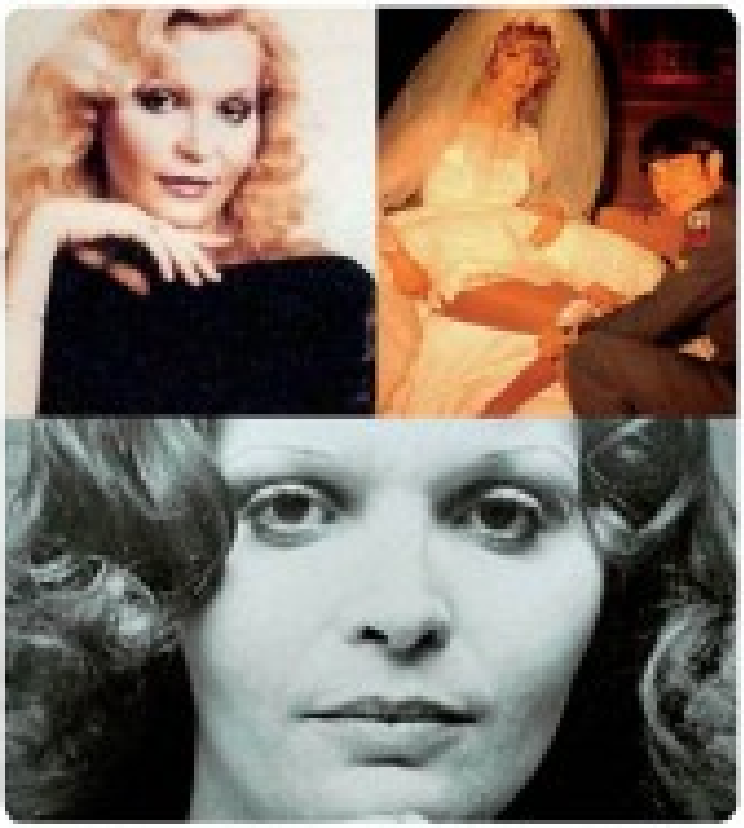
@the_aids_memorial

April 3, 2017 By Joe Mejía

From amid the clutter of the latest memes, kissy-face selfies and food porn images on social media, one user's Instagram account, @the_aids_memorial, emerges as a touching visual tribute to the many lives lost to AIDS—especially during the epidemic's peak in the 1980s and '90s, before effective treatment for HIV. Managed by an LGBT history buff from Scotland named Stuart, who was a kid when he first learned about AIDS, the account features photos and obituaries—some mined from archives, some submitted by followers—of the famous and the forgotten. Because some of those featured never had a proper eulogy—sometimes because of stigma—the pictures showing men and women in their prime and the accompanying captions serve to properly honor their legacy. To scroll through the images is to be reminded of those we've lost; to "like" them is to say, "We'll remember you."

the_aids_memorial Follow



the_aids_memorial #ElizabethEden (August 19, 1946 – September 29, 1987), born Ernest Aron, was an American trans woman whose notoriety came through her boyfriend #JohnWojtowicz (March 9, 1945 – January 2, 2006). Wojtowicz attempted a bank robbery to pay for her sex reassignment surgery. The incident was made into the 1975 crime drama-comedy film #DogDayAfternoon directed by #SidneyLumet. Eden died of pneumonia resulting from #AIDS at #GeneseeHospital in #Rochester. She was 41 years old and lived in #Rochester. Eden was born in #OzonePark, #Queens. Her personal papers and photographs were donated posthumously to the National Archive of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (New York) on June 14, 1990.

Eden and Wojtowicz had a public wedding ceremony in 1971. Following a series of suicide attempts Eden went into a psychiatric institution.

The following year, on August 22, 1972, was Wojtowicz's attempted robbery of a #ChaseManhattan bank branch in #Brooklyn, New York. Eden was not aware of the plans. After the failed heist, Wojtowicz was sentenced to 20 years, although he was released in April 1978.

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