POZ Legacy: Tom Villard

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Television and movie actor Tom Villard, profiled in *POZ* No. 5, died unexpectedly on November 14 in Los Angeles of AIDS. Best known for his NBC sitcom *We Got It Made*, Villard also starred in *Heartbreak Ridge* with Clint Eastwood and *My Girl* with Jamie Lee Curtis. Last February, Villard decided to go public about his battle with AIDS by appearing on *Entertainment Tonight* where he announced he was ill. He later recalled the experience as “an enormous relief. It also felt like I had a chance to do something useful on the planet.”

Villard’s manager, Bill Melamed, talks about the actor’s choice to be open about his AIDS diagnosis. “He made a decision that was courageous in any walk of life, but it didn’t surprise me. Tom has one of the most open spirits.”

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