

ACT UP

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

DIVA TV

updated September 30, 2003

NEW ACT UP 75-minute documentary

Fight Back, Fight AIDS: 15 Years of ACT UP



< Stonewall 25<March Up Fifth Avenue

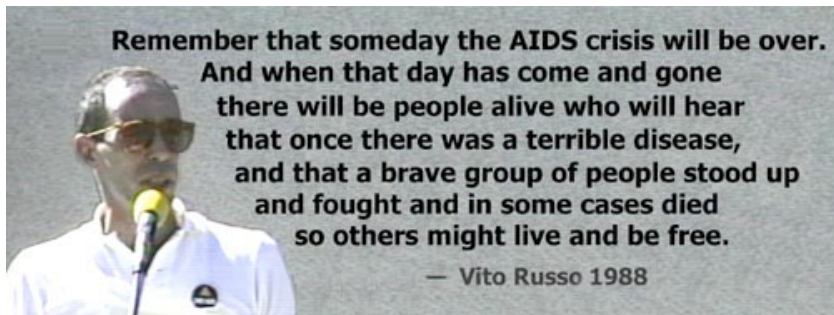
Over the span of its 15-year history, ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) has helped to transform the world's consciousness about HIV and AIDS, and made activism a vital part of the LGBT political landscape. Comprehensively documented by media activists and video collectives, the bold strategies, media savvy, and decidedly queer wit of ACT UP remains a fresh source of inspiration to today's artists and activists through the invaluable trove of images sampled in this dynamic program of AIDS activist video. | MIX 2002 |

In 1987 with AIDS deaths in the thousands and government policy still criminally indifferent, activists formed ACT.UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) with the sentiment "turn anger, fear, and grief into action". James Wentzy's documentary ***Fight Back, Fight AIDS: 15 Years of ACT UP*** uses archive footage of speeches, demonstrations and ACT.UP meetings as it follows the group's imaginative, inspiring and in-your-face campaigning over 15 years. Deploying increasingly bold tactics such as demonstrations, civil disobedience, die-ins and political funerals, ACT.UP has addressed issues including more research funding, quicker drug testing, AIDS prevention education, government intervention, and most recently, measures to combat the disease in Africa. | BERLINALE PANORAMA |

In March 1987, the first AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) event took place on Wall Street. In the 15 years since the protest that shut down the world's financial center, ACT UP has been at the forefront of public awareness. Their demonstrations, die-ins, political funerals, marches, and speeches were key in propelling issues related to HIV/AIDS into major political and international topics. ACT UP member and AIDS video activist James Wentzy has constructed a vivid compilation documentary with ***Fight Back, Fight AIDS: 15 Years of ACT UP***. The powerful clips depict the multiple bold events that ACT UP has staged, including: the inspiring First ACT UP action on Wall Street protesting the profiteering of the pharmaceutical companies that made AIDS-related drugs; National Nine Days of Rage, in which more than 50 ACT UP chapters congregated on the New York state capital to protest AIDS policies (or the lack thereof) involving IV drug use, homophobia, people of color, women, prison programs, and children with AIDS; and intense coverage of political funerals of ACT UP and affinity group The Marys, which included carrying an open coffin from Washington Square to the New York Republican Party headquarters on West 43rd Street, as well as an open casket political funeral in front of the White House. With fierce images and speeches, including many poignant ones by film historian and ACT UP pioneer Vito Russo, ***Fight Back, Fight AIDS*** is a dynamic alternative historical record of the queer political landscape, HIV/AIDS, and AIDS activist video. | TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL |

FIGHT BACK, FIGHT AIDS: 15 YEARS of ACT UP

documentary by James Wentzy



Film Festivals and Screenings

MIX 2002 16th New York Lesbian & Gay Experimental Film and Video Festival
PREMIERED November 21st, 2002 Anthology Film Archives, New York City



BERLINALE FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday . 8 February 2003 . 17:00 . CineStar 7
Sunday . 9 February 2003 . 22:00 . CineStar 7
Monday . 10 February 2003 . 14:30 . CineStar 7

The film will be presented in the PANORAMA DOKUMENTE within the Official Programme of the Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin. The press is invited to the premiere and the press talk with the audience will be held directly after the screening in the cinema.

TURIN 18th International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival April 22, 2003 15:45 Valentino Uno

Art Institute of Chicago Queer Film Festival ..May 2, 2003

Gay Men's Health Summit Raleigh, North Carolina *screening* 7:30 PM May 9, 2003



TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

NY DOCUMENTARY	Wednesday, May 7, 2003	May 10, 2003
	4:00 PM	4:15 PM
	Integrated Studios	Tribeca Film Center
	449 Washington Street	375 Greenwich Street

It wasn't until nearly 1987 that public perception about AIDS being a disease of homosexual men started to ever-so-slowly shift, and if it weren't for the militant (and often controversial) activism of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, perceptions might not have shifted for much longer. This insightful compilation documentary recounts the group's 15-year history and shows how it has grown in scope and sophistication without losing sight of its activist ideals.

MILAN 17th Lesbian & Gay International Film Festival 3rd June 2003

SAN FRANCISCO 27th International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

Catalog Description: If the traditional documentary--one with carefully scripted voiceovers and thought-provoking insight--is your cup of tea, FIGHT BACK, FIGHT AIDS: 15 YEARS OF ACT UP ON VIDEO might best be kept for a rainy day. That's because it's an actual recapturing of queer history, offering neither narrator nor scandal. Yet it is a documentary because it captures *our* memories of *our* friends and lovers who fought for *our* political rights regarding what used to be *our* disease. James Wentzy's in-your-face FIGHT BACK, FIGHT AIDS is a compilation of live footage documenting the first ACT UP action in 1987 on New York City's Wall Street and continues through

2002. Amateur video recording--at the demonstration level and from the behind-the-scenes meetings and trainings--reveals the astonishing camaraderie that united a politically enraged community, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or gender. Recognizable faces among the hundreds of ACT UP activists, timelessly captured over the 15 years of footage, are likely to be moving. Particularly noteworthy is seeing activist and author Vito Russo issue a speech equating AIDS to war then demanding to know how the two landscapes differ. Whether or not your own political views are aligned with ACT UP's today, this infinitely relevant political group taught us to fight back against government complacency, to protest the high costs of pharmaceutical drugs, and to simply ask others: Where is your rage? June 25th, 2003 .6:30 PM .Herbst Theatre .

World Jubilee Conference of Metropolitan Community Churches

Dallas, Texas July 4th, 2003

Come see new 75 minute documentary on the history of ACT-UP. MCC is proud to present a screening of James Wentz's new documentary on the history of ACT UP in New York City -- remember the activism, remember the anger, remember the rage, remember the pride -- GUARANTEED to inspire you to action, tears and awe. What would ACT UP UFMCC look like today?

OUTFEST 21st LOS ANGELES GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

CHANGE: DOCUMENTING AMERICAN ACTIVISM .. Provocative, intelligent and inspiring, this astonishing collection of documentaries focuses on queer Americans who have committed their lives to progressive social change. The series salutes their historical impact on issues of sexuality, gender, racism, AIDS and economic justice. In these formidable times for dissent, the outspoken activists chronicled here remind us what democracy looks like. **FIGHT BACK, FIGHT AIDS: 15 YEARS OF ACT UP** The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power was formed 15 years ago in response to the inconceivable paralysis of the American establishment in responding to AIDS. Their mission: to turn anger, fear and grief into action. With smart marketing campaigns, media savvy and creative civil disobedience, ACT UP energized queer politics and brought radical activism to the forefront of LGBT culture. Using his own video documentation and archival footage -- granting access to the initial organizing meetings, ashes thrown on the White House lawn, political funerals in the streets, and one of Vito Russo's final great speeches -- director James Wentz has constructed a valuable and inspirational history of ACT UP that screened at the Berlin Film Festival.

SATURDAY . JULY 12, 2003 . 9:30 PM . DGA 2

National Association of People with AIDS

Staying Alive Conference: Two Decades of Positive Leadership

Denver, Colorado August 15-17, 2003

Next 5 Minutes 4 International Festival of Tactical Media

Amsterdam 11 -14 September 2003

Next 5 Minutes is a festival that brings together art, campaigns, experiments in media technology, and transcultural politics. Next 5 Minutes revolves around the notion of tactical media, the fusion of art, politics and media. The festival is organised irregularly, when the urgency is felt to bring a new edition of the festival together.

Q! Film Screening Jakarta, Indonesia

20 Sep 17.00 IKJ – Ruang Multi Guna

25 Sep 18.00 GoetheHaus

26 Sep 19.00 Cemara 6 Gallery

Student Global AIDS Campaign National Leadership and Training Retreat

October 3, 2003 Friday 9:30 pm Wellesley College, Boston

University of Utah Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Film Festival

October 6, 2003 Monday 5:00 pm University Olpin Union Theater

Pacientes de SIDA pro Politica Sana

October ~15, 2003 Conference Screening San Juan, Puerto Rico

Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival Three Dollar Bill Cinema

October 18, 2003 Saturday 2:30pm Free Henry Public Library

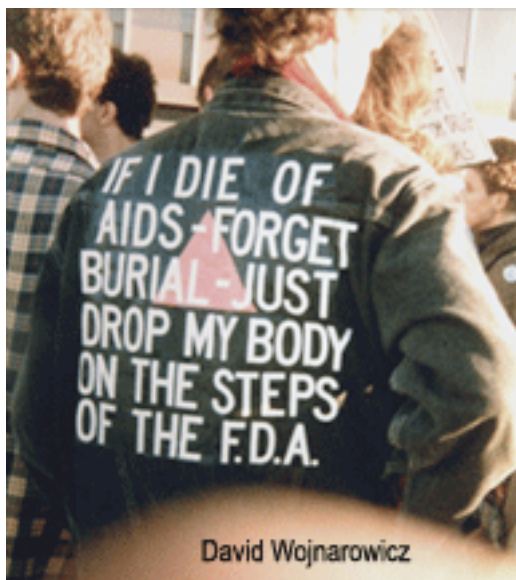
Reel Affirmations Washington DC 13th International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

October 19, 2003 Sunday 6:00 pm JCC Theater | website | Catalog Description (pdf)

"We are angry, we want action!" Last year the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. It was March 1987 when ACT UP staged its first protest on Wall Street to draw attention to the profiteering of AIDS drug manufacturers. Ever since, ACT UP has held a prominent position in HIV/AIDS public and political activism. Through ACT UP's own video-documenting affinity group DIVA TV, many public spectacles protesting bureaucratic inaction are captured and shown in this documentary. There is no narration or script, only a timeline. This film powerfully offers the real thing: archival footage of marches, protests, speeches and meetings, including a magnificent speech by Vito Russo on the similarities between AIDS and war. Touching, factual, political and angry, this documentary shows the contribution ACT UP has made in fighting the scourge of AIDS.

More than just a historical account of ACT UP, this film shows how we can turn anger, fear and grief into action for positive change.

additional screenings pending



FIGHT BACK, FIGHT AIDS: 15 YEARS of ACT UP

[Video Home Page](#)
www.actupny.org/video

ACT UP
www.actupny.org

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