Hollywood to HIVers: Drop Dead

Is tasteless AIDS “humor” better than no mention at all?

May 1, 2005 By Lucile Scott

Everyone has AIDS—at least according to *South Park* creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker’s latest film. The bad-taste bonanza, *Team America: World Police*, hitting DVD May 17, opens with a Broadway-belting puppet’s sincere if savage call to prevention: “Everyone has AIDS! / My grandma and my dog Ol’ Blue / The pope has got it and so do you / C’mon everybody we got quiltin’ to do.” But if everyone’s infected, why isn’t the rest of Hollywood hollering? At this year’s Oscars, the only trace of HIV came in a South African foreign-film nominee, the documentary *Yesterday*. (It lost.) Are the AIDS-plosive days of *Philadelphia* and *The Hours* over for good? If so, we’ll take all the singing and dancing marionettes we can get.

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