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Folder Title:

Orie's Journey

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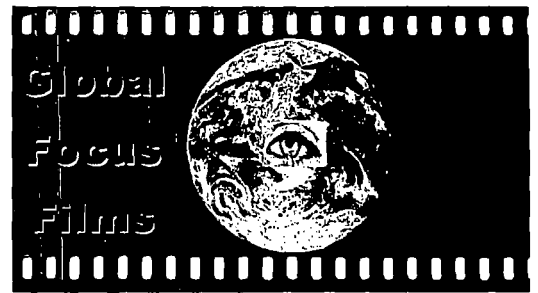
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Contact: Kellie Gibbs, Executive Producer
88 South Garland St., Lakewood, Colorado, USA 80226
(303) 274-4901; outpress@aol.com



"Too many remain unaware of the magnitude of the global AIDS epidemic and the devastation it is wreaking. (Executive Producer) Kellie Gibbs has the talent, compassion, and insight to present this tragedy in a way that will engender the kind of awareness that has heretofore not existed."

-Sandra L. Thurman, Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
The White House



Executive Producer Kellie Gibbs Director Debra Denker Associate Producer Tara Lumpkin Ph.D. Director of Photography Jeff Bahde
Narrated By Essie Garrett Featuring Orie Thompson

Sponsored by the Colorado Chapter of the NAMES Project/AIDS Quilt, a 501(c)(3) organization A GLOBAL FOCUS FILM In Association with Fair Winds Productions, Inc.

ORIE'S JOURNEY: Legacies of an Epidemic



Sandra L. Thurman

The inspiration for this documentary came from discussions with Sandra L. Thurman, Director, National Office of AIDS Policy at the White House. Ms. Thurman has developed a series of innovative exchange programs that provide a venue for leaders, activists, and individuals facing the challenges of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa to exchange practical experience, personal insight, and hope.



Mayor Wellington & Wilma Webb

Prior to becoming Mayor of the City & County of Denver, CO, Wellington Webb served as a board member for the Colorado AIDS Project (CAP) and "saw first hand the impact AIDS has on the (Denver) community." The Mayor's Office of HIV Planning & Resources is an advisor for the Denver portion of this video.



Orie Thompson

A man living with AIDS, Orie Thompson's call to activism began in the earliest days of the epidemic in Denver, CO. As President & Founder of the Colorado Chapter of the NAMES Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt, he works as an organizer and fundraiser for HIV/AIDS education and prevention. A former radio talk show host and television production assistant, his role as the central profile for *Journey* brings a high level of onscreen talent, AIDS awareness, and compassion for its content.



Essie Garrett

Narration will be provided by Denver AIDS activist and ultra marathon runner, Essie Garrett. To date, Ms. Garrett has run over 20,000 miles & raised over \$1,000,000 for charities including the Colorado AIDS Project (CAP), Children's Hospital Immunodeficiency Program (CHIP), and recently completed a marathon that covered Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad where she was the recipient of an award presented by Coretta Scott King. In January, 1999, Ms. Garrett received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award for her service to those in need from Denver's Mayor Wellington Webb.

Contents:

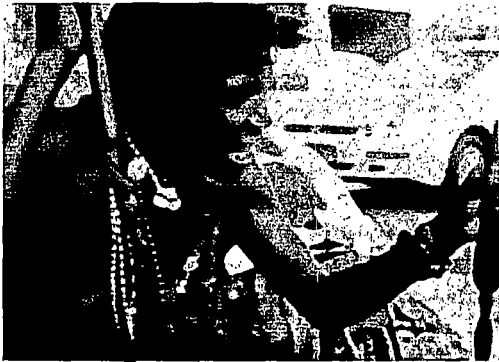
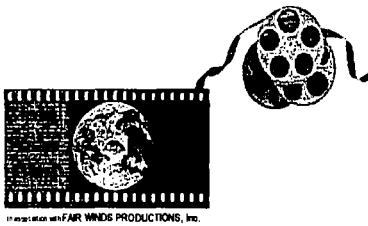
- ✦ Video Treatment
- ✦ Introduction
- ✦ Letter from the White House
- ✦ Letter from Mayor Wellington Webb
- ✦ Facts & Figures: South Africa
- ✦ Distribution
- ✦ Project Staff & Consultants
- ✦ **Budget Summary
- ✦ Letters of Support & Articles

**Detailed budget available upon request.

*This project has received the support & encouragement of:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| *AFRICARE | *Media For Development Int'l |
| *Vvxx/Teleport Denver | *Office of HIV Planning/Denver |
| *1999 U.S. AIDS Conference | *Colorado AIDS Project |
| *The NAMES Project/AIDS Quilt | *AIDS, Medicine & Miracles |
| *OSHANA | *World AIDS Conference 2000 |
| *Development Through Self-Reliance | Participants/Durban, RSA |

"Orie's Journey: Legacies of an Epidemic" is a working title for this video project that may change prior to distribution. Former working titles include "On the Frontline" and "A Journey Into the Heart of Healing."



... follows Orie Thompson, a person living with AIDS, as he travels from Denver, Colorado, USA to South Africa. There he helps establish a chapter of the NAMES Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt in the area of Natal, including KwaZulu and the city of Durban. This location, which rests along the southeastern coast of Africa, was chosen by President Nelson Mandela due to the high rate of HIV/AIDS in that region. Orie, who is the founder of the Colorado Chapter of the NAMES Project, carries an American quilt panel with him. This gift, like panels in his home country, serves as a tangible symbol to bring people together to confront AIDS and grieve for those lost to the disease. While in South Africa, Orie meets local men, women and children, indigenous healers, doctors, nurses, AIDS activists, and others. He also comes face-to-face with the reality of AIDS in that country, where upwards of 25% of the population is HIV-positive, where women and children are as likely as men to have the disease, and where speaking of the disease is so taboo that education efforts are extremely difficult.

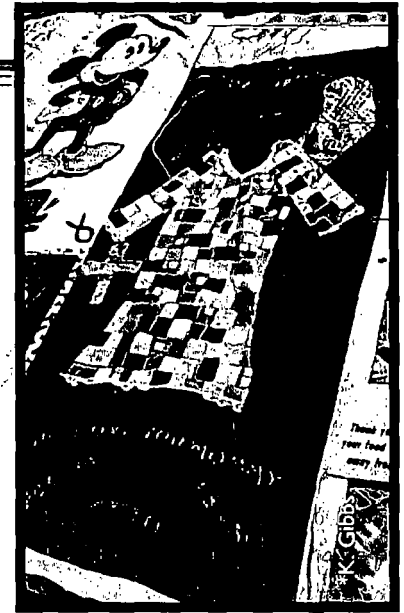
Displaying and discussing the American panel, Orie provides guidance to those he meets on how they can weave stories of compassion and remembrance into their own artistic panels. As he does so, cultural taboos against the open discussion of HIV/AIDS begin to break down. Within these conversations men and women learn about the disease in America and begin to address AIDS prevention measures, treatment, and education as well as the deaths of loved ones in their own country. In this process Orie recognizes that the AIDS of South Africa is not so different from the face of AIDS in his own community where with each passing day AIDS is increasingly becoming a disease of minorities, the poor, people of color, and women and children. Before leaving South Africa, Orie presents the quilt panel, beautifully hand-sewn with colorful fabric patches to President Mandela and a representative of the South African Ministry of Health. These small patches, quilted into a captivating mosaic, were gathered from American families, organizations, community leaders, friends and loved ones of people lost to AIDS. Each diverse piece represents the history, love, loss, and hope of people who have been impacted by the disease. In the quilt's colorful brilliance lies its simplicity, a modest gesture of collective regard for a pandemic that now afflicts 38 million people globally. Orie also leaves behind the start of a quilt-in-the-making, one which people of South Africa will continue to add to and learn from.



It was in 1997 that Orie organized the Colorado Chapter of the NAMES Project, a measure of personal response to the loss of his younger brother to AIDS. Since then, he and other volunteers have worked steadfastly to organize AIDS Memorial Quilt displays in schools, churches, organizations, and other public places to encourage open discussions about the disease and its prevention. In addition, they hold quilt panel-making workshops in Denver to help others memorialize their loved ones in the same way. The panels, each measuring 3' X 6' (the size of a human grave) are recognized as part of the largest community arts project in the world. Tens of thousands of panels are connected in small sections whose combined total represents the single greatest tribute to those who have died.

Within each panel lies a story, an artistic rendering created by friends and family. As the National NAMES Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt states: "Many cultures around the world have traditions of fabric arts. The AIDS Memorial Quilt is based upon the American tradition of quilting. In the past, neighbors and relatives would gather in groups to sew old scraps of fabric together to make blankets. These 'quilts' were beautiful works of art which also provided warmth and comfort. Working together made people feel like a community, giving them the chance to tell stories, trade gossip, sing songs, and enjoy each other's company as they sewed. Panels are as diverse as those affected by the epidemic, as richly unique as each panel in the Quilt itself."

Orie's incredible journey to South Africa and back embraces the universal desire to create a sense of hope, remembrance, and an undying urgency to reduce the staggering rates of HIV infection globally. His vibrant story and the moving accounts of people he encounters in the USA and South Africa as he strives to bring understanding, tribute, and healing to his community and communities beyond is a testimony to the strength of all who have been faced with the illness. This one-hour documentary is an emotional triumph, one that joins people of all nations, cultures, and languages, weaving them into a single force in the fight against HIV/AIDS. ■



threads of hope

community dialogue

educational outreach

family healing

self-empowerment





Orie's Journey: Legacies of an Epidemic



CONTACT: Kellie Gibbs, Executive Producer, 88 South Garland Street, Lakewood, Colorado, 80226
Tel. 303-274-4901, e-mail: outpress@aol.com

Project Staff

Executive Producer
Kellie Gibbs

Director
Debra Denker

Director of Photography
Jeffrey J. Bahde

Narrator
Essie Garrett

**Associate Producer,
African Content Specialist**
Tara Lumpkin, Ph.D.

Video Profile
Orie Thompson

Production Coordinator
Susan Ramsey

Volunteer Consultants

Sandra L. Thurman
Director, Office of
National AIDS Policy

Andy Ilves
Executive Director
The NAMES Project Foundation

Julian Rush
Executive Director,
Colorado AIDS Project

Michael Schlut
Education Director
CO Chapter of the NAMES Project

June 1999

As Executive Producer of the one-hour documentary *Orie's Journey: Legacies of an Epidemic*, it is my pleasure to offer you an opportunity to participate in the production of this unique international response to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. Global Focus Films and the producers of this project are collaborating with the NAMES Project Foundation/ AIDS Memorial Quilt to bring this greatly needed documentary to fruition.

Orie's Journey documents Orie Thompson, an American living with HIV/AIDS, as he travels to Natal, South Africa, to help establish a chapter of the NAMES Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt. To be created at the encouragement of Bishop Desmond Tutu, the chapter, like those throughout the U.S., will be utilized as an HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and healing tool. Natal has one of the highest rates of HIV infection on the African continent due, in part, to social taboos against the open discussion of sexual issues. Having lost a younger brother to AIDS, Orie's personal journey begins with bringing the quilt-making process to South Africa. He feels that the memorial quilt will help create dialogue about an illness that if left undiscussed will lead to even higher rates of infection, sickness, and death.

Just as important is Orie's strong personal interest in learning how South Africans treat AIDS with medicinal plants, song, and ritual, given that few have access to the range of pharmaceutical treatments available in the U.S. Presently, the U.S. represents less than 1/30 of the global AIDS population of nearly 38 million, yet is at the forefront of biomedical research and treatment. In the mid-90's, Western scientists produced the "AIDS cocktail," a combination of drugs designed to stave off the reproduction of HIV-infected cells in the body. While this has led to a lower incidence of death from AIDS-related complications and opportunistic infections, current research shows that many strains of the HIV virus are becoming drug-resistant. In addition, the medications are difficult to take, don't always work, and can have serious side-effects.

Yes, there is a great deal that South Africa can learn from the U.S., where awareness and understanding of the disease is slowly gaining widespread attention. But as Orie learns on his journey, there is also a tremendous amount the U.S. can learn from South Africa about addressing this illness, healing alternatives, and prevention measures. Designing and sewing quilt panels with South Africans, Orie will show how this artistic and traditional process can bring people closer together, leading them to openly discuss their pain, fear, and hope about a disease often surrounded by stigma and silence.

Orie's Journey has the potential to impact the rapid spread of AIDS in the U.S., South Africa, and beyond. But we need your support. Please join the dedicated members of our team and help us make *Orie's Journey* a reality. As a sponsored project of the Colorado Chapter of the NAMES Project, a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible. Please feel free to call (303) 274-4901 for more information.

Sincerely,

Kellie Gibbs, Executive Producer

**local &
international
solutions
through
interdisciplinary
collaboration**

Orie's Journey: Legacies of an Epidemic is a GLOBAL FOCUS FILM in association with FAIR WINDS PRODUCTIONS, Inc.

Sponsoring HIV/AIDS 501(c)(3) agency: The COLORADO CHAPTER of the NAMES PROJECT All Donations are Tax Deductible



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 12, 1998

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing in support of a film documentary project proposed by Kellie Gibbs. She is seeking to provide a perspective on how the AIDS epidemic is impacting on South Africa, to make a comparison of the epidemic there and in the United States, and to articulate how lessons learned in both countries can be brought to bear on the global pandemic.

Having visited that region several times in the past few months, I know too well the incredible human suffering that AIDS is wreaking. With nearly 6 million people per year becoming infected with HIV annually, 90% of whom are in developing nations, it is a tragedy that has global implications.

Kellie has the talent, the compassion, and the insight to present this tragedy in a way that will engender the kind of awareness that has heretofore not existed. Too many of us remain unaware of the magnitude of the global AIDS epidemic and the devastation it is wreaking.

I would hope that you would join in support of Kellie's project, and to invest in a journalist who has truly made a difference in the AIDS pandemic.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Thurmian

Director

Office of National AIDS Policy

Wellington E. Webb
MAYOR



City and County of Denver
CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING • DENVER, COLORADO • 80202

AREA CODE 303 640-2721
640-2720 (V/TDD)

January 20, 1999

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

This letter is to voice my support for the film project, "ON THE FRONT: A Journey into the Heart of Healing." It is my understanding that the project will highlight community-based responses to HIV/AIDS in Denver, Colorado, USA and in southern Africa.

Denver has a long history of grass roots support and cutting edge medical and research programs. Prior to becoming Mayor, I served as a board member of the Colorado AIDS Project and saw first-hand the impact that AIDS has on this community. I created the Mayor's Office of HIV Resources during my first term to secure and disburse federal funds for AIDS services. Our Ryan White Title I funding requires a council of citizens and professionals to engage in study and dialogue about HIV disease and to develop plans that will best meet these needs. This dialogue has done far more than result in plans. It has opened doors and opened minds. Stigma has been reduced and activism increased.

I am also actively promoting economic development in Africa, a country being decimated by HIV disease. The real impact of the AIDS epidemic on Africa's developing economy is only beginning to be understood and is far worse than anyone ever envisioned. How Africa is responding to the epidemic is as varied as its many nations. The universal benefits of open dialogue and learning from each other can only help in any community that is battling the effects of AIDS. The film documentary is a brilliant attempt to promote dialogue and to show each other our best ways of dealing with this insidious epidemic.

Executive Producer Kellie Gibbs has covered stories on community responses to HIV/AIDS for sometime in Denver. She has the ability to bring our community's efforts to the forefront of HIV/AIDS prevention and education in a clear and concise manner. Her effort has the potential to affect and educate communities which are only now beginning to respond to this pandemic. As Mayor of the City and County of Denver, I applaud her efforts and urge you to support this project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wellington E. Webb".

Wellington E. Webb
Mayor

By 2010, there will be 40 million AIDS orphans globally, up from 8 million in 1998.



South Africa: facts & figures

Statistics related to HIV infection in South Africa and other regions of southern Africa are staggering. Much of the information about HIV/AIDS, its prevention, and education is available only in English, a language many in southern African do not speak or understand. To help offset this disadvantage, *Orie's Journey* will be translated into Afrikaans and Zulu, languages spoken by many indigenous people. In addition to the one-hour documentary, there will also be a shorter version tailored to the educational market complete with moderator notes, pamphlets, and youth materials.

✓ There are more than 1,700 new infections every day in **South Africa**.



✓ Some 2.9 million South Africans were thought to be HIV-positive in early 1998, over 700,000 of them infected in 1997.



AIDS in Africa has reached pandemic proportions with incidence rates the highest of any continent. According to the June 30, 1998, report by the United Nations AIDS Program (UNAIDS) presented at the 1998 World AIDS Conference in Geneva: over two-thirds of all people now living with HIV in the world live in Africa south of the Sahara desert, and fully 83% of the world's AIDS deaths have been in this region.

✓ Every minute of every day, **two women** become infected with HIV.

✓ Every **two minutes** of every day, **a woman dies** from AIDS complications.

Due to a lack of resources, it is impossible for modern health facilities to biomedically treat all those infected with HIV. Prevention efforts are also difficult because of social, religious, and in some cases, cultural taboos discouraging open discussion of sex and related issues. In addition, there is a widespread presence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), which make transmission of HIV more likely to occur. Furthermore, women's low social status makes it difficult for women to insist that their partners be monogamous and/or use condoms.

✓ **Two-thirds** of **all** people living with AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa.



Empowering new audiences with the message of HIV/AIDS prevention & education.

Distribution



1998 AIDS Walk Colorado to benefit the Colorado AIDS Project.

*This thought-provoking documentary is intended for mainstream public television audiences in the U.S., Britain, and other Western countries and for wide distribution through broadcasting agencies in southern Africa, Japan, and throughout the developing world. A short version and PSAs will be tailored specifically for the educational market. African distribution will be handled by *Media for Development International.

At the invitation of the National Office of AIDS Policy, *Orie's Journey* is targeted to be screened at the 13th World AIDS Conference in Durban, Republic of South Africa, in the year 2000. UNAIDS, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and non-governmental organizations will be helpful in disseminating the video. In addition, Taos Talking Pictures Film Festival organizers have expressed interest in viewing the video for possible screening.

The documentary is also targeted for distribution to youth groups, community organizations, HIV/AIDS government and non-governmental programs, leaders and HIV/AIDS experts, schools, businesses, and other agencies and individuals working on the frontlines to effect positive social change in HIV/AIDS in their communities. Local television stations and cable access networks have expressed interest in its broadcast. Wherever possible project staff, youth and/or adult volunteers, and community leaders will be trained prior to video screenings to facilitate discussion and offer referrals for more information.



Media for Development International MDI/DSR, the world's largest African video distributor, has offered its services to distribute "Orie's Journey" (pending final review) to audiences in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana, several European countries and the U.S. and Canada. MDI/DSR will also send video copies to magazine reviewers, festivals and conferences where it will be shown to large audiences of potential customers.



Staff & Consultants

Jeff Bahde, Director of Photography, Editor

Mr. Bahde is a broadcast supervisor for Vyvx, an international video transmission company. He is a fifteen-year veteran of film and video with extensive broadcast experience on network transmissions, satellite, fiber optics, and microwave feeds and is responsible for on-air quality control, editing, and scheduling of national and international programs. He has worked as a freelance cameraman and voice-over talent to National Geographic, ESPN, TNN, Pepsi, Budweiser, ABC Denver, NBC Today Show, Fox Network, DIA, and Summit Ski Resorts. He is the owner of Fair Winds Productions.

Chris Cunningham, Soundtrack Composer

Grammy-nominee Chris Cunningham is a multi-talented producer, renowned guitarist, musical director, multi-instrumentalist, arranger, and composer living in New York. He has appeared on many labels including Elektra/WEA, Island BMG, Arcadia, Chrysalis, Virgin/EMI, and with his newest solo release, *Stories to Play*, on Lunchbox Recordings. Mr. Cunningham has composed many soundtracks for film, video, and television including: National Geographic (*Animal Edens/Nature Series/13 episodes*), The Discovery Channel (*Inside the Space Shuttle/a one-hour documentary*), Nickelodeon/Disney Channel, Bravo-Turner-NHK, Reader's Digest, and Riverside Pictures. One of his projects, *My Name is Rabbit*, won the Warner Brothers Post Production Award, Martin Scorsese Post Production Award.

Debra Denker, Director

Ms. Denker is a documentary video producer and director, journalist, creative writer, photographer, and world traveler. She co-produced the one-hour video documentary "A Nation Uprooted: Afghan Refugees in Pakistan," which has been widely broadcast on television in the U.S. and in many foreign markets, and screened at numerous film festivals. From 1985-1992, she was Communications Director of the Geltaftan Foundation during which time she produced educational videos. Ms. Denker has traveled extensively throughout Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Tibet, writing for many publications including "National Geographic." She lectures frequently on international subjects and holistic healing, based on her experiences of the past two decades working with traditional healers from a variety of cultures, including South Africa.

Joel Dlamini, Zulu Traditional Healer, Windhoek, Namibia & KwaZulu, Natal, South Africa

Dr. Dlamini is a respected traditional healer who practices in Windhoek, Namibia and KwaZulu, Natal, South Africa. He has a Diploma in Herbal Medicines from the African Herbal College, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa (RSA); is a registered *inyanga* and herbalist, Ulundi, KwaZulu Government, RSA; is a Kruidokter in Windhoek, Namibia; and is a Traditional Medical Practitioner and Spirit Medium in Harare, Zimbabwe. Dr. Dlamini has lectured in Switzerland and is consulted by numerous development professionals about traditional medicine.

Essie Garrett, Narrator, AIDS activist, Ultra Marathon Runner

Ms. Garrett is a well-known and respected activist in the Denver community. She has run over 20,000 miles and raised over \$1,000,000 for charities including the Colorado AIDS Project (CAP), Children's Hospital Immunodeficiency Program (CHIP), and recently completed a marathon that covered Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad where she was the recipient of an award presented by Coretta Scott King. In January, 1999, Ms. Garrett received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award for her service to those in need from Denver Mayor Wellington Webb.

Kellie Gibbs, Executive Producer

Ms. Gibbs is a professional journalist, photographer, AIDS activist/organizer, and author. As senior staff writer for *Out Front Colorado*, she has published over 400 articles on issues including: HIV/AIDS from global, national, and local perspectives; women's health; political and celebrity interviews/analysis; racism, and a variety of community-based organization profiles. She has published hundreds of photos which have been throughout the United States. Ms. Gibbs is currently completing a book on Colorado's Amendment 2 with co-author and attorney Mary Celeste. She has a B.A. from the University of Colorado in Latin American Studies and has conducted post graduate studies in Social Science and Community Organizing at the same university.

Dr. Tara Lumpkin, Associate Producer, African Content Specialist

Dr. Lumpkin is an anthropologist, international development consultant, journalist, and creative writer. She worked as a medical anthropologist for UNICEF-Namibia in Southern Africa promoting collaboration between traditional healers and biomedical health professionals. Dr. Lumpkin worked for USAID/Panama, CIET International (Canada), Conservation International, and as a professor of Writing and Media at Loyola University. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the Union Institute, an M.A. in Creative Writing from Antioch University, and a B.A. in Literature from Yale University.

Sandra L. Thurman, Director, Office of National AIDS Policy, The White House, Volunteer Advisor/Liaison

Ms. Thurman was named an Assistant to President Bill Clinton with responsibility for directing the Office of National AIDS Policy. She is responsible for coordinating federal policy and programs on HIV/AIDS, and for building partnerships among Federal agencies, the AIDS community, service providers, state and local officials, and major business leaders. She is a member of the NEAC Board of Directors; was the former director of Citizen Exchange of the United States Information Agency before becoming Executive Director of AID Atlanta. She has been Director of Advocacy Exchange Programs at the Task Force for Child Survival at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta.



Resources & Volunteers

Jackyie Coleman, Co-Director, Technical Assistance, National Minority AIDS Council, Washington, DC

Steve Cruz, Artistic Design, Denver, CO

Sue Giesler, Director, Mayor's Office of HIV Planning & Resources, Denver, CO

Erika Gibbs, Women's Foundation (CO) Leadership Program, Teen Advisor, AIDS Activist, Denver, CO

Phillip Gibbs, International Development Consultant, El Prado, NM

Roy Jackson, Graphic Design Specialist, Denver, CO

C. Payne Lucas, President, AFRICARE, Washington, DC

Susan Ramsey, Production Coordinator, Denver, CO

Charles Robbins, (former) Executive Director AIDS, Medicine & Miracles, Boulder, CO

Julian Rush, Executive Director, The Colorado AIDS Project, Denver, CO

Michael Schlut, Director of Education, The Colorado Chapter of the NAMES Project, Denver, CO

Kate Shindle, Miss America, 1998 HIV/AIDS Prevention & Education Platform, Chicago, IL

Steve & Sally Smith, Media For Development International, Board of Directors, Project Distributor, Elkridge, MD

Orie Thompson, Video Profile, President/Founder, The Colorado Chapter of the NAMES Project/AIDS Quilt, Denver, CO

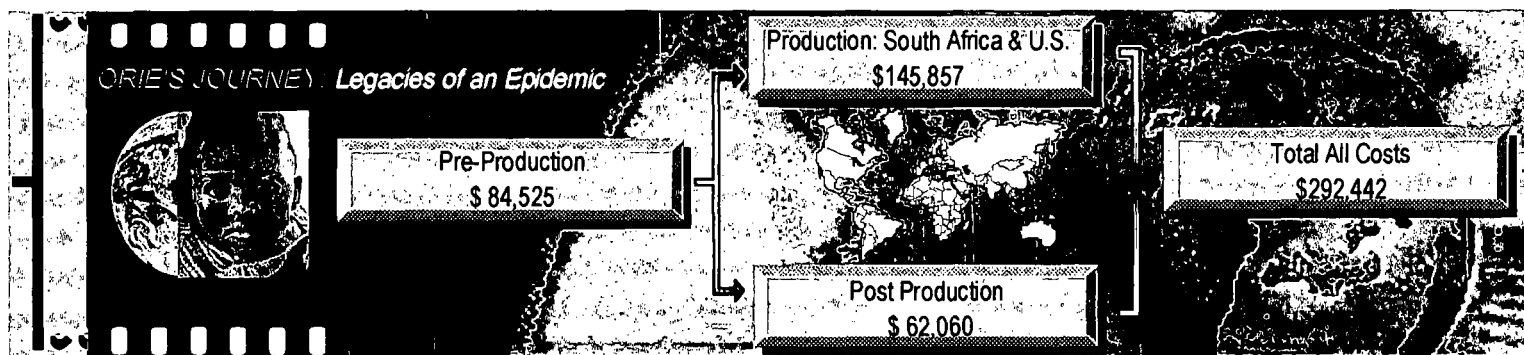
Mayor Wellington Webb, Denver, CO

Budget Summary

PRE-PRODUCTION	84,525
SOUTH AFRICA & U.S. PRODUCTION	145,857
POST-PRODUCTION	62,060

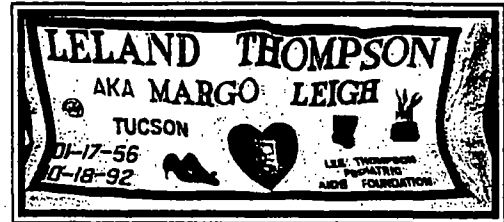
TOTAL ALL COSTS **\$292,442**

*Detailed budget available upon request by calling (303) 274-4901



THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

May 25, 1999



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

The NAMES Project Colorado, the AIDS Memorial Quilt, is proud to be a part of this mission to bring the images and voices of the pandemic in Africa to America. All recent statistics show that Africa is the country with the most deaths from AIDS and the most infections of new people. What we learn from the tragedy of each person and family affected by the virus in Africa will be used to aid countless others throughout the world.

A vital mission of the NAMES Project is education. This not only applies to those who are at risk, but all people throughout our small planet. The only way to stop this pandemic is through good, sound education. However, we know of the problems in our own country when we wish to reach out to those in danger of infection and we can only speculate the problems in a country such as Africa where resources to fight this virus are much more limited than ours in the United States.

We, the NAMES Project Colorado, see this project as educational outreach and therefore are happy to announce that "Orle's Journey: Legacies of an Epidemic" will be under the umbrella of the NAMES Project Colorado 501 (c) (3) as a non-profit institution in Colorado.

To close, the Board of Directors of the NAMES Project Colorado wish Executive Producer Kelly Gibbs all the best in her effort to bring this project to its completion. We look forward to seeing the fruits of her labor and sharing those with all interested people.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Schlut
Education Director

NAMES Project
Colorado



P.O. Box 101107
Denver, CO 80250-1107
Voice Mail: (303) 312-0811
E-Mail: NAMESColo@aol.com



Colorado AIDS Project
The loving touch of a caring community

February 16, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in support of the proposed film project by Kellie Gibbs. As I understand, the film will focus on community-based AIDS service efforts in Denver and South Africa.

Kellie has repeatedly demonstrated her compassion toward the AIDS epidemic. She has written numerous articles covering the many aspects of HIV Disease. Each one has further exhibited her excellence in journalism. We have always found it a pleasure to work with Kellie on any project she is involved in. In addition to her articles on emerging HIV issues, Kellie has also provided outstanding coverage of many AIDS events, including AIDS Walk Colorado and the Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Conference on HIV Disease.

With Sandra Thurman's hopes to provide an opportunity for professionals to exchange information and ideas with South Africa, this documentary will provide a much broader audience an opportunity to learn from this valuable exchange. I feel confident that Kellie's sensitivity to AIDS issues will be proven in this documentary. Her track record speaks for itself here in Denver and I have no doubt that she will display the same level of professionalism working in South Africa.

If you have any further questions regarding Ms. Gibbs, please contact me at (303)837-0166 x401.

Sincerely,

Terry Stewart
Director of Education

701 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203-2005 • P.O. Box 18529, Denver, CO 80218-0529

Administration	Education, Public Affairs, Volunteer Services	Client Services
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Visit CAP's site on the Worldwide Web at <http://www.coloaid.org>



MEDIA FOR DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL, INC

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Kellie Gibbs
Global Focus Films
88 Garland Street
Lakewood, CO 80226

14 December 1998

Dear Ms Gibbs:

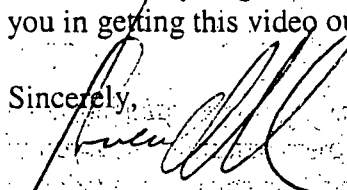
We met recently with Tara Lumpkin and received a copy of your proposal to a video on AIDS for use with African audiences. We are very impressed and think the video you will be producing will probably fit in very well with our catalog.

Pending final review of the completed video, we would like to offer our services in helping to distribute this video. We have sold over 20,000 African social message videos, and see ourselves as the world's largest African video distributor. We have been doing this for a dozen years and have a well established customer base that purchases about 1,000 videos from us directly each year. Also we have a network of sub-distributors in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana, several European countries and the USA and Canada. We sell our videos at very low prices in order to maximize distribution. We gave a copy of our catalog to Ms Lumpkin for more background on the variety and types of our 70+ titles.

Our marketing consists of printing and distributing 2-4,000 catalogs a year. We send them to individuals, festivals, conferences and seminars. Also we market via our WWW site (which soon will be much improved, and we will be able to provide clips and a couple entire videos on line to some schools in Europe and elsewhere), and via email and our African cinema listserver. Most sales are generated by the catalogs and from repeat customers. Also we send free video copies to magazine reviewers, festivals and conferences where it will be shown to large audiences of potential customers.

If you would like, you may list us in your proposals to donors for support in the production of your valuable video. Often, we have found that donors appreciate the fact that a good video will be made, and ALSO distributed actively. Our motto is that a video is only as good as the number of people that see it. We can be a great help to you in getting this video out.

Sincerely,


Steve Smith

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1999

Kellie Gibbs

via fax

Kellie
Dear Ms. Gibbs:

It was wonderful talking with you the other day. I am so happy to hear that Vyvx/Teleport is working with you on your film project. It is essential that we continue to build partnerships between private and public sectors in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially in Africa and other developing countries where the impact of such a collaboration is so highly beneficial.

I am leaving for Africa on January 24th, but will be back in Washington on the 7th of February. I hope we have the opportunity to get together upon my return so that I can catch up on the film's progress.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Thurman

Director

Office of National AIDS Policy

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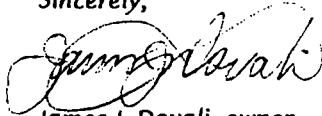
November 18, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the film project by Kellie Gibbs, "ON THE FRONTLINE: A Journey Into the Heart of Healing." I understand that the film will focus on community-based AIDS service efforts in South Africa and Denver, Colorado.

In support of this film, I will donate \$2,500 as an On Screen Title Sponsor in hopes that such a film will inspire and educate a broader audience on the subject of HIV/AIDS issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James J. Dovali".

James J. Dovali, owner
Category Six Books

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An exclusive forum with Miss America 1998 Kate Shindle and Sandra Thurman Director of White House AIDS Policy was deeply impressive and prompting. Shindle who has dedicated her pageant platform to "HIV Prevention In America" was well informed and very direct about issues of teen sex education, condom distribution, and needle exchange. She brought forth two sides of the coin when it comes to America's children:

"On one hand they say we can't tell them about safe sex, alternative lifestyles, and risks of transmission. These are the first questions they bring up—they ask if you can get AIDS from oral sex. Then when some child gets infected, people cry out 'Why didn't you tell them? We have the information and yet we won't give it to our kids. Because of a few frightened adults we are protecting kids from protecting themselves.'"

Sandra Thurman brought us up to date on the present face of AIDS. On a global basis over 85% of AIDS is heterosexually transmitted; the demographics of infection basically follow lines of education and socioeconomic privilege; women are the fastest growing group in new diagnosis; and 50% of new infections are among people under 25.

Speaker Julian Rush of Colorado AIDS Project highlighted the life preserving advances

in AIDS research, but pointed out that we mustn't continue to hope with victory. There's still not a cure—protease inhibitors are one option, but they are not the solution.

Director Valerie Garis, director of "On The Frontline" a documentary about Western medicine and traditional medicine in the treatment of AIDS, addressed the high viability of a film reaching and affecting populations not readily accessible to AIDS information.

Additional speakers included Michael Schlut of the Names Project, and Tara Lumpkin and Phillip Gibbs who brought out that trance healing, herbal medicines and other traditional methods of treatment are used over 80% of the world. Allopathic medicine (versus homeopathic or tribal) is clearly in the minority in world medical views.

In addition to this forum, Denver Mayor Wellington Webb declared Kate Shindle Day to honor the contribution of Miss America 1998. Shindle's reign marks an image departure from the live-action Barbie doll which used to mark the pageant. Forum participants were stunned and grateful for her candor and well-articulated stand on AIDS issues.

Jeffrey Hopper of Project Angel Home remarked that his perception was totally altered after seeing Shindler and Thurman in action.

Special thanks to the Wynkoop Brewing Co. for graciously hosting this event in the Mercantile Room. ■



Sandra Thurman and emcee David Goldberg



Miss America 1998 Kate Shindle and Mayor Wellington Webb



Michael Schlut & Orin Thompson of The Names Project, Rev. Judy Horn



OFC contributor Erich Gibbs, Miss America Kate Shindle, and Miss Colorado 1998 Keely



Julian Rush, Executive Director of Colorado AIDS Project



Director Valerie Garis of Motion Pictures