

Choices

She was in her first year of college
Seeking to acquire a higher knowledge
Far from home, she lost her mindset of
production
And followed a path of self-destruction
Stressed from school she forgot the most
important rules
She just wanted to release some sexual
tension
And then she met a guy, an awesome
specimen
He was exactly what she was looking
for
Little did she know what was in store
She couldn't deny his intellect
He intrigued her with his dialect
After a week or two of "no, not yet"
Eventually, she allowed him to connect
He penetrated her sea of moisture, releas-
ing his many soldiers
They invaded by the millions each rac-
ing to be the special one
The couple dodged babies and abor-
tions, but the worst was yet to come
A few made it through and scarred her
forever internally
Without a trace, no evidence externally
You see these two didn't use protection
She paid a high price for their "love"
connection
Now its one year later and she's in the
clinic
Her body's telling her that something's
wrong
The relationship she thought would last
forever is long gone
Now she's stuck wishing that she could
go back to that night
To change things with all her might
To reach for a condom and check it
twice
Instead she chose to roll the dice
She remembered how she couldn't deny
his intellect
And how he intrigued her with his
dialect
How she had whispered "no, not yet."
Now she's HIV-positive and her heart is
filled with regret
So next time he has an erection
And he wants to go bare to show his
affection
Follow the rules and ask the questions
Prevent future pain and use present
protection

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Changing Lives One Film at a Time



Despite the numbers, for many African Americans the HIV/AIDS epidemic is still someone else's problem. Some people have to see it to believe it.

In the struggle to get more of the Black community involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Ralph Scott, an independent film promoter, and community activist Chris Cathcart introduced Visual AIDS—a project that uses independent short films to raise awareness and action around the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Scott and Cathcart looked beyond the standard outreach efforts, choosing instead to tap into the energy and excitement of short films as a way to reach people who generally don't attend seminars or lectures on the issue.

By partnering with the Black AIDS Institute, Visual AIDS seeks to help broaden the dialogue on HIV/AIDS in our community.

Scott got into film promotion to strengthen the market for independent Black filmmakers. Among other things, he serves as the program director for the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center. After 13 years of searching for well-made indie films, Scott is able to pull from a wide selection to stock the Visual AIDS library.

As a board member of the Black AIDS Institute (BAI) and co-founder of *Ledge*, Cathcart is able to connect with AIDS advocacy groups and educational outlets to help initiate the much-needed discussion on HIV/AIDS in Black communities.

In 2005 Visual AIDS screened indie films in Oakland, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, and New York City. For information on how you can make Visual AIDS a part of your outreach efforts, please contact Cathcart or

Scott via e-mail (Chris@OneDG.com or indie_house2003@yahoo.com), or call (323)850-8982.

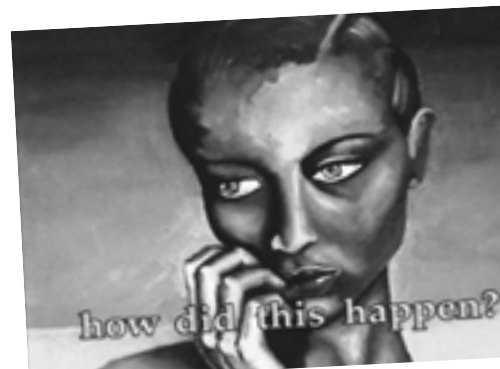
Visual AIDS—On The Road: Visual AIDS has partnered with the Black AIDS Institute to bring an uplifting and informative film festival to HBCUs. If you are interested in having the Visual AIDS/BAI Film Festival visit your campus, please contact the Black AIDS Institute at 213/353-3610; www.BlackAIDS.org.



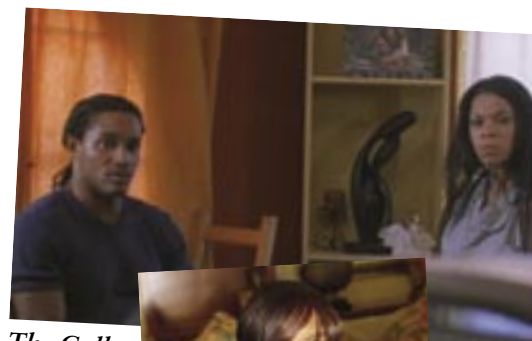
Spoon full of Sugar



Love Letter



Living Positive



The Call



Princess Monique
Director, *The Call*