



Jim J. Bullock Interview on Queerty

July 14, 2009 By [Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.](#)

The LGBT blog Queerty recently interviewed 1980s TV star [Jim J. Bullock](#), a.k.a. Monroe from the sitcom *Too Close for Comfort*.

The bulk of the interview sets up the premise that Bullock set the stage for openly gay TV characters in the 1990s. However, the interview also explores some HIV/AIDS themes.

Bullock is now open about being both gay and HIV positive. That wasn't always true.

He came out as gay on *The Joan Rivers Show* in 1990, but he inadvertently was "half-outed" about his HIV status.

Here's an excerpt from the interview:

"Even years after the show ended, Evangelicals criticized Tammy for co-hosting The Jim J. and Tammy Faye Show with a gay man -- especially when Jim came out as HIV-positive. His status was half-outed, really. In preparation for the 1997 AIDS ride, Jim sent a sponsorship letter to possible donors. He mentioned that in addition to riding in memory of his deceased partner, he was riding for his friends living with HIV/AIDS and that he, too, was living with the disease. A few days later Jim was awakened by knocking at his door. It was a

tabloid reporter inquiring about his HIV status."

I remember as a teenager watching Bullock on *Too Close for Comfort*. I realized that he (or at least his character) was gay. It was heartening for me to see a gay man on TV back then. We owe Bullock some amount of thanks for that.

[Click here](#) to read the complete interview.

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<http://beta.docker.poz.com/blog/jim-j-bullock-interv>