

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
AIDS in the Deaf Community**

by

Thomas K. Holcomb

**Ohlone College Sign Theatre
Spring 1995**

HEAR NO SCREAM

PROLOGUE:

Music Interpretation: Life in the Fast Lane by EAGLES

ANGELS AT PLAY

ACT I. GETTING INFECTED

Story: My Near-Death Experience
Skit: Safe Yet Deadly
Poem: 1,786 and Still Going
Media: But You Don't Understand

ANGELS AT PLAY

ACT II. LEARNING THE BAD NEWS

Media: The Phone Call
Story: The Greatest Gift to Women
Poem: A.I.D.S.
Skit: Shattered Dream

ANGELS AT PLAY

ACT III. LIVING WITH THE DISEASE

Skit: Kept in the Dark
Poem: Locked Out
Story: The AIDS Warrior
Media: So Many Women, Not Enough Time

ANGELS AT PLAY

Act IV. SAYING GOOD BYE

Skit: The Judgement Day
Story: A Secret No More
Media: Love Always, Brenda
Poem: Hello Angel

EPILOGUE: Music Interpretation: Prayer for the Dying by SEAL

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
AIDS in the Deaf Community**

PROLOGUE

Hear No Scream

Introduction

A. Hello and welcome to Ohlone College Sign Theatre's annual drama production. We are proud to present this play, "Hear No Scream: AIDS in the Deaf Community."

B. Some of you may wonder where the title came from. This title was selected by the cast members to illustrate the AIDS crisis in the deaf community. It represents two different perspectives -- 1) that the AIDS alert has not always reached the deaf community in a timely fashion nor have the services and information been accessible to the deaf community; and 2) the cries of the Deaf community for services and help have not always been heard.

A. The cast has worked since last January in developing this play. We have met deaf people with AIDS, interviewed family members who have experienced AIDS in their families, watched videotapes and read articles about AIDS, participated in sensitivity training, and taken HIV tests. All of these experiences helped us understand more clearly the issues related to AIDS and the deaf community. This play is the culmination of our hard work.

B. This play is unique in many ways. The story will be told through a variety of techniques including song interpretation, ASL poetry, ASL storytelling, skit and media presentation. This is to demonstrate the diversity within the deaf community in the preferred form of entertainment and access to information.

A. The characters you will see in the play are fictitious. However, the names we will disclose throughout the play are the people from the deaf community who have died from AIDS. Now, let's begin the program.

NAMES OF PEOPLE FROM THE DEAF COMMUNITY WHO HAVE DIED OF AIDS RELATED COMPLICATIONS.

FRANK VARVERI
DAVID WILSON
ROBERT SANGIO
JOHN STUBBINS
ROBERT TREVINO
LAM KIM
JOHN MULEA
DON DAYHOFF
BILL BORT
CHRIS COVEY
JAMIE FARRELL
MIKE ECHEIMANN
RICHARD GARY
DAN MANSFIELD
ANGEL OCHOA
DON PARODI
VICTOR RIVERA
ALBERTO TORRES
TOM WADELL
LAM YING
KEITH ADAMS
CARSON GLICK
MIKE DONOHUE
ARTHUR EVANS
ROBERT FIRKINS
JOEY IACOBUCCI
JULIO NUNEZ GENAO
TIM JOHNSON
JAY JACKSON
TED MILES
STEVE KEPFORD
MIKE LEVY
ROBERT MORRIS
PATRICK SAATZER
JOVAN RYG
SAM POTTER
GRAHAM PETERS
JIM SOONS
THOMAS TABOR
RAFAEL SAUCIDO

JOHN CANADY
JERRY BAKER
KEN GAAR
STEVE FISHER
JOHN FLYNN
MICHAEL WHITE
DON SILVERS
DOUGH TANKE
GARY BAND
GREG CLARK
CARL DAVIS
MICHAEL ADELMAN
RICHARD MARTIN
JAMES MOORE
RICHARDO LASH
MILTON TEASLEY
BEATRICE SMITH
HARRY WILLIAMS
EDWARD CRUICKSHANK
DALE ICE
ROBERT HAMMOND
MICHAEL JOLIFFE
LARRY O'DONNELL
RAYMOND LEMARTER
COLE BOCOCK
BUZZY CONTERIO
PAUL ISAAC
JESS GRAJEDA
DON HESTER
JAMES HUMPHRIES
ALBERT RAMIREZ
STEPHEN QUIGLEY
CHARLES PECK
EARL VANCE
JOHN SMITH
BRUCE TAYLOR
GREGG SCHEIMAN
BOB ALLIS
VINCE CLARK
MICHAEL BRIDGES
STEVE FARTHING
MICHAEL GARDEA
DICK DIRST

MIKE EISELE
KEN HOAGLUND
CARSON GLICK
RAYMOND GONZALEZ
JOSEPH HINES
JOSE RODRIGUEZ
BRUCE RUDOLPH
TOMMY SAAVEDRA
KEVIN TIMOTHY O'RELL
STEPHEN STEFURAK
COTY SOONS
DENNIS SCHEMENAUER
WAYNE CLEARMAN
BOBBY HARDY
GEORGE MCLENDON
RALPH PULLEY
KHAE SAETEUN
GARET STARK
TERRY ARMSTRONG
ROBERT SUNIGA
CHRISTOPHER CADENA III
RAYMOND BARTON
REGGIE HIGHTOWER
WALT MONTGOMERY
DAVID GLASSBERG
GARY HAWK
FELIX RAMOS-VARGAS
JIMMY STAFFORD
EDWARD SCHWARTZ
CARL BIVENS
ROBERT ARTON
BOB CAVELLERO
BRIAN FRIESEN
PHILLIP HILDRETH
LARRY HEALY
BILLY PETRIE
ANGELO ROSADO-MARQUEZ
DONALD SNETZINGER
JIM STAHLECKER
KENT MITCHELL
GREG SMITH
DAVID SHOEMAKER
JAMES MCBRIDE

HAL HERRINGTON
MICHAEL ERCANBACK
WAYNE FRIEBEL
CARMELLO FERNANDEZ
JIM DORSETT
JAMIE CARRILLO
SAM EDWARDS
JASON FATORE
RON EMRICH
ANTHONY REIHM
JOHN RITCHEY
REY PEREZ
JACK FENNEL
DAVID PASKO
STEVEN MCCOUGHIN
JOHN DUNCAN
CLINT MCKAY
WENDOL MILLER
TOM MAXWELL

Hear No Scream

Script for the counselor

After the music interpretation of "Life in the Fast Lane", the members of the AIDS support group assemble in a semi circular position on the side of the stage. The counselor stands up to begin the meeting.

Counselor: Good evening. Welcome to the HIV/AIDS support group for deaf people. I myself am HIV positive and will be leading the discussions. We will discuss many different issues. The goal of this group is to learn from each other including our feelings about having HIV/AIDS and living with HIV. Today's topic is on how we became infected with HIV.

The counselor shows the question, "How were you infected with HIV?" on the flip chart.

Counselor: Who wants to start? Brenda...

Brenda: "My Near Death Experience"

Counselor: It is not possible to get HIV through transfusion any more. This must have happened during the early 80's before there were screenings for HIV. Right? Ok, who wants to be next? Yeu..

Yeu: "Safe but Deadly"

Counselor: So you were faithful, but your lover had an affair and acquired HIV and then exposed you to the infection. Ralph, you are next.

Ralph: "1,786 and still going"

Counselor: Ok... Peter

Peter: "But You Don't Understand"

Angels appear to dance.

Counselor: Today, we will discuss a different topic. We will focus on how you found out that you were infected.

The counselor shows the question on the flip chart.

Counselor: Who wants to start? Yeu...

Yeu: "The Phone Call"

Counselor: Hmmmm.. Ok.. Ralph.

Ralph: "The Greatest Gift to Women"

Counselor: So you have not had the test, yet???? You should consider taking it soon... Ok.. Peter.

Peter: "A.I.D.S."

Counselor: Still a secret with you? Ok... Brenda.

Brenda: "Shattered Dream"

Angels appear to dance.

Counselor: We will talk about something different today. Since all of us know we have HIV. Did our lives change? How have you been living with HIV?

Tim shows the question on the flip chart.

Counselor: Peter, you want to go first?

Peter: "Kept in the Dark"

Counselor: Ok, who's next? Brenda..

Brenda: "Doors"

Counselor: Yeu... you want to share your story?

Yeu: "The AIDS Soldier"

Counselor: Ralph, you are up.

Ralph: "So Many Women, Not Enough Time"

Angels appear to dance.

Counselor: Now we come to the hard part. Death and dying. How do you feel about death?

Ralph: "The Judgement Day"

Peter: "The Big Secret"

Brenda: "Love Always, Brenda"

Yeu: "Hello Angel"

Dan Lucero appears to do the Epilogue.

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
AIDS in the Deaf Community**

ACT I

GETTING INFECTED

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
AIDS in the Deaf Community**

ANGELS AT PLAY

Brenda

Hear No Scream

"My Near Death Experience" An ASL story

One hot summer day, when I was nine years old, I was with my friends. We were fooling around in the neighborhood, having fun. A friend suggested that we get on our bikes and race to a neighborhood store for some ice cream. We all got on our bikes and rode as fast as we could. I pedalled like crazy and was leading the pack. I laughed, turned around and signed "HAHA" to my friends who were behind me. As I turned back, there was a car in front of me. I smashed into and flipped over the car. I was brought into the emergency room and had several transfusions to keep me alive. I felt myself separating from my body to begin the journey toward a new life. I saw my body lying on the hospital bed, surrounded by my loved ones and some strangers dressed in white. All of sudden, I found myself returning to my body. I woke up, with the blood dripping into my body.

Yeu

Hear No Screem

"Safe Yet Deadly"
A skit

The group is out dancing at a bar. Yeu and Kevin approach the stage from the side, holding hands.

Yeu: Please, I don't want to stay here too long. I don't feel good and I have a terrible headache.

Kevin: Sure, sure. Don't worry. We'll just go in and talk with our friends for a while and dance a little bit. And then we'll go home.

Yeu: Many thanks. I love you.

Kevin: I love you, too.

Yeu and Kevin walk in and greet their friends. They proceed to dance with the group.

Yeu: (tapping on Kevin's shoulders) I am really feeling lousy. Let's go home.

Kevin: A few more minutes, please. Just a few more minutes. I'm having a great time. Why don't you sit down and rest and I will be right with you in few minutes.

Yeu: Well, ok. I'll just wait for you. *(sits down)*

Kevin continues to dance and enjoy himself with his friends. Yeu sits impatiently.

Yeu: *(getting Kevin's attention)*: Let's go home.

Kevin: Listen.... I'm really enjoying myself. I don't want go home. now.

Yeu: But you promised.... you said we would be staying here for only a short while.

Kevin: *(getting annoyed)* I'm not ready to go home. Why don't you just go home and leave me alone.

Yeu: *(angrily)* Oh, thanks a lot. I'll just do that. *(walks away very upset)*

Kevin: *(returns to dance but is visibly upset)*

Jesus: *(approaches Kevin)* You look upset. What's wrong?

Kevin: Well, I just had a spat with my lover.

Jesus: *(comforts him)* Well, why don't you just dance and forget about him?

Jesus and Kevin become so involved in dancing that they don't notice people leaving. Eventually, they are the only ones left at the bar.

Kevin: Wow, we are the only ones left here. And it's getting late. I better go home.

Jesus: *(in flirtatious mood)* Oh, you don't have to go home. Why don't you come to my place?

Kevin: *(appears to be interested)* Your place? Well, I don't know....

Jesus: Come on.... I'll make you forget your problems.

Kevin and Jesus walk off the stage, holding hands.

Hear No Scream

"1,786 and Still Going" An ASL Poem

Ralph, with his back to the audience, is making out with a girl. He then blows a kiss to her and waves good-bye. He takes out a black book out of his pocket and writes down her name. He puts the black book back in his pocket.

Ralph: This was the 1,786th woman I have slept with.

This ASL poem is titled, "1786 and still going strong" and I will use the numbers from 1 to 1786.

Who am I?

- 1: Intelligent
- 2: Good looking
- 3: Hunky
- 4: Silky hair
- 5: Muscular
- 6: Well-built
- 7: Cute
- 8: Well-endowed
- 9: Cool
10. Sociable

Who are the women in my life?

- 10: High School Seniors
- 20: Gallaudet Secretaries
- 30: Triplets
- 40: Blondes
- 50: Cheerleaders
- 60: Wealthy widows
- 70: Virgins
- 80: Star Olympic Athletes
- 90: Expert Interpreters
- 100: ASL teachers

Why am I so great at sex?

- 100:** **Feeling the lust**
- 200:** **Finding that perfect woman**
- 300:** **Kissing her real good**
- 400:** **Sweating all over**
- 500:** **Fondling here and there**
- 600:** **Approaching climax**
- 700:** **Becoming one**
- 800:** **Joining together**
- 900:** **Losing consciousness**
- 1,000:** **Reaching climax**

- 1,500:** **Journeying through the stars**
- 1,786:**

Peter

Hear No Scream

"BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND" A Media presentation

Peter: When I was five years old, I loved playing soccer.

A videotape of Peter playing soccer when he was 5 years old. is shown.

Peter: My parents always told me not to play near the street. One day, I was playing with my ball and it rolled across the street. I wanted the ball back and I thought it would not hurt to cross the street and get my ball just once. Well, as I ran across the street, a car hit me and I broke my arm. See how my parents reacted.

A videotape of parents scolding is shown.

Peter: But they didn't understand! It was not my fault! I needed the ball back! Later when I was ten years old, I started to experiment with cigarettes even though my parents told me not to.

A videotape of Peter sneaking a smoke is shown.

Peter: My parents caught me smoking one day. Know what my parents did?

A videotape of parents scolding is shown.

Peter: But they didn't understand. It was not my fault. I was just curious. Later when I was fifteen years old, I fell in love for the first time.

A videotape of a beautiful woman is shown.

Peter: Ohhhhhh, my first love!!!! She was twenty years old! My parents forbade me to see her. I was soooo in love and she taught me everything about love! Well, I got her pregnant and I became a father when I was fifteen years old. Naturally, my parents were upset.

A videotape of parents scolding is shown.

Peter: But they didn't understand. It was not my fault. I couldn't help it falling in love with a beautiful woman! Anyway when I was 20 years old, I attended Gallaudet University. The classes there were so boring. Look...

A videotape of a class at Gallaudet is shown.

Peter: It was so bad that I started to cut classes. Eventually I received all F's. My parents were furious.

A videotape of parents scolding is shown.

Peter: But they didn't understand. It was not my fault. It was a waste of my time. The classes had no relevance to what I wanted to do in life so I quit school. Since I quit school, I started to enjoy life more. I met many new friends and was invited to many parties. I experimented with hard drugs. That was when I was 25 years old.

A videotape of a party scene is shown.

Peter: I was so involved with heroin. My parents were not supportive as usual.

A videotape of parents scolding is shown.

Peter: But they don't understand. It is not my fault that I got HIV through needle injection. It was not my fault. They don't understand. You don't understand.... It's not my fault.

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ACT II

LEARNING THE BAD NEWS

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
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ANGELS AT PLAY

Hear No Scream

"THE PHONE CALL"
A Media presentation

hello this is you ga

HELLO, THIS IS TONY IS JERRY HOME Q GA

sorry, can i take a message q ga

HMMM, ARE YOU JERRY'S LOVER Q GA

yeah, of course, we have been married ten years. who are you q ga

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU REMEMBER ME. WE MET AT A BIRTHDAY PARTY
LAST YEAR. YOU HAD A TERRIBLE HEADACHE AND HAD TO LEAVE
EARLY REMEMBER Q GA

Yeah, it was a bad night for me..... and for jerry too ga

WELL... THE REASON I M CALLING IS TO LET JERRY KNOW THAT I HAVE
AIDS GA

Oh really.... i m sorry about this. Why do you want to let jerry know
about this q ga

WELL, JERRY AND I SLEPT TOGETHER ONCE THAT WAS AFTER THE
BIRTHDAY PARTY....GA

you liar..... jerry would never do this. we love each other very much
and never sleep with other men ga

WELL... I M SORRY BUT YOU AND JERRY BETTER GET TESTED FOR AIDS
GA

no no you are lying jerry loves me don't bother us any more
sksksksksk

Ralph

HEAR NO SCREAM

"The Greatest Gift To Women" An ASL story

The reason I'm here at this stupid support group meeting is because my parents forced me to attend. They are concerned about me because I have done plenty of bed-hopping and especially because I don't like using condoms. They have threatened to stop providing me with a generous monthly allowance for my living expenses. Shit... If that happens, I will have to work to support myself and I definitely do not want to do that! So that's why I'm here at this boring meeting.

Let me tell you a secret. I think I do have HIV. Let me show you a mark on the back of my body. It looks like it's a ~~KY~~^{K2}. Well, it's not that important. Quite a few women that I have slept with have died from AIDS. I have no pity for them at all. I have no need for them anyway. They were sluts to begin with. Oh shit. That's probably where I got the HIV. From one of those damn whores. Shit.

I won't take the HIV test. I just don't want to lose sleep over this..... I don't want to spend my days worrying about this disease. Besides, if I happened to meet a beautiful woman at some bar, and I try to get her in bed with me, I could honestly say I don't have HIV if she asked me. That's the truth!

My life has been great. I intend to continue my fabulous lifestyle, giving pleasure to women who are fortunate enough to have met me!

Hear No Scream

"A.I.D.S."

An ASL Poem

Handshape: A, I, D, S

English Version

Anytime, anywhere, anyhow
The affinity for alcohol
anointed my addiction
It alleviated my anxiety
and my apprehension

After aggressive abuse and aggravated
by the aftertaste
I ascertained my abandon
And adopted cocaine to appease me

Anytime, anywhere, anyhow
I acquired cocaine and achieved an amazing attitude,
awakened by the action
and absorbed in its affections

Agonizing over the anticlimactic aftermath
abdicated by acrimonious, abhorrent, acquaintances
I ascended to amphetamines

Anytime, anywhere, anyhow
I arose to an alluring abode
admirers in abundance award me absolution
I awoke feeling arrogant and anesthetized
Aware that amphetamines were immature
tossed all amphetamines away and adopted heroin

Anytime, anywhere, anyhow
An audacious appetite for acceleration
Authentic anticipation of absolute attainment

In my absence, I acquired this ailment
by activities associated with acquaintances
All abolished.

Icons of injection, insidious infections
Insist that I inquire
Investigate immunodeficiency infestation
Is this an irreversible illness,
or just an illusion? My imagination?
Am I so ill-fated and incurable?
This illness is inconceivable.
Ill-gotten because I was ill-advised and ill-informed.
It's intolerable.
Am I just an incredibly incompetent,
insanely irresponsible imbecile?
An ill-mannered, ill-humored, illegitimate idiot,
full of illustrious illusions from my illicit, illegal, immoral life?

Doubt...

Do I dare defer to destiny?

In delusion, I depart to see the doctor.

Days drag on.

Desiring a definite declaration of my decency

Daunted by deadly discovery

Displays of denial

Deceit by the Doctor

Dimly, I digest the diagnosis

Defective, degraded and depressed,

I discretely drown in deathly

Silence.

Brenda

Hear No Scream

"A Dream Shattered" A skit

Brenda is busy filing her nails.
Brenda looks and smiles at her fiance.
Brenda is surprised by her fiance with a ring.
Brenda is told that they need to be tested for HIV.
Brenda and her fiance go to the doctor's office.
Brenda has a difficult time communicating with the receptionist.
Brenda's fiance is a nervous wreck as he does not like needles.
Brenda's fiance is first to get his blood drawn.
Brenda's fiance faints at the sight of the blood.
Brenda is next.
Brenda is told to come back in two weeks.
Brenda has to help her fiance home.
Brenda comes back alone.
Brenda couldn't understand the doctor.
Brenda finally realizes that she is HIV positive.
Brenda is visibly upset and throws away the ring.

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ACT III

LIVING WITH THE DISEASE

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
AIDS in the Deaf Community**

ANGELS AT PLAY

Hear No Scream

"KEPT IN THE DARK"
A Skit

Stagelight out

Peter Gomez in the middle of the stage, signing "secret".:

Spotlight #1 on Peter

Peter does not want to be in the spotlight. He reacts negatively and runs out of the spotlight. He signs secret.

*Spotlight #1 off
Spotlight #2 on Peter*

Peter reacts negatively again and then runs out of the spotlight. He signs secret.

*Spotlight #2 off
Spotlight #1 on Peter*

Peter reacts negatively once again and then runs out of the spotlight. He signs secret.

*Spotlight #1 off
Spotlight #2 remains on Peter throughout the skit.*

Spotlight #3 on Jesus.

Jesus: You look pale. What's wrong?

Peter: Nothing. I'm not pale. I'm fine.

*Jesus does not believe him.
Peter thinks Jesus believed him.*

*Spotlight #3 off Jesus
Spotlight #4 on Daniele*

Danielle: You have lost lots of weight. What's wrong?

Peter: Nothing. I have been on a diet. I'm fine.

*Danielle does not believe him.
Peter thinks Danielle believed him.*

Spotlight #4 off Daniele

Peter starts coughing.

Spotlight #5 on Kevin

Kevin: Why are you coughing? What's wrong?

Peter: Nothing. I have a bad cold. It's the flu season.

*Kevin does not believe him.
Peter thinks Kevin believed him.*

*Spotlight #5 off Kevin
Spotlight #3 on Jesus*

Peter examines the KS spots on his arm.

Jesus: What are the spots on your arm? What's wrong?

Peter: I have some bad news. I have cancer.

*Jesus does not believe him.
Peter thinks Jesus believed him.*

Spotlight #3 off Jesus

Peter appears to be weak

Spotlight #4 on Danielle

Danielle: You look weak. What's wrong?

Peter: It's the cancer. I'm weak because of the cancer.

*Danielle does not believe him.
Jesus thinks she believed him.*

*Spotlight #4 off Danielle
Spotlight #5 on Kevin*

Kevin: Why are you going to the hospital all the time? What's wrong?

Peter: I have been receiving treatment for cancer.

*Kevin does not believe him.
Peter thinks Kevin believed him.*

Spotlight #3, 4, 5 on Jesus, Danielle and Kevin

Jesus, Danielle and Kevin all use the question mark sign at the same time.

Peter: Yes, yes... I'm telling you.... I do not have A I D S!

All spotlights but #2 out.

Peter signs secret.

Spotlight on Peter fade out.

Brenda

Hear No Scream

"LOCKED OUT"
An ASL Poem

English Version

It's such a beautiful day
Let's open the door
And enjoy the sights of the bay.

The bad news letter burns my pocket here
I go out by the door
I read the letter gripped in fear.

Why me?
I weep all the way to the door.
Who will support me until I'm free?

My dear friends, I know they care!
Knock, knock, please answer the door.
I have such bad news to share.

I have been tested positive for HIV.
Please, my friends, don't slam the door.
I need you to support me.

My dear love, I know you care!
Knock, knock, please answer the door.
I have awful bad news to share.

I have been tested positive for HIV
Please, my love, don't close our door
I need you to hold me.

My brother and sister, I know you care!
Knock, knock, please answer the door.
I have terrifying news to share

I have been tested positive for HIV.
Brother, sister, please don't close this door.
I need you to comfort me.

My parents so dear, I know you care!
Knock, knock, please answer the door.
I have deathly news to share.

I have been tested positive for HIV.
Mom, dad, I can't bear for you to slam the door.
I need you to love me.

If you are going to shut me out of your life,
Don't bother closing the doors.
I will do it myself!

I'm closing my ears so I won't have to hear any more.
I'm closing my eyes so I won't have to see any more.
I'm closing my mouth so I won't have to talk any more.
I'm closing my heart so I won't have to feel the pain any more.

Yeu

Hear No Scream

"The AIDS Warrior" An ASL story

Yeu approaches the stage with a bag. He opens the bag and takes out a dildo.

Yeu: I'm here to talk about protecting you from AIDS. The only way to be completely safe is to not have sex with anyone nor to inject dirty needles. If you want to have sex, then you will need to protect yourself. Insist on using a condom and using it right. Let me demonstrate to you how to put on a condom correctly.

Yeu puts a condom on the dildo, using plenty of lubricator.

Yeu: If you don't practice safe sex, you run the risk of getting HIV infection. Many of you may think "it won't happen to me". It only happens to gay men, people who use drugs, or people who sleep around. Or you feel you can use your judgement by taking a look at your sexual partners and see if they are "clean". Let me tell you this..... people like you can get AIDS..... straight, gay..... black, white, hispanic, oriental..... rich, poor..... hearing, deaf ... AIDS can strike anyone, including you, if you don't protect yourself.

Yeu puts things away.

Yeu: Hello, my name is Yeu. And that's what I do, helping to educate people about HIV and AIDS. Ever since I found out I was HIV positive, I have become an activist in the community. Let me tell you about what has happened to me since that phone call.

I was really upset with Jerry as we had been going together for 10 years. We have always remained faithful to each other and Kevin had an affair only once. It's because of this one affair, we both are now HIV positive. I was very angry at him. We fought. We broke up for a while. I went into depression. But, after a while, we realized we loved and needed each other. We are now back together.

We both went to the Deaf AIDS Center to learn all we could about this disease. We participated in an AIDS support group for deaf people. I began to accept AIDS and that we will never know when death will come. I have decided to enjoy life fully while we can.

Having AIDS is not all negative. It has given me a fresh perspective toward life. I now appreciate many things that I took for granted in the past. I have met so many wonderful people and received support from my friends. My relationships with people are now enriched. I live each day as fully as possible.

However, things are not always smooth. There were problems with my job. My employer was not comfortable having a HIV positive person in the work place. The insurance company was another story. Interpreters were not always provided when I needed medical or emotional support. That's when I became an activist. I have decided to fight for the rights of people who have AIDS or HIV.

So that's what I do these days. I give lectures to different groups about protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS.

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
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ACT IV

SAYING GOOD BYE

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
AIDS in the Deaf Community**

ANGELS AT PLAY

Ralph

Hear No Scream

"THE JUDGEMENT DAY"

A skit

AIDS/HIV Support group is in session.

Angels appear on the stage, dancing around the group and then line up next to the group.

Counselor: *(stands up)* Today's topic is death and dying. Who would like to share their feelings about the process of dying? Kevin...

Kevin: *(waves his hand, then stands up, points to Ralph)* For a long time, you have not accepted the fact that you are dying. All you have done is to brag about all the women you have slept with. It is about time you accept the consequences.

Ralph: *(gets angry, pushes Kevin back to his chair)* Shut up! You have no right to say this. It's not my fault I have AIDS. I don't want to die!

Counselor: *(trying to calm people down)* Calm down, control yourselves. Sit down and cool off for a moment.

Ralph: *(still angry)* It's not my fault. He should not insult me like that. *(sits down)*

Angel #2 walks to Jesus and points to Jesus. Angel #1 shakes her head. Angel #2 moves to Long and points to Long. Angel #1 shakes her head. Angel #2 approaches Ralph and points. Angel #1 nods. Angel #2 taps on Ralph's shoulder.

Ralph stands up, looking confused and scared. He runs from Angel #2. Angel #2 dances toward him. Angels #3, 4, 5 follow her. Ralph runs to Jesus. Angels form a line facing Ralph.

Ralph: *(pointing at Jesus)* This man here..... he has had AIDS for 10 years now. I have had it for only 2 years. He's the one who should die now.... not me!

#1 ✓

Angels shake their heads and point to Ralph. Ralph then runs to Danielle and points at her.

Ralph: Danielle's T-cell count is much lower than mine. Her count is only 25 while my t-cell count is 100. She's the one who should go, not me.

Angels shake their heads and point to Ralph. Ralph then runs to Kevin and points at him.

Ralph: Kevin is gay. I'm not. He should be punished for this, not me. I'm straight. I'm innocent. He's the one who should go.

Angels shake their heads and point to Ralph. Ralph runs to the other side of the stage. Angels follow him and attempt to capture him. Ralph escapes by crawling through one of the Angel's legs. Angels continue to dance and follow him. Ralph runs to the front of the stage and starts to pray hard. Angels form a semi-circle around Ralph.

Ralph: *(prays)* Please, please God. I promise to be good from now on. *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* I promise I will go to church every Sunday. *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* and every Wednesday, too! Sundays and Wednesdays! *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* I promise I will give 10% of my income to the church! *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* 20%??? *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* 25%???? *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* 40%????? *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* I promise not to sleep around any more! *(looks at the angels and they shake their heads)* Ralph gets up, sneaks by the angels, and runs around the support group. Angels follow him around the support group. Angel #1 holds out her cane. Ralph trips over. Angels capture him and drag him off the stage.

The quilt for Ralph is lowered.

Peter

Hear No Scream

"A Secret No More" An ASL story

Peter stands in the center of the stage, signing secret. An angel approaches him and taps him on his shoulder.

Peter: *(looks surprised)* Is it my time now? Am I supposed to die now? Can you give me few minutes? I need to tell a story.

Peter tells the title of the story.

Peter: I have AIDS. I have kept this a secret from my parents, my brothers and sisters, and all my friends.

The reason I have kept this a secret is that I didn't want my parents to feel humiliated and hurt by the fact that I have AIDS.

I also didn't want people to think I'm gay.

I didn't want to lose friends.

And, most important of all, I didn't want people to treat me any differently. I didn't want people to fear me when I touch them, hug them or even sneeze at them.

Keeping this a secret was fine for a while. I continued to work, enjoy my friends and did all things I wanted to do. But eventually, when I became weak, people would ask me about it. I told them I had cancer.

But, for the past few months, it was not easy keeping this secret. I have been so sick..... I have had serious problems with vomiting, several bad cases of diarrhea, and epidoses of PCP. I just couldn't tell my family and friends. I was alone most of the time. There was no one who could understand my pains and share my fear.

If only I knew my last days on earth would be so difficult, lonely and harsh, I would not have made this a secret. I had no idea that people would have supported me through this difficult time of my life. I have missed out the support system that exist for people with AIDS. I could have benefitted from the buddy program, the housing and food assistance, and doctor's care. It should not have to come to this where I'm alone on my death bed.

But now, I'm telling you my secret. I have AIDS. What a relief not having to carry this secret to the grave. I feel so much better.

Peter walks away with the angel.

The quilt for Peter is lowered.

Brenda

Hear No Scream

"LOVE ALWAYS, BRENDA"
A Media presentation

*Brenda sits by the overhead projector, looking very depressed.
Brenda gets up and walk around the stage.*

Brenda: What should I do? My parents don't love me. My brother and sister don't love me. My friends don't love me. My boyfriend doesn't love me. Nobody loves me any more. What should I do? I'm so unhappy. I have no one in my life.

Brenda sits down and writes her suicide note.

Dear family & friends:

When I wanted to be with you,
you rejected me.

When I needed you,
you turned me away.

When I sought your support,
you walked away from me.

When I asked for help,
you gave me nothing.

When I hoped you would understand,
you never did and you probably never will.

In spite of all this, I still LOVE you.

Love always,

Brenda

Angel #1 walks by Brenda and looks at her. She takes out her notepad and looks for her name. Her name is not on the list but she realizes that she had expired. She calls other angels to come and remove her from the stage.

The quilt for Brenda is lowered.

Yeu

Hear No Scream

"HELLO ANGEL"
An ASL Poem

Handshape: 5

English Version

Yeu lies on the floor with a blanket. He sits up in the front of the stage. Angels stand around Yeu in a semi-circle position.

Hello Angel, where are you?

Angels wave at him.

My body is weak and I want to go home!

Hello Angel, where are you?

Angels wave at him.

I'm tired. My body is not working well any more. Please take me home.

Hello Angel, where are you?

Angels wave at him.

I've already made all the necessary plans.

For my funeral, I want lots of flowers besides me.

I want people to gather, smile, and remember good things.

I want people to remember me as a
good man
good son
good actor
good painter
good cook
an inspiration

Hello Angel, where are you?

Angels wave at him.

I want to go home, please. I don't want you to weep. I don't want you to be sad. I don't want you to be depressed. Please be happy for me.

Hello Angel, where are you?

Angels wave at him.

I'm satisfied with what I have done with my life.

I've already made a list,

things to give away after I die.

My house
my belongings
my money
my paintings

Hello Angel, where are you?

Angels wave at him.

My body is weak. I'm tired. Please take me home.

Hello angel, take me home now.

An angel taps on his shoulder, Yeu gets up and hugs her. He then hugs all the angels.

Good bye! I'm going home now!

Good-bye! Good bye!

The quilt for Yeu is lowered.

**HEAR NO SCREAM:
AIDS in the Deaf Community**

EPILOGUE

HEAR NO SCREAM
Conclusion

After the music interpretation of "Prayer for the Dying" is completed, the readers conclude its reading of the names of deaf people who have died from AIDS by spelling the names of the four characters in the play and proceed with the statistics of HIV/AIDS infection.

Ralph Cook
Peter Gomez
Brenda Callah
Yeu Nyegun

Persons with HIV in the world: 22,000,000

People who have died of AIDS in the world 6,000,000

70% of HIV/AIDS cases in the world are not a result of gay relationships.

Americans who are infected with HIV: 1,000,000

Americans who have died of AIDS: 243,423

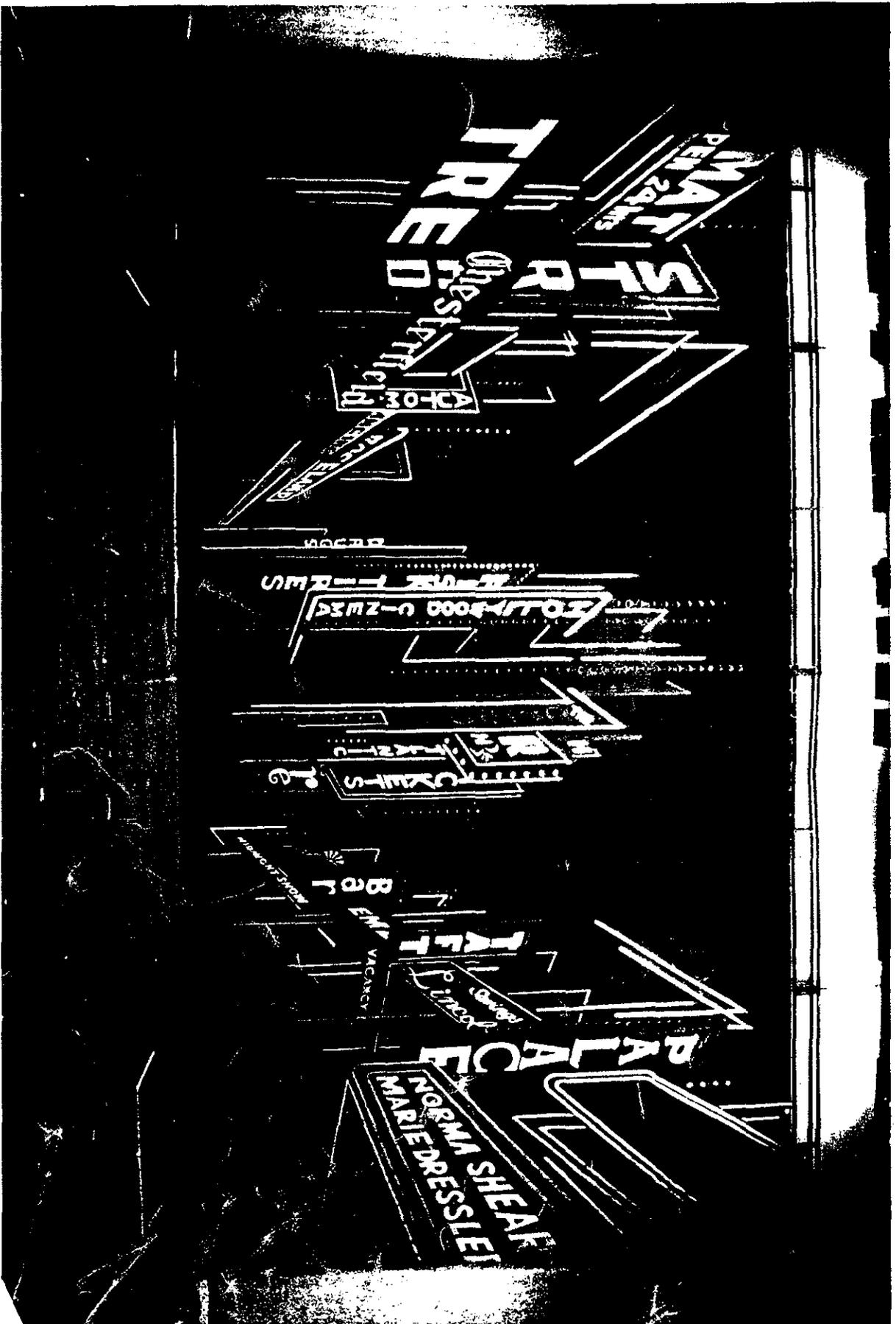
Deaf Americans who are HIV + 26,000

Deaf Americans who have died of AIDS 500

Be safe. Protect yourselves. Good night.

BROADWAY LIGHTS DROP
(ANNIE)

24' x 48'



Backdrop for Act 1, 11, 111
& Prologue

A

ARTY IN THE SKY DROP

3' X 57'

11.47



Backdrop for Act IV & Epilogue