Angles, Punks and Raging Queens

June 28, 2009 By Richard Ferri, PhD, ANP

I find that hard to believe. We actually do not have any firm date for when the virus infected us. We only know when some researches noticed it. And maybe even that isn't true. We only know when some researchers finally got their findings published in the June 2001 edition of the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.* That is all we know, but I suspect we feel more.

Were it not for the anger of pissed off drag queens would ACT UP have been born? If not for all the punks would "die-ins" have taken place? Who knows? Who cares? What came crashing down when *we* got infected changed the world forever. Nothing was the same anymore. Closet doors burst open and slammed shut the pious hallowed hallways of science. We fought for our lives and we did something only done by impassioned and oppressed people - we changed the world. Not just in AIDS care but *all of health care*. The Larry Kramers became the Susan Loves. The Red Ribbons changed to every color of the rainbow to fight for cancer, mental illness, the homeless, and all the lost.

Still highly imperfect, but new nonetheless. If we did not have Stone Wall we would not have changed the world.

it felt so right to share the night with angles, punks and raging queens.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.