Everyday–September 2026

These dates represent milestones in the HIV epidemic. Visit poz.com/aidsiseveryday to learn more about the history of HIV and AIDS.

August 17, 2026 By Jennifer Morton

September

2 – Recognized as the “Grandfather of Vogue,” Willi Ninja (born William Roscoe Leake) dies of AIDS-related heart failure at age 45. The self-taught dancer and choreographer starred in the 1990 documentary Paris Is Burning. (2006)

11 – And the Band Played On, starring Matthew Modine, Alan Alda, Ian McKellen and Lily Tomlin, airs on HBO. The film is based on the bestselling 1987 nonfiction book by Randy Shilts. (1993)

15 – The National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cosponsor the first conference to address the epidemic. Fifty leading clinicians attend the event in Bethesda, Maryland, to discuss Kaposi sarcoma and other opportunistic illnesses and to develop recommendations for further studies in epidemiology, virology and treatment. (1981)

18 – National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

19 – The Commitment to Life dinner—the first major AIDS benefit in Hollywood—raises $1 million for AIDS Project Los Angeles. The event's cochairs include Burt Reynolds, Elizabeth Taylor, Shirley MacLaine, Liza Minnelli, Bette Midler, Burt Lancaster and Maureen Stapleton. (1985)

27 – National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

29 – Actor, singer and songwriter Paul Jabara dies of AIDS-related complications at age 44. He won an Academy Award for writing the song "Last Dance." He also cowrote "No More Tears (Enough Is Enough)" and "It's Raining Men." (1992)

Paul JabaraWikipedia

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