Bill T. Jones

October 28, 2008 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

"Living and dying is not the big issue. The big issue is what you're going to do with your time while you are here."
- Bill T. Jones

Bill T. Jones is being honored this year on October 28 for GLBT History Month. He is one of five HIV-positive honorees this month, including Greg Louganis, Cleve Jones, Robert Mapplethorpe and Randy Shilts.

Jones won a Tony Award for best choreography of the Broadway musical "Spring Awakening" in 2007. Last month, his latest musical "Fela!" about an HIV-positive Nigerian activist debuted off-Broadway.

He continues to choreograph and dance for the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, which he co-founded with Arnie Zane, his partner, in 1982. Zane died of AIDS-related complications in 1986.

Jones has received much recognition for his decades-long career, which includes gracing the cover of the second issue of POZ in 1994. Also that year he debuted "Still/Here" about survival and mixed the dance with video of people facing life-threatening illnesses. I hope he continues his work for years to come.

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