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Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center

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VISUAL AIDS

HIGH NOON IN BUFFALO

The **World Health Organization** has designated **today, December 1**, as "**AIDS Awareness Day**," a time of action and mourning in response to the AIDS crisis. **Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center** is joining together with over 500 art galleries, museums, and other cultural organizations across the country to call attention to the impact of AIDS on the arts community in particular.

During the noon hour, we are staging a visual demonstration of the lethal power of AIDS and the importance of making connections between people living with the illness, medical research and funding, and other forms of support which may seem out of reach.

AIDS IS NOT RESTRICTED TO NEW YORK CITY, LOS ANGELES, AND SAN FRANCISCO. IT IS HERE, IN WESTERN NEW YORK, NOW.

Total Reported Cases of AIDS

	March 1988	November 1989
U.S.A.	53,814	116,344
New York State	15,187	25,490
Western New York	78	306

These numbers (which indicate people with "full blown" AIDS) are **increasing at a rate of 10% per month**. There is no way to calculate the number of people with AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) in Buffalo, but the Western New York AIDS Program currently serves 418 clients. **With over 600 reported cases, AIDS is not as far away from us as we might like to think.**

The AIDS epidemic has already achieved global significance; as of mid-1989, it had already taken more American lives than the Vietnam war. Its consequences in the arts community are particularly widespread. Some of those effects are obvious and immediate: artists are dying. Indeed, countless painters, filmmakers, writers, and performers who have presented their work at Hallwalls over the years have become ill or died; the number seems to escalate every day. But there are other, more subtle ramifications as well. Many insurance companies throughout the nation now consider arts organizations "high risk" operations and have refused coverage to dance companies, theaters, and galleries.

Media coverage of AIDS-related art events and demonstrations portrays people with AIDS as victims ("innocent" or otherwise) and obscures the specific content of the material represented. Moreover, the recent Congressional restrictions against NEA funding for works depicting homoeroticism, sadomasochism, or individuals engaged in sex acts have been employed (unsuccessfully) to suppress artistic explorations of the disease and its milieu. The community cannot remain silent in the midst of such circumstances.

If you would like more information about AIDS (or if you would like to contribute time or money), contact the following organizations:

NIAGARA FRONTIER AIDS ALLIANCE	367 Delaware Ave.	852-6778
WESTERN NEW YORK AIDS PROGRAM	220 Delaware Ave.	847-2441
	AIDS HOTLINE	847-AIDS
BENEDICT HOUSE	124 Plymouth Ave.	881-3082
COMMON THREAD FOUNDATION		674-9235

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1989
WORLDWIDE AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center is calling attention today to the impact of AIDS on the arts community with a full afternoon and evening of art and action against AIDS, including videotapes, music, live performances, movies, and a display of safe-sex posters from around the world. **All today's events are FREE and open to the public.**

TODAY'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT HALLWALLS

1-6 pm: Hallwalls Video Viewing Room (700 Main St., 4th floor): Screening of VIDEO AGAINST AIDS, a collection of 22 videotapes produced by concerned artists, activists, people living with AIDS, and their families and friends. (Note: following today's premiere of VIDEO AGAINST AIDS, the series will be available through Hallwalls for home and community use.)

6 pm-midnight: Hallwalls Vault (700 Main St., 2nd floor):

6-8pm Videotape: Snow Job: The Media Hysteria of AIDS (**Barbara Hammer**)
Videotape: Testing the Limits (**Testing the Limits Collective**)
Videotape: We are NOT Republicans (**Adam Hassuk & Robert Huff**)
Film: An Individual Desires Solution (**Larry Brose**)
Videotape: Work Your Body: Options for People Who Are HIV Positive (**Jean Carlomusto & Gregg Bordowitz**)

8-10pm Film: Songs From an Angel (**David Weisman**)
Performance: A Quarantine of the Mind (excerpt from Toronto artist **David MacLean's** multi-media performance)
Videotape: Mildred Pearson: When You Love A Person (**Yannick Durand**, Brooklyn AIDS Task Force)
Videotape: Benedict House
Videotape: DIAna's Hair Ego (**Ellen Spiro's** new work-in-progress exploring AIDS education in a South Carolina beauty salon)
Videotape: The ADS Epidemic (**John Greyson**)
Performance: Apology (a new work by Buffalo performer **Steve Griffith**)
Music: **Beverly Bratty** (the "industrial strength voice" from Toronto)

10pm-12am Performance: Beach Story (excerpt from **Ronald Ehmke's** series "The Inner Life")

Safe Sex videotapes from the U.S. and West Germany (a comparison presented by **Jurgen Bruning**)

Videotape: The Helms Amendment (**GMHC**)

Film: A tribute to **Jack Smith** (including Blonde Cobra and rare audio archives presented by **Tony Conrad**)

Music: **David Ramsden** (torch songs from Toronto) with a special appearance by **Beverly Bratty**

Special thanks to Mark Masterson, Kurt Killian, Father Vincent Crosby, Barbara Morehouse, Lisa Marchese, Jennifer Thomas, and USA Pharmaceutical-East Coast, Inc.

This program is dedicated to Michael Bennett, John Bernd, Curt McDowell, Cookie Mueller, William Olander, Jack Smith, and the hundreds of other artists whose lives and careers have been cut short by AIDS.