

## The Bear Necessity Aids Project

July 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Bear Necessity Aids Project (BNAP) started on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2006, when British Gay Rapper Qboy accepted a small furry gift from New York City based artist Adrian L. Acosta (a.k.a. Amnesia Sparkles). The gift was a small stuffed animal, a white bear, wearing a tiny white T-Shirt with a design geared to bring HIV/AIDS awareness. The T-shirt displays a blue shirtless male figure with a red ribbon floating in front of his torso. The blue man's arms and lower torso fade into numerous wavy red and blue lines resembling veins. On one side of the figure the word "STOP," on the opposite side the word "AIDS" are displayed. The design was altered from an original art piece entitled "THE BLUEST RIBBON" by Adrian L. Acosta.

The instructions given with the bear were simple.

- 1) Sign the bear's T-shirt
- 2) Take custody of the bear
- 3) Give bear to another artist on an unspecified future date
- 4) Have the next artist sign and take custody of the bear
- 5) Continue the chain.

True to karma, somehow the bear will one day return to New York City.

The goal of the project is to have the bear come back to New York City after having been passed around the world by many artist, musicians, and performers.

Once the AIDS Bear makes his triumphant return he will be donated to an organization that is geared towards the fight against HIV/AIDS. The AIDS Bear, with the autographed T-shirt, will then be auctioned and the funds will go towards helping individuals living with HIV/AIDS receive the bare necessities so they too can have happy and productive lives.

The journey of the AIDS Bear is uncertain. He will be passed around from one hand to another. He'll bring awareness and with his return and subsequent auction he will help raise funds for the fight against this debilitating disease. He is at the mercy of others and will need others to take care of him. He will need help getting safely back home. We don't know when he'll return but we know that he will make a difference every step of the way thanks to caring individuals.

For more information about this project or to find out where in the world is the AIDS Bear visit [www.AdrianAcosta.com](http://www.AdrianAcosta.com)

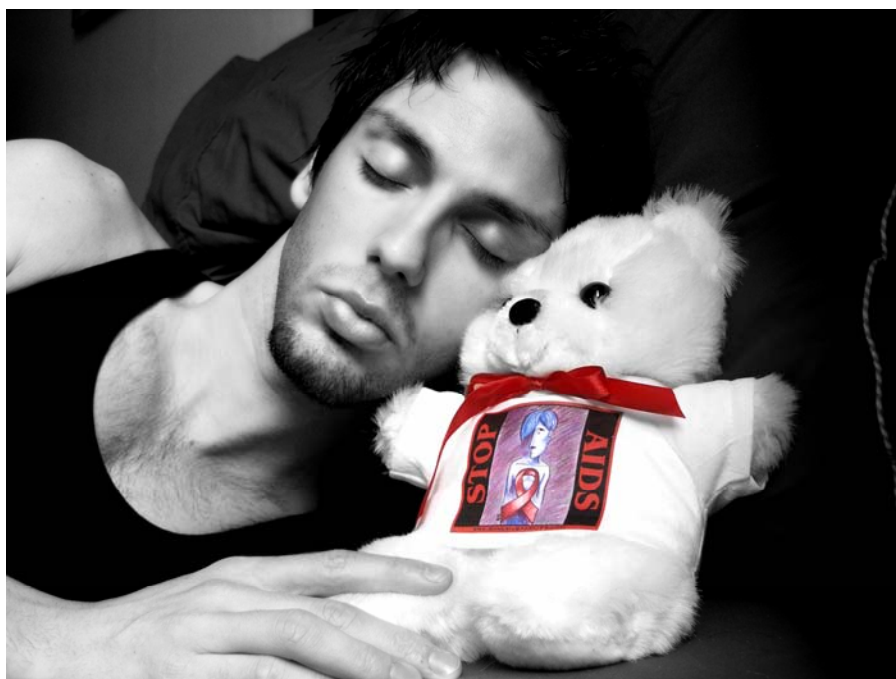
**Adrian L. Acosta**

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[www.AdrianAcosta.com](http://www.AdrianAcosta.com)

Promo video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVi3inNIxYA>



One of the many reasons the Bear Necessity Aids Project was created

**Letter to an HIV+ Friend.**

The other day I received an email from a very special person I've met last year that has recently contracted the HIV virus. He's only 23 years old. He asked me to update his link in my links page. I took this opportunity to come out to him.

Hey Mr,

you caught me as I was surfing the net at work.

this is where I was

[HIV Stops with Me](http://www.hivstopswithme.org/)

(<http://www.hivstopswithme.org/>  
)

I found it through this site

[HIV/AIDS at 25](http://www.gay.com/news/roundups/package.html?sernum=333)

(<http://www.gay.com/news/roundups/package.html?sernum=333>)

I must confess that I've read your past entry where you came out about being HIV positive. You are not the first person I've known personally that has contracted the disease but...I'm still finding ways to cope with it all. I often make inappropriate jokes to friends about HIV and AIDS but it's a clear coping mechanism to mask the hurt and anger that I have towards the disease. You'd think that after 25 years someone would have found a cure. The fact that no one has, makes me sad. The fact that people, good people are still getting infected makes me angry!

It's easy to blame someone, anyone for the millions of infections in the world, but does pointing fingers ever help anyone? I don't think so.

I really hope you are doing well, and I send you much love.

Big BIG BIGGGG HUG, MUAH!  
-A

He then replied with:

Hey there,

Thanks for the email. I've always felt that you were one of the people I knew in NYC that had a depth to them about things and actually really thought about things. Your email makes me think that even more. Finding out I was HIV positive has really opened my eyes to a lot of things and given me a passion to work with organizations in HIV prevention and research, gay equality, and numerous other things that still need so much fighting for.

I've been doing fantastic in SF and loving it here so much!

It's ironic you were at the HIVstopswithme website, as my boyfriend is one of their spokesmodels for San Francisco.

I'm hoping to make it back to NYC in the next few months and hopefully when I do we can catch up.

HUGS!  
-J

The first cases of HIV infection were reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on June 5, 1981. Who knows how long before that HIV was around. I was born in 1979. We could easily assume HIV had been around then, yet it hadn't

been identified. This means my generation doesn't know a life without HIV. We don't have the privilege, the freedom of having sex without the fear of a death sentence. Older generations had to go through hell in the early 80s losing friends and family members left and right. My generation and those after me have grown up with HIV/AIDS in the news, in our schools, and in our homes. There is no lack of information regarding how to prevent the spread of this disease, yet the cases of infections keeps growing.

(<http://www.gay.com/news/roundups/package.html?sernum=333>)

WHY?

It's time to stop this. It's time to stop this. IT'S TIME TO STOP THIS! STOP IT! STOP AIDS!

It's easy to say "STOP AIDS" isn't it? It's even easier to contract the disease. Sometimes the greatest goals are the hardest to achieve; however, wouldn't it be amazing to say "My generation STOPPED AIDS!" I believe we can do it if we take care of ourselves and each other. I think we can do it, if we love ourselves and each other. I think we CAN stop aids. There is no good reason why future generations should inherit this disease. If you think it's too late to save those in the past then help save those in the future. My generation inherited HIV/AIDS. Lets remove HIV/AIDS from our living wills forever. STOP AIDS.

Listen to:

[AIDS: In Their Own Words](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5545586)  
(<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5545586>)