POZ VCR: More Proof

Acclaimed documentary now available on video

October 1, 1994 By Stephen Cloutier

In late September 1992, Kermit Cole approached Carolyn Jones and George DiSipio with the idea of creating a film based on their in-progress photo book *Living Proof*. The project brought together men, women and children with two common threads: They're all HIV positive and they're all living positively. These people have changed their lives -- quitting their jobs, their drugs, the nonsense of everyday life -- and started living for themselves.

Living Proof: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness allows us to eavesdrop on conversations in the photo studio and beyond. Treatment plans are frequent topics but as they talk about their lives, a single sentiment percolates upward with amazing consistency: "For the first time I'm really living. And maybe for the first time I'm really happy."

This wisdom has an effect on everyone, regardless of serostatus. After I watched it I auditioned for the Alvin Ailey School of Dance and quit smoking. I realized that I didn't need AIDS to understand my mortality. Kermit Cole's documentary reveals the true face of AIDS and is, ultimately, about disclosing what life with and without AIDS can and should be.

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