The Real Poz Guys of Atlanta III

September 14, 2013 By Mark S. King

Why Andy Cohen isn't badgering me with phone calls to bring this series to Bravo, I'll never know.

Several years ago, I invited four friends living with HIV over to my place for a night of devouring brownies and sharing secrets, while my friend Charles captured it on video. The result was "You Gotta Have Friends," the first episode of what would be renamed "The Real Poz Guys of Atlanta." The second episode was posted more than a year later (you can see a recap and both previous episodes here. And now, episode three.

These guys must be getting the hang of this, because we discussed and revealed things like never before. From crystal meth addiction to our mothers, nothing was off limits. There's even a (NSFW-ish) chat about tops and bottoms and modern gay sexual politics. And dealing with loss. And reaching out for help when you really need it.

The video series represents a lot of issues I feel passionately about - combating HIV stigma with honesty about our status, the crucial importance of social support, and living joyfully. That, and I love hearing my friends talk dirty for a good reason.

I think the series represents what My Fabulous Disease does best. And judging from the emails I receive, there's a real need for people with HIV, particularly the newly diagnosed, to know that life, and friendship, doesn't end with a positive test result. I look forward to your comments! Thanks for watching, and please be well.

Mark

(The Poz Guys pictured above are (left to right) James, myself, Antron, Eric, and Craig. I'm the only one who isn't single; I know they would appreciate me mentioning that.)

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