Obituary - Michael Jeter

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On Sesame Street, as Mr. Noodle, he held his own against Elmo. He won an Emmy for *Evening Shade* and a Tony (saving the show) for *Grand Hotel*. But never was the ingenious **Michael Jeter**—who died unexpectedly March 30 at 52—more affecting than on *Entertainment Tonight*. In 1997 he told the show's Jann Carl that he had HIV. Jeter, a veteran AIDS fund-raiser, later recalled, "I was scared the moment I said it. I thought, 'Am I going to work again?' Frankly, it feels good not to carry the secret anymore." He did work again—constantly. His magical misfits included a homeless PWA with a killer Ethel Merman impression in *The Fisher King* and a death-row inmate in *The Green Mile*. He appeared on the January 1998 cover of POZ and famously stripped at a GLAAD gala. Jeter "went public as a celebrity living with AIDS," TV Cares' David Michaels said. "That did more to open the closet…and I don't mean in the gay sense."

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