Jada Harris)*

Throughout its history, The AIDS Memorial Quilt has been used as a tool to fight prejudice, raise awareness and funding, as a means to link hands with the global community in the fight against AIDS, and as an effective tool in HIV /AIDS prevention education. You don't have to be an artist or sewing expert to create a moving personal tribute remembering a life lost to AIDS, but you do have to make a panel in order to add a name to the Quilt. It's not as complicated as many people think, though. It doesn't matter if you use paint or fine needlework, iron-on transfers or hand made appliques, or even spray paint on a sheet; any remembrance is appropriate.



#### EVALUATION DATA:

50% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.

95% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.

95% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (30%) or "Excellent" (65%).

100% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainers as "Good" (25%) or "Excellent" (75%).

### BODY

#### Body-Image, Self-Esteem & the Ideal Man

Instructor: *Marcus Bolton & Darwin Thompon*

Body image plays an important role in the development of self-esteem. How we feel about our bodies serves as the foundation of how we feel about ourselves. Unfortunately, for many of us in the gay/lesbian/transgender/bisexual community, the relationship we maintain with their bodies is a painful and difficult one. A negative body image places one at risk for the development of various emotional problems such as depression, feelings of inadequacy and shame, eating disorders and being sexual promiscuous. It can also cause individuals to avoid certain activities and relationships because they fear rejection or criticism. This interactive workshop will attempt to define Body Image and how we develop our individual body image. Also we will discuss the factors that influence one's feelings, thoughts, attitudes and perceptions regarding body our image and how to address them when attempting to alter one's beliefs regarding his or her physical appearance. Lastly, we will discuss how low self-esteem plays a role in defining what is perceived as the Ideal Man.

#### EVALUATION DATA:

40% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.

93% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.

95% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (24%) or "Excellent" (71%).

98% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainers as "Good" (18%) or "Excellent" (80%).

### Performance / Body Movement

Instructor: *Catron Booker*

Youth are in a socialization process where behaviors and norms are being internalized. Faculty will present various tools to understand movement and interaction through improvisational exercises. Participants will gain greater understanding of their own physicality and a better capacity to express themselves in person.

Key Workshop Questions:

- How does each participant express emotion?
- How does each participant experience their body?

#### EVALUATION DATA:

58% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.

94% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.

100% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (12%) or "Excellent" (88%).

100% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (18%) or "Excellent" (82%).

## HOME LIFE

### Journal Writing

Instructor: Tyler TerMeer

This workshop will tap into students' creativity and encourage them to process personal topics with focused writing activities. These resources promote writing across subject areas and cover everything from journal writing to fantasy-writing inspiration. Participants will gain a greater capacity to express themselves in writing.

Key Workshop Questions:

- How comfortable are participants in expressing them self in written media?
- How comfortable are participants in presenting their work to others?



#### EVALUATION DATA:

- 55% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.
- 100% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.
- 97% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (14%) or "Excellent" (83%).
- 100% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (17%) or "Excellent" (83%).

## Self-Esteem & Life Choices

Instructor: Moya Brown

HIV-positive young people often face difficult choices when it comes to life choices. Participants will discuss their various issues and ideals when it comes to disclosure, dating, and building a family. The workshop is highly interactive and will focus on matters emerging from the discussion – when do we disclose? how do we date? are we having the kind of love we want? will we want to become parents? how do we have fun? who are our friends and how do they help or hinder us? how do our families figure into our lives?

#### EVALUATION DATA:

- 22% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.
- 100% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.
- 100% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (22%) or "Excellent" (78%).
- 100% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (11%) or "Excellent" (89%).

## PUBLIC LIFE

### Professional Presentation

Instructor: Andrew Spieldenner

Oral communication along with presentation skills is vital component among young adults. Faculty will identify the importance of building good communication and presentation skills. In addition, participants will learn how to conduct themselves in interviews and speak professionally.

Key Workshop Questions:

- What are the basic public speaking skills of the participants?
- What is each participant comfortable disclosing publicly?

#### EVALUATION DATA:

- 41% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.
- 100% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.
- 94% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (12%) or "Excellent" (82%).
- 100% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (29%) or "Excellent" (71%).

### Media Skills: Telling Your Story to the Press

Instructor: Takirra Winfield

HIV-positive young people are often asked to speak in public, without regard to preparation or outcome. In this session, the various kinds of accessible media will be introduced. Faculty will also present their professional experiences with press and public relations. Participants will learn about the role of various media (radio, press, television, online), image ownership, and how to best utilize media outlets.

Key Workshop Questions:

- Do the participants understand their potential as spokespeople?
- Do the participants have knowledge about their image as product?



#### EVALUATION DATA:

- 39% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.
- 97% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.
- 97% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (29%) or "Excellent" (68%).
- 97% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (18%) or "Excellent" (79%).

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### Getting the Best Care Possible: Interactive Discussion with Medical Provider

Instructor: Steve Bromer

Living with HIV has particular concerns. Faculty will present about various concerns with treatment, including: talking with your medical provider; selecting the right treatment option for you; and the importance of medical and holistic treatment in complete health planning. Participants will gain information about treatment options and skills in negotiating with a medical provider.

Key Workshop Questions:

- How do participants engage their health care provider?
- Are there successful models for engaging health care systems?

#### EVALUATION DATA:

- 58% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.
- 96% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.
- 92% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (31%) or "Excellent" (61%).
- 92% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (23%) or "Excellent" (69%).

#### Getting Healthy: Expanding Health & Wellness

Instructor: Kaijson Noilmar

HIV is not the only health issue we have to deal with as HIV-positive people. Health can be viewed clinically, socially, and personally. In the workshop, participants will engage in an interactive and instructive dialogue about various kinds and strategies for wellness. This may include the basics of exercise and nutrition, as well as taking care of economic goals and personal aspirations.

#### EVALUATION DATA:

- 65% of respondents felt that their skill level increased in the session topic.
- 100% of respondents said session materials and information met their professional needs.
- 100% of respondents rated the overall usefulness of the information in the workshop as "Good" (12%) or "Excellent" (88%).
- 100% of respondents ranked the expertise of the trainer as "Good" (8%) or "Excellent" (92%).

## Presenter Bios

### Marcus Bolton

Marcus Bolton is Life Support Counselor (CRCS) for Da CRIBB—a drop in resource center for young black gay, bisexual and same gender loving men. Da CRIBB is one of many programs sponsored by the National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Inc. (NAESM). Mr. Bolton is a graduate of Kennesaw State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services. He enjoys community service and helping out in the community anyway possible. As Life Support Counselor he targets consumers who are HIV positive or at high risk for HIV infection, to change risk behaviors and reduce the transmission of HIV and AIDS. Mr. Bolton provides basic counseling and referral services that include emergency food, transportation, clothing, and treatment. In addition to Life Support Counseling Mr. Bolton is also a certified M-Group and 3MV facilitator. Mr. Bolton is presently working on a Masters degree in Social Work.

### Catron Booker, MFA

Catron Booker is a graduate from the MFA Acting program at the University of California in Los Angeles. She recently appeared in *Triangle of Need*, a film which exhibited at the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. She is co-director of HABLAMOS, an HIV/AIDS public service announcement, produced by UNESCO in partnership with Asociacion de Salud Integral in Guatemala City. She was recently a teaching artist for LEAP, a NYC-based arts based literacy program. She currently lives in Chicago, IL.

### Steve Bromer, MD

Dr. Bromer is the Medical Director of West County Health Centers, Inc. (WCHC) and serves as a staff physician for the Russian River Health Center. He is also the director of the HIV/AIDS Program at WCHC. Prior to medicine, Dr. Bromer was a professional dancer in New York City. He changed his career to medicine in response to the growing AIDS epidemic. As a physician and educator his interests are in improving the medical care for people living with HIV and other chronic medical conditions in community health centers.

Dr. Bromer is a graduate of the Harvard Medical School and holds a Bachelors Degree in Education from Earlham College. He trained at the UCSF Family Practice residency program at San Francisco General Hospital. After residency he served as Chief Resident for one year and then completed a fellowship in Medical Education. Dr. Bromer is board certified by the American Board of Family Practice and is licensed by the State of California. He is a member of the Sonoma County Medical Association and has been certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine. He is a commissioner with the Sonoma County Commission on AIDS. Presently Dr. Bromer teaches in "The Healer's Art" an elective course for first year medical students at the UCSF School of Medicine. This is his second year participating in the Positive Youth Institute.

### Moya Brown, MPH

Moya Brown is a Sr. HIV Counselor at The Door – A Center for Alternatives, in New York City. The Door seeks to empower young people to reach their potential through comprehensive youth development services. Ms. Brown has been involved in adolescent health, HIV prevention and treatment for the past five years and recently received her MPH from Columbia University. Ms. Brown is committed to educating and supporting young people and plans to pursue a medical degree as a HIV specialist in the future.

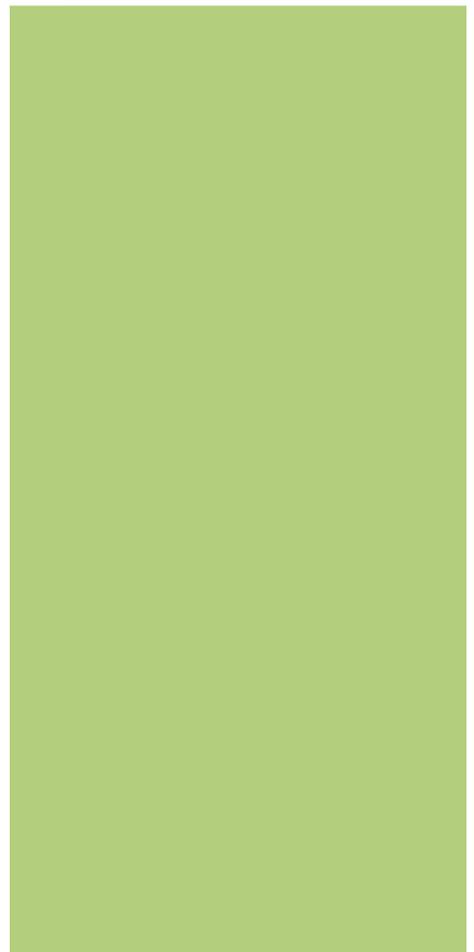
### Reginald Davis

Reginald Davis is a 25 year old native Chicagoan who recently relocated to Washington, DC. He pursued his undergraduate education in Political Science from the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Reginald worked as a Prevention Case Manager with Haymarket Center, a comprehensive substance abuse and alcohol treatment facility assisting African American MSM clients in HIV/AIDS and STI risk reduction.

He received his HIV diagnosis at 23 years old. Since then he has become engaged in advocacy and various leadership roles around issues affecting youth and youth adults impacted by HIV/AIDS.

He has served on the City of Chicago's HIV Prevention Planning Group. In addition, he has served on various committees, advisory and governing boards including the Chicago Gay Black Men's Caucus and Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center's Consumer Advisory Board addressing issues impacting young adults impacted by HIV/AIDS.



### **Cree Gordon**

Cree Gordon (HIV+ since May 2005)

"You know when you're friends with someone and you can't remember the one thing that made you friends? I think he just kind of has that personality that makes you think you've known him forever. He's really active and really involved in trying to make a change." – Felecia Wheatfall

"He's somebody that you kind of have the sense that he's a survivor. And he will be a survivor no matter what." – Kelly Moore

"This kid is really going places. All these things that he's experienced make him such a dynamic presenter. He's such a huge asset because kids see him as a peer, not an adult authority figure." – Niki Confer

"Cree is just very honest and very sincere, and when you get young adults willing to be true and express their emotions and feelings, that becomes a very powerful prevention tool." – Tom Donohue

"No matter what Cree does outside of being my friend doesn't matter; all that matters is that he is my friend." – Ernesto Dominguez

### **Chelsea Gulden**

Chelsea Gulden is a 26 year old HIV positive mother and advocate. She was diagnosed with HIV in 2003 while she was a student at University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Shortly after her diagnosis she was informed that she was 6 weeks pregnant. Since that time Chelsea has worked on spreading awareness and HIV education across the US and abroad. She is currently responsible for implementing programs for HIV infected youth in the Charlotte area for Metrolina AIDS Project.

### **Brandon Jones**

Brandon Jones is a fashion designer and visual artist based in Philadelphia, PA. He designs for Miskeen Originals, and freelances for Cartoon Network, Ryankenney, and others. His work has appeared in numerous media outlets including *The Source* and *TRL*.

### **Alphonso Morgan, JD**

Alphonso Morgan was born in Waterloo, Iowa in 1971. Son of a teenage welfare mother and absent father, he lived in Waterloo until the age of thirteen, when he moved with his mother to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In 1989 Alphonso moved to Washington, DC to attend Howard University. After graduating Cum Laude in 1993, he went on to study law at Georgetown University. After law school he worked in the entertainment industry as an entertainment attorney and producer of music videos, working with artists such as Toni Braxton, Usher and others.

Alphonso left his career in the music industry in 1998 to pursue a career as a novelist. At the same time he began to travel extensively abroad, studying language and culture and throwing himself into the serious and critical study of great literature. He traveled to Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, France, Belgium, Uruguay, Mexico and Japan. He also lived in Havana, Cuba for a year in 2002, writing and studying the communist system. He returned to Cuba in 2004 to begin work on a documentary film.

His first novel, *SONS*, was published in the fall of 2004.

### **The NAMES Project**

Established in 1987, The NAMES Project Foundation is the international N.G.O. (Non-Governmental Organization) that is the custodian of The AIDS Memorial Quilt. Today there are NAMES Project chapters across the United States and independent Quilt affiliates around the world. Since 1987, over 14 million people have visited the Quilt at thousands of displays worldwide. Through such displays, the NAMES Project Foundation has raised over \$3 million for AIDS service organizations throughout North America.

The Quilt was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and remains the largest community art project in the world. The Quilt has been the subject of countless books, films, scholarly papers, articles, and theatrical, artistic and musical performances, including "Common Threads: Stories From The Quilt" which won the Academy Award as the best feature-length documentary film of 1989.



The Quilt has redefined the tradition of quilt-making in response to contemporary circumstances. A memorial, a tool for education and a work of art, the Quilt is a unique creation, an uncommon and uplifting response to the tragic loss of human life.

### **Kaijson Noilmar**

Kaijson Noilmar, a Black gay man living with HIV, is currently working in the field of HIV vaccines and prevention. Kaijson is an experienced motivational speaker, educator, life-coach, and wealth-creation specialist. He facilitates achievement through collaborative efforts in developing tools for life. Recently Kaijson served as faculty for the Leadership Academy of the Gay Men's Health Conference and is involved in planning this fall's national meeting to be held in Seattle. As a former collegiate athlete Kaijson was interviewed for HIV+ magazine on managing health as a person living with HIV/AIDS. Kaijson was a University of Washington undergraduate, and a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University.

### **Luna Ortiz**

Luna Luis Ortiz was born in 1972 in New York City and has been HIV positive since 1986. He studied photography at the School of Visual Arts and is the protégé of photographers David LaChapelle, Nan Goldin and Shedrich Williams. He is a member of the Archive Project at *Visual AIDS*. His work has been included in photography exhibitions in Boston and New York.

He was a featured artist on MTV and VH1 in 1994, TeleMundo, and PBS documentaries as well as produced Public Service Announcement's and Short Films for Cable Positive, Listen Up and Media that Matters. His work graced the cover of *SHADE: an Anthology of Fiction of Gay Men of African Descent* for Avon Books 1996, as well as appearing in such publications as *OUT, BLUE, VIBE, Gay Times, Teen People, Contact Sheet 103, The New York Times, Advocate, POZ, Time Out New York, Daily News, Gay City News* and *A&U*. In 2001 he joined the permanent collection at the Kresge Art Museum at Michigan State University.

He taught photography at The Hetrick-Martin Institute from 2000 to 2007. He is one of the co-founders of the *House of Frame by Frame Fierce*, a non for profit organization that creates and teaches animation filmmaking to high risk youth as a form of activism. In 2007 the *House of Frame by Frame Fierce* received a *Peabody Award* for their work on a documentary short titled *I'm Not A Boy: The Julie Joyce Story* about the life of a transgender youth. He is currently featured in a documentary film, *How Do I Look* about the house/ ball community in New York City. He is also founder of the House of Legacy International.

He recently experienced a collaboratively supported publication, produced by AIDS Project Los Angeles, Black AIDS Institute, Gay Men's Health Crisis, National Black Justice Coalition and New York State Black Gay Network titled *If We Have to Take Tomorrow* that helped address issues about HIV/ AIDS in the black and Latino communities. With the *HIV Stops with Me* campaign Luna Luis Ortiz's face can be seen throughout the New York City subway train stations and subways. In 2006 he received an *Emery Award* for his contributions to his respected communities as well as the *Distinguished Service Award* from the State of New York. Today Luna Luis Ortiz continues his dedication to HIV prevention and education at Gay Men Health Crisis (GMHC).

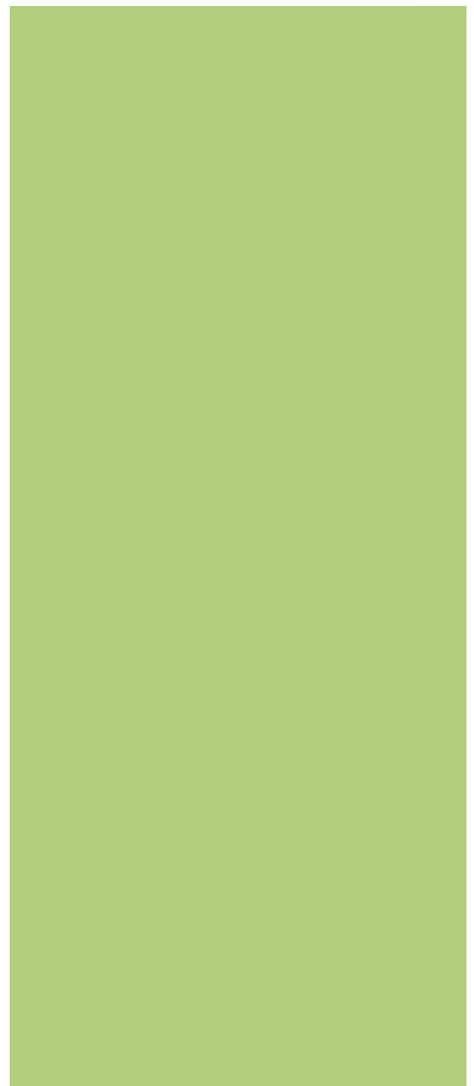
### **Andrew Spieldenner, MA**

Andrew Spieldenner is a doctorate candidate in Intercultural Communication at Howard University with a focus on Health Communication. He has a Masters degree from University of California, Los Angeles School of Theater, Film and Television, and studied Ethnic Studies at University of California, Berkeley. His fiction and essays have appeared widely. In 2001, he co-wrote the award-winning teleplay *Kevin's Room*.

Andrew has extensive experience in health media and HIV programs. He has held positions with the National Association of People with AIDS, the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, and LYRIC Youth Center in San Francisco. He has been an educator for UC Berkeley, UCLA, Howard University, and the Florida State Department of Corrections.

### **Darryl Stephens**

Darryl Stephens attended the University of California, Berkeley where he studied sociology and ethnic studies along with drama and dance before earning a Bachelor's Degree in American Culture Studies. He performed for four years in San Francisco with the cult theater troupe *Sassymouth* before returning to Los Angeles to pursue a film and television career. He also worked with the Berkeley Black Theater Workshop.



Stephens appeared on the sexy late-night serial *MTV's Undressed*, the short-lived series *That's Life*, and VH1's *Red Eye*. During the same period, he was also appearing in various commercials for products such as Dockers and performing in small theater venues and scene study classes. He also played a "future funk" Greta in a Hollywood revival of the well-known play *Bent*. Stephens had supporting roles in the films *Seamless* (with Shannon Elizabeth), *Not Quite Right*, and *Circuit*. However, his breakout role came in 2004, as the lead character for the new series *Noah's Arc*.

By the end of 2006, Stephens had completed roles in the comedy *Another Gay Movie* and the drama *Boy Culture*, the latter alongside newcomer Derek Magyar. His next film, scheduled for release in 2008, is *Bolden!*, a biographical film about a cornet player in which he plays Frank Lewis. Darryl was featured in *OUT* magazine's "Out 100" list in 2007.

#### **Tyler TerMeer**

Tyler TerMeer recently moved to Phoenix, AZ where he will be working with the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS to build a new program in transitioning HIV Positive Youth to Adult Services and Programming. Prior to that, he was the Director of Programming at the Ohio AIDS Coalition, a non-profit organization providing education, leadership training, advocacy, and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Tyler has traveled around the country as well as internationally to Rural South Africa to share his own experiences of living with HIV as a young adult to address the stigma, treatment, and barriers that are often associated with HIV/AIDS.

He serves as a National Board Member for Advocates for Youth. Over the last two years he has developed and coordinated a Positive Leadership Summit for HIV positive persons in Ohio to begin dialogue about living with HIV as a young adult, and is currently serving on several committees to address the need for comprehensive sexual education.

#### **Darwin Thompson**

Darwin Thompson is Prevention Specialist/M-Group Facilitator Da CRIBB—a drop in resource center for young black gay, bisexual and same gender loving men. Da CRIBB is one of many programs sponsored by the National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, Inc. (NAESM). As a facilitator with the Mpowerment Project, Mr. Thompson is charged with the mobilization of young gay/bisexual men by providing a healthy community that will foster positive social connections and supports safer sex. Mr. Thompson is a graduate of Morehouse College of Atlanta, Georgia with a Bachelors' of Arts in Sociology.

#### **Takirra Winfield, MA**

Takirra Winfield is Director of Media Affairs for the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). Takirra has worked in public relations and media for non-profit, governmental, and university groups. At NAPWA, she has successfully partnered the National HIV Testing Day initiative with several media partners, including Radio One. She has a Masters in Communication from Howard University, and earned a degree in Public Relations at University of Maryland, College Park.

### **Translation/Linguistic Support Services**

#### **Christian Castro**

Christian Castro is pursuing a Masters in Geography at University of Maryland, College Park. A graduate of University of California, Los Angeles, Christian has worked in governmental, community-based, and private industry. He has held positions at the National Association of People with AIDS, Neighborworks America, New York City Mayor's Office, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, and the Chicago Department of Public Health.

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