



AIDS Is Everyday / October

January 1, 2025

OCTOBER 1

1987: October journal publishes the seminal issue “AIDS: Cultural Analysis / Cultural Activism” edited by Douglas Crimp.

“Strategies for Survival: A Gay Men’s Health Manual for the Age of AIDS”

1987: Strategies for Survival: A Gay Men’s Health Manual for the Age of AIDS by Martin Delaney and Peter Goldblum, PhD, MPH, with Joseph Brewer is released.

2014: “Evel Dick” Donato reveals his HIV status on an episode of the VH1 reality show Couples Therapy.

OCTOBER 2

1985: Actor Rock Hudson dies. In his will, he leaves \$250,000 to help set up amfAR, the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

1989: ACT UP's Youth Brigade (later known as YELL—Youth Education Life Line) begins distributing condoms and safer sex/clean needle information outside New York City schools.

OCTOBER 3

1995: Artist Frederick Weston joins The Momentum Project, a program that fosters health and wellness by providing nutritious communal meals and supportive services to people living with HIV.

2015: The exhibition Art AIDS America opens at the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, Washington.

OCTOBER 4

OCTOBER 5

2004: During the vice-presidential debate between Dick Cheney and Senator John Edwards, moderator Gwen Ifill mentions the increasing rates of AIDS-related deaths among Black women in the United States and asks each candidate what role the government should play in ending the epidemic.

OCTOBER 6

2008: Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier are awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discovery of HIV.

OCTOBER 7

1989: ACT UP Housing Committee joins the Housing Now! march on Washington.

OCTOBER 8

1983: The first AIDS candlelight vigil/rally is held by the AIDS/KS Foundation in San Francisco.

OCTOBER 9

1990: ACT UP Golden Gate holds its first demonstration at the Federal Building in San Francisco demanding early approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration of the AIDS drugs DDI (Videx) and DDC (HIVID). At the time, only AZT (zidovudine) was approved for treating HIV.

1991: FDA approves didanosine, brand name Videx.

2005: LeRoy Whitfield, a writer and former senior editor at POZ who chronicled his life with HIV and his choice to forgo antiretroviral treatment, dies of AIDS-related complications at age 36.

OCTOBER 10

1984: San Francisco closes 14 bathhouses and sex clubs because they are “fostering disease and death” by allowing high-risk sexual activities to take place.

1986: Mark S. King’s best friend, Lesley Donnell, dies of AIDS-related complications.

2009: The Equality to End AIDS: HIV/AIDS Rally and Vigil takes place at the Ellipse in front of the White House in Washington, DC. The event precedes the National Equality March for LGBT civil rights on Sunday, October 11.

OCTOBER 11

1987: The AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed for the first time on the National Mall in Washington, DC, during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

1988: Ventriloquist Waylon Flowers, who created the character Madame, dies of AIDS-related causes at age 58.

1988: ACT UP and the national ACT NOW coalition protest at the FDA's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, via an action known as Seize Control of the FDA.

1992: ACT UP organizes its first political funeral, known as the Ashes Action, and scatters the ashes of loved ones on the White House lawn.

OCTOBER 12

2006: U2's Bono and Oprah Winfrey go on a shopping spree on Chicago's Magnificent Mile to promote the launch of (Product) Red, which supports The Global Fund.

2007: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves the integrase inhibitor Isentress for treatment-experienced people living with HIV.

OCTOBER 13

2004: Paulo Longo, human rights activist and coordinator of the Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) in Brazil dies.

OCTOBER 14

1987: In a 94-2 vote, the U.S. Senate adopts the Helms Amendment, which requires federally financed educational materials about AIDS to stress sexual abstinence and forbids any material that "promotes" homosexuality or drug use.

OCTOBER 15

National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day

1982: During a press briefing, President Ronald Reagan's acting press secretary Larry Speakes mocks the reporter who is the first to ask him to comment on AIDS.

1998: The exhibition Mapping No Boundaries: Art. AIDS. Action. presented by Visual AIDS opens in New York City.

1989: Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt premieres on television. It won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1990.

OCTOBER 16

2003: The exhibition Release co-presented by Visual AIDS opens at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts.

OCTOBER 17

2011: The Origins of AIDS by Jacques Pepin is published. His account of how the virus likely crossed from chimpanzees to humans in Central Africa overturns earlier theories of the epidemic's history.

OCTOBER 18

1989: ACT UP NY and union members protest lack of desks or phones for caseworkers at the Department of AIDS Services.

2019: SisterLove holds its 10th annual 2020 Leading Women's Society Awards, which honors 20 exceptional HIV-positive women across the United States who have served as vocal leaders and advocates in their communities.

OCTOBER 19

2004: Kia Labeija loses her mother, Kwan Bennett, to AIDS related complications.

2007: HIV/AIDS activist, blogger, author and speaker Mark S. King releases *A Place Like This: A Memoir*.

2021: Inspired by the Broadway classic *Bye Bye Birdie*, the digital company Queerty releases *Oraquick: The Musical*, a video featuring well-known drag queens, influencers and actors who promote sex positivity and at-home HIV testing with Oraquick.

OCTOBER 20

2003: FDA approves fosamprenavir (fosamprenavir calcium, FOS-APV, FPV), brand name Lexiva.

OCTOBER 21

2013: The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada and the Ultimate Fighting Championship partner to promote HIV testing and safer sex among people under 30 with a campaign titled “Protect Yourself at All Times.”

OCTOBER 22

1986: The Surgeon General’s Report on AIDS is released and makes clear that HIV cannot be spread casually. The report calls for a nationwide education campaign, increased use of condoms and voluntary HIV testing.

1987: AIDS becomes the first disease ever debated on the floor of the United Nations General Assembly.

OCTOBER 23

2002: Barton Lidicé Beneš’ monograph *Curiosa: Celebrity Relics, Historical Fossils, and Other Metamorphic Rubbish* is published.

Shawn Decker and Glenn Barringer's wedding day at King Family Vineyards in Crozet, Virginia (2004)jen fariello

2004: Serodiscordant couple Shawn Decker and Gwenn Barringer get married in Charlottesville, Virginia.

OCTOBER 24

OCTOBER 25

1998: HIV activists shut down the filming of an episode of the NBC drama *Midnight Caller* in San Francisco. The episode was to feature the killing a bisexual man who intentionally passes on HIV to his sexual partners but was rewritten to eliminate the killing.

OCTOBER 26

2001: FDA approves Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).

OCTOBER 27

2016: A revival of the AIDS-themed musical *Falsettos* starring Christian Borle and Andrew Rannells opens on Broadway. The show was nominated for five Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical.

OCTOBER 28

OCTOBER 29

2013: The British artist Banksy donates a painting to Housing Works, a New York City-based HIV/AIDS organization, which puts it up for sale that same day via an online auction. The painting sells for \$615,000. Unfortunately, the high bid falls through, and the painting is eventually sold to an anonymous buyer for an undisclosed price.

2014: Pop star [Miley Cyrus](#) becomes the latest celebrity spokesperson for MAC Cosmetics' Viva

Glam makeup line, which raises money to help people living with HIV.

2019: More than 100 staff members of Housing Works, a New York City-based nonprofit that fights AIDS and homelessness, walk out of work, claiming they have been denied their right to unionize.

OCTOBER 30

1990: The Ryan White Treatment Extension Act of 1990 passes Congress.

OCTOBER 31

1989: ACT UP Housing Committee passes out candy, condoms and literature about AIDS and homelessness in front of Trump Tower.

AIDS is an everyday experience. The dates on this calendar all relate to the AIDS crisis. Some are globally known; others are drawn from personal experiences.

AIDS Is Everyday was originally produced in partnership with [Visual AIDS](#) as an extension of the exhibition "[EVERYDAY](#)," which was curated by Jean Carlomusto, Alexandra Juhasz and Hugh Ryan in 2016. New submissions will be continually added to the calendar because AIDS is not over. Click [here](#) to submit an entry for the AIDS IS Everyday calendar.
