



Pedro Zamora: 20 Years Later

November 11, 2014 By [Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.](#)

Pedro Zamora died November 11, 1994, which is 20 years ago today. The former MTV reality star and AIDS activist was a fellow Cuban American. After I was newly diagnosed with HIV in 1992, I drew a lot of inspiration from him during his time on *The Real World: San Francisco*. Sadly, he didn't live to benefit from the HIV drugs that saved so many. ✕

Although gone for two decades, Pedro is not forgotten. His legacy continues on in many ways. Earlier this year, the National AIDS Memorial Grove [recently renamed](#) its youth scholarship to honor Pedro. AIDS United offers a public policy fellowship in [his name](#). In 2011, the Equality Forum made him [an honoree](#) for their LGBT History Month. And in 2009, MTV premiered [a movie](#) about his life.

In 1994, Pedro graced the cover of POZ on our third issue. [Click here](#) to read his cover story. As [I mentioned](#) in my June 2014 letter from the editor marking the 20th anniversary of POZ, I don't remember for sure which issue of POZ I saw first, but I distinctly remember the Pedro issue. I never had the privilege of knowing him in person, but I was captivated -- and I still am.

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