

First in the Fight

A New York exhibit remembers early activism.

November 11, 2013 By [Trent Straube](#)

Patience and Fortitude, those aptly named lions outside the New York Public Library, happen to guard a priceless trove of documents that detail the AIDS epidemic, including the archives of ACT UP and GMHC. The library culls from this collection for its new exhibition, *Why We Fight: Remembering AIDS Activism*, which is sponsored by the MAC AIDS Fund and runs until April 6 at the famed Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street location. It includes posters, flyers, safer-sex manuals (*How to Have Sex in an Epidemic*), publications (*Diseased Pariah News*) and footage spanning the 1980s and '90s (including the “Ashes Action” protest).

In October, members of ACT UP New York staged a “Die-In” to bring attention to contemporary HIV/AIDS issues. The protesters said that although they support the library’s efforts to honor activism, they want to stress that “AIDS is not history.”

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