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Contributors

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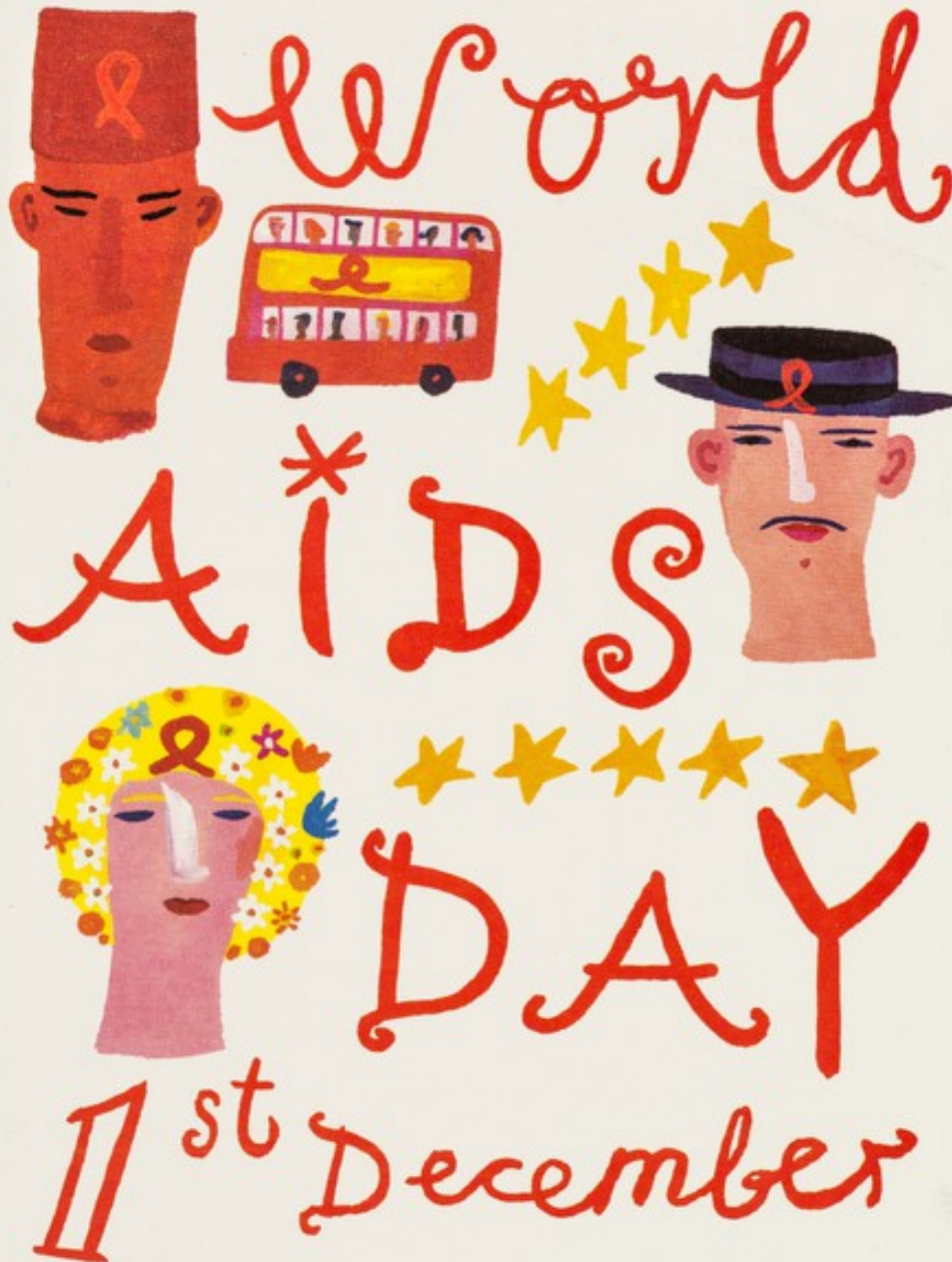
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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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World AIDS DAY

1st December

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was first reported in 1981. Today, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, is present in virtually every country in the world and continues to spread faster than international efforts to stop it. Every day an estimated 8,500 people become infected.

- World AIDS Day provides us with the opportunity to join with the worldwide effort to halt the spread of HIV.
- In the UK, we know that at least 26,695 people are reported to have contracted HIV. Of these

people 12,565 have developed AIDS, of whom 8,879 have already died (source PHLS, June 1996).

- There are many more people with HIV that we do not know about and who may not know themselves.
- Many others are affected: lovers, families, friends, colleagues and carers.

World AIDS Day gives the chance to talk and learn about HIV infection and how to prevent it; to show we care for people with HIV/AIDS and their carers; to celebrate the lives of people living with the virus and remember those who have died from AIDS related illness.

ONE WORLD. ONE HOPE

If someone tells you he's

+ve

does it change the way
you feel about him?



WEAR A RED RIBBON TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

World AIDS DAY 1st December 1996

The Red Ribbon

Anyone can wear the Red Ribbon to demonstrate their care, concern and understanding about HIV/AIDS. The Red Ribbon offers symbolic support: for those living with HIV, for the continuing education of those not infected, for maximum efforts to find effective treatments, cures or vaccines, and for those who have lost friends, family members or loved ones to AIDS.



If you are offered a Red Ribbon, take it and wear it as a tribute to the millions of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS worldwide.

Wearing a Red Ribbon is the first step in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It can be worn on any day of the year, but especially on the 1st December: World AIDS Day.

Wear a Red Ribbon to show your support for the fight against HIV/AIDS.



national aids trust



National AIDS Helpline

For free, confidential advice and information about HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections or sexual health matters ring the National AIDS Helpline on **0800 567 123**.

A 24-hour, seven-days a week, telephone service, NAH can also give you details about local services, including sexual health clinics and support agencies for people with HIV/AIDS, their partners, family and friends. Phone lines are staffed with people who speak:

Arabic:	0800 282447 6 pm-10 pm Thursday
Bengali:	0800 371132 6 pm-10 pm Tuesday
Cantonese:	0800 282446 6 pm-10 pm Monday
Gujarati:	0800 371134 6 pm-10 pm Wednesday
Hindi:	0800 371136 6 pm-10 pm Wednesday
Punjabi:	0800 371133 6 pm-10 pm Wednesday
Urdu:	0800 371135 6 pm-10 pm Wednesday
Welsh:	0800 371131 10 am-2 am Daily

Outside these hours there is a dial and listen service on these lines. A Minicom Service is available for people with hearing difficulties on **0800 521 361** from 10 am - 10 pm, seven days a week.

THE RED RIBBON IS AN INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF AIDS AWARENESS

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Most of us know somebody who is HIV+. Not all of us are aware of it though.

Some +ve guys are happy to prance around in our +ve t-shirts and badges, seeing every reason to be completely open about our status. Most of us however choose not to tell all people all the time and some +ve people never tell anyone apart from their doctor.

So here's a quiz for those of you unsure about the social etiquette of dealing with the disclosure of somebody else's HIV status.

And if you think that you can't have a laugh about HIV and AIDS... get over yourself.

THE "I'M +VE AND..." QUIZ

1 An old flatmate comes round to see you to discuss his concerns that he may have HIV. Do you:

- a) send an e-mail to all your mutual friends with the title 'Hot Gossip'
- b) ask him to move back in, he's going to need you now
- c) bitterly regret the time you borrowed his bath towel
- d) talk to him about it over a bottle of your favourite tipple

2 You have invited a friend you know to be positive round to a dinner party. Towards the end of the dinner, do you:

- a) ask him loudly if he needs to take his medication
- b) bustle him into the kitchen so you can be sure he's taking his combo therapy
- c) tell him to take all his cutlery/glasses/crockery to the end of the garden and bury them
- d) pass round the after-dinner mints

3 Someone that you've been shagging on a regular basis tells you he's +ve. Do you:

- a) ask all your friends and family what to do - then ask all of his
- b) tell him that you'll look after him from now on
- c) burn your clothes, your bed and your whole flat before emigrating
- d) hold him, kiss him and let him know that it changes nothing

4 You go round to a friend's flat and notice that he has copies of the +ve press in his house. Do you:

- a) arrange them decoratively on the coffee table so they look nice and everyone can see them
- b) tidy the flat, cook dinner and gaze at him sympathetically all evening
- c) slam a biohazard warning on the door to warn his neighbours
- d) point out the cute guy on the cover

5 You happen to bump into a work acquaintance as he's leaving an HIV clinic. Do you:

- a) call up the office on your mobile and let them all know
- b) go over, hold his hand and ask him if he's OK
- c) phone your office and get his desk isolated
- d) say hello, then take the opportunity to bitch about your boss

6 You are out dancing at a club when a guy you really fancy drops his HIV medication all over the floor. Do you:

- a) say loudly 'Is that the latest combination therapy?'
- b) tell him that someone in his condition shouldn't be wasting his energy clubbing
- c) scream 'Don't touch him – he's got AIDS'
- d) help him pick them up, all the while giving him your best 'come and get me' grin

S C O R E C A R D

Mostly a – You may be cool around people who are +ve, but not everybody else will be. Most +ve people want to decide for ourselves who knows our HIV status. A bit more subtlety wouldn't go amiss.

Mostly b – You're sweet, you're caring and you treat people with HIV like we're made of china. We're not, you know.

Mostly c – We hope you realise that with an attitude like that, nobody is likely to disclose to you anyway.

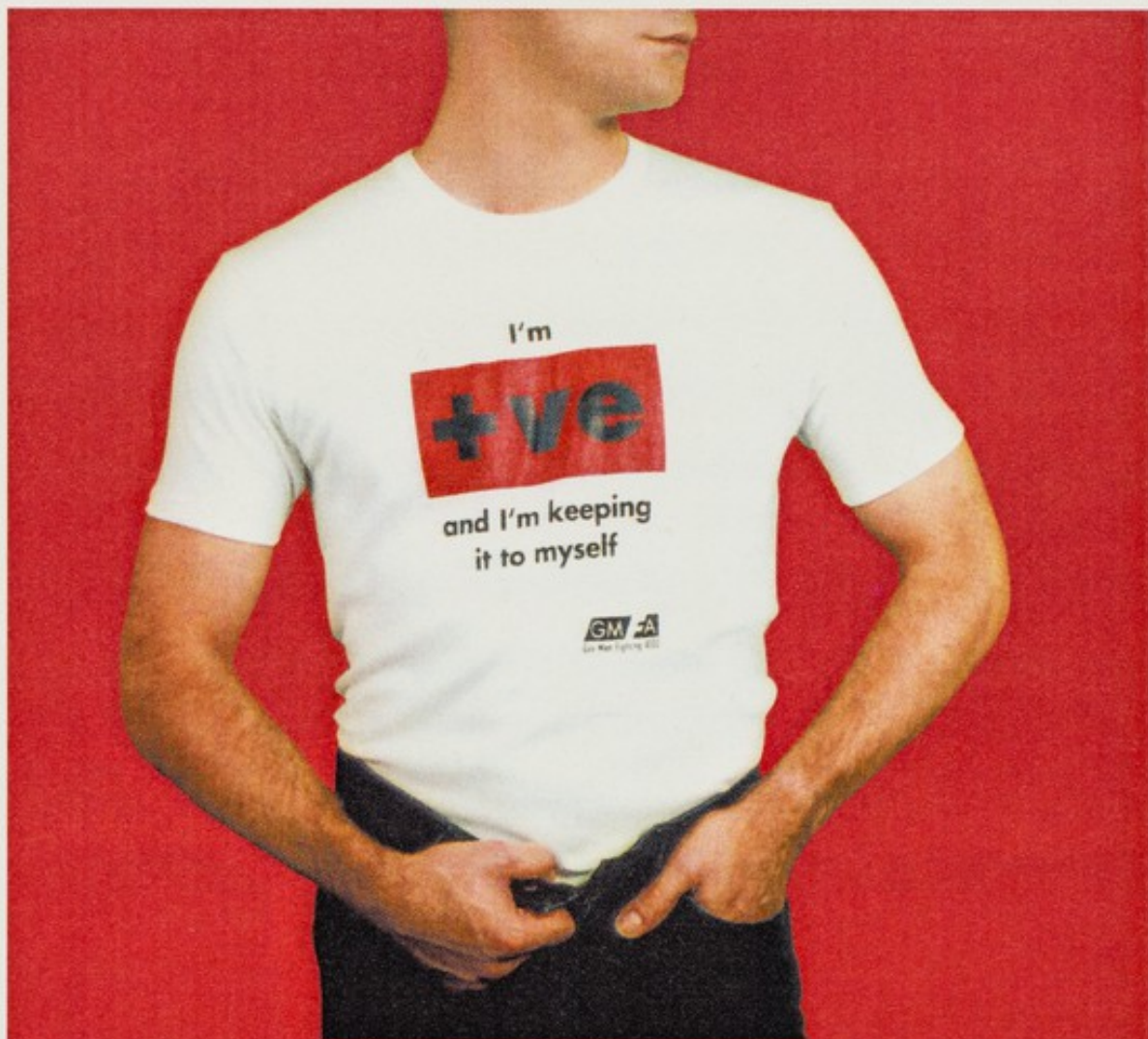
Mostly d – Clearly other people's HIV status isn't an issue for you. Good on you.

If you don't know many people who are HIV+ it can come as a bit of a shock when someone tells you that they are.

It may well change your expectations of the relationship, whether he's a lover, a friend or a potential shag.

Most of the time, the person who's doing the telling would like you to carry on as before. If you're his lover – carry on loving him. If you're his friend, keep on being his friend. If you're a potential shag, then shag.

If it does change the way you feel, then it's only fair that you let him know.



● All of GMFA's campaigns are designed, planned and executed by positive, negative and untested volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for GMFA, write, phone or e-mail GMFA, Unit 43, Eurolink Centre, 49 Effra Road, London, SW2 1BZ. 020 7738 6872. newvol@gmfa.demon.co.uk www.demon.co.uk/gmfa

GMFA
Gay Men Fighting AIDS
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