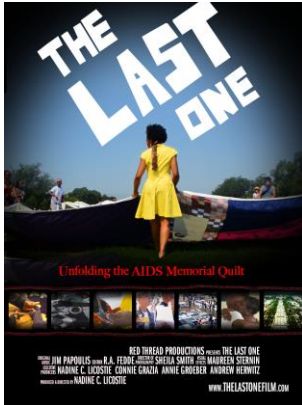


Movie Kit



American
Spaces

The Last One: Unfolding the AIDS Memorial Quilt



Year Release: 2014

Rating: Not Rated

Duration: 72 minutes

English Level: Medium/Hard

Director: Nadine Licostle

Starring: Cleve Jones, Gert McMullin, Patricia Nalls

Themes: AIDS Awareness, Public Health, LGBT Rights, Tolerance

General Advisory

Through a story-telling format, this documentary shares real-life stories of individuals who are affected by AIDS and involved with the AIDS Quilt.

Summary (from Kanopy)

The Last One presents an updated history of the AIDS epidemic in America through the story of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The film traces how what at first was labeled a "gay disease" now disproportionately impacts the African American community, including women and youth.

In the 1980s, as AIDS ravaged the gay community in the U.S., the AIDS Quilt was born as a tool to help promote understanding and treatment. Through the intensely personal stories of those involved with the Quilt, including founder Cleve Jones, **The Last One** examines how stigma, discrimination, and the lack of access to care exacerbated a disease that now infects over one million Americans, with nearly 50,000 new cases every year.

The film follows the path of the Quilt on tour, visiting a variety of communities and people, including a high school where a young African American woman born with AIDS speaks out to fight stigma in her community. Through her story and others the film explores the issues fueling HIV infections among youth today.

Important Vocabulary/Places

- **AIDS – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome** is a disease of the immune system due to infection with the **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)**. HIV destroys important cells of the immune system, which leaves the body vulnerable to life-threatening infections and cancers. AIDS is the most advanced stage of HIV infection. (Definition adapted from <https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/>)
- **epidemic** - A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time.
- **homophobia** – Dislike or prejudice against homosexual people

- **IV drug use** – Intravenous drug use. A method of introducing drugs into the body with a needle and syringe. HIV can be transmitted via shared needles or other drug injection equipment.
- **LGBT**–Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
- **NAMES Project Foundation** – an international, non-governmental organization that is the custodian of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.
- **Rainbow Flag** – Is also known as the gay pride flag or LGBT pride flag, and is a symbol of LGBT pride and social movements in the U.S. and around the world.
- **stigma** – A mark of disgrace (does not have to be a physical mark) that is associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person. There can be a lack of respect for a person/group because of a circumstance or quality society does not approve of.

Discussion Questions

- Who is Cleve Jones? What was the inspiration for Cleve Jones and his colleagues to start the AIDS Memorial Quilt?

Cleve Jones is an American AIDS and LGBT rights activist, and he conceived the “NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt,” also known as the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Cleve Jones became inspired in 1985 during a candlelight march in remembrance of the assassinations of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. For the march, people wrote the names of loved ones who had died of AIDS-related causes on placards, and these were taped on a federal building. These taped placards/signs looked like a quilt to Cleve Jones.

- What does the AIDS Memorial Quilt represent? What kind of images can one find on the quilt?
- What are some of the stories from the film that stood out to you?
- One person in the film said that the “stigma is sometimes worse than the disease itself.” What does this mean and what do you think about this statement?
- Today there are over 49,000 panels for the quilt dedicated to more than 96,000 individuals. How did the AIDS Memorial Quilt help change people’s perceptions and attitudes towards HIV/AIDS?
- The NAMES Project Foundation hopes that someday a panel that simply states “The Last One” will be able to be sewn into the AIDS Memorial Quilt. What does “The Last One” signify? Do you think this is achievable?

As quoted from film, “There’s a wonderful panel that says “The Last One.” And we are waiting until we’re sure that it is, and it gets sewn in last. “The Last One” begins with the last new infection, the last AIDS case, the last AIDS death, the last child orphaned. “The Last One” begins when hearts and minds are opened, where stigma ends and compassion begins.

- Do people with AIDS still face discrimination in our societies? In what forms do we see the discrimination?
- What are the ways in which someone can become infected with HIV? What education programs exist in our communities to educate people about HIV and AIDS?
- Are there any laws that exist to protect people with HIV/AIDS in our communities?
- What can our communities do to come closer to realizing the goal of sewing in the panel, “The Last One”?

Additional Information/ Resources

- **More info about the AIDS Memorial Quilt:** <https://www.aidsquilt.org/>
- **Share America Articles:** <https://share.america.gov/?s=AIDS>
- **Movie Programming Kit for Philadelphia:** – includes additional background information about fighting AIDS, statistics, and anti-discrimination laws in the United States.