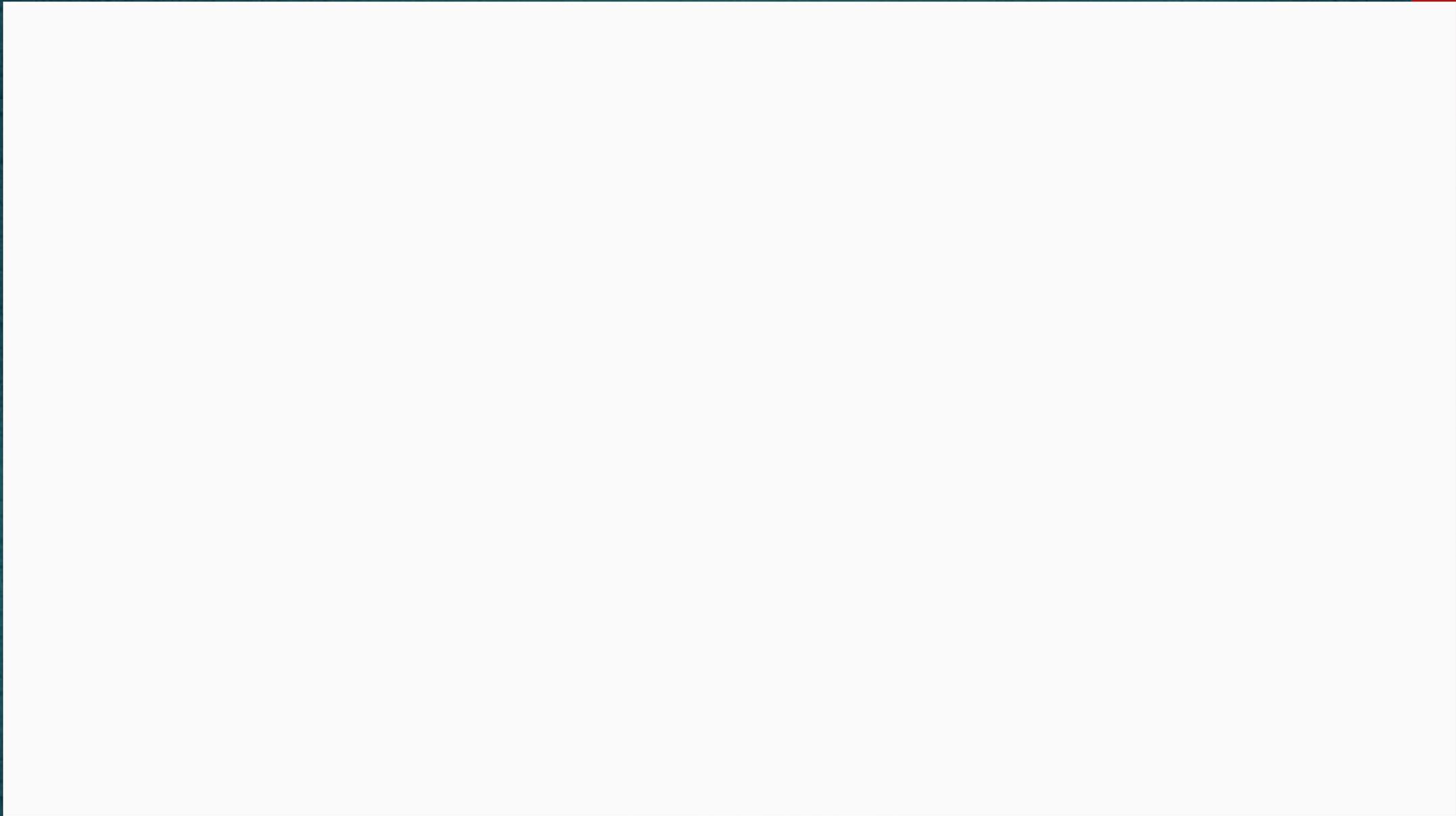




# A Single Thread

WHY CULTURAL STORIES OF THE HIV EXPERIENCE NEED TO BE TOLD

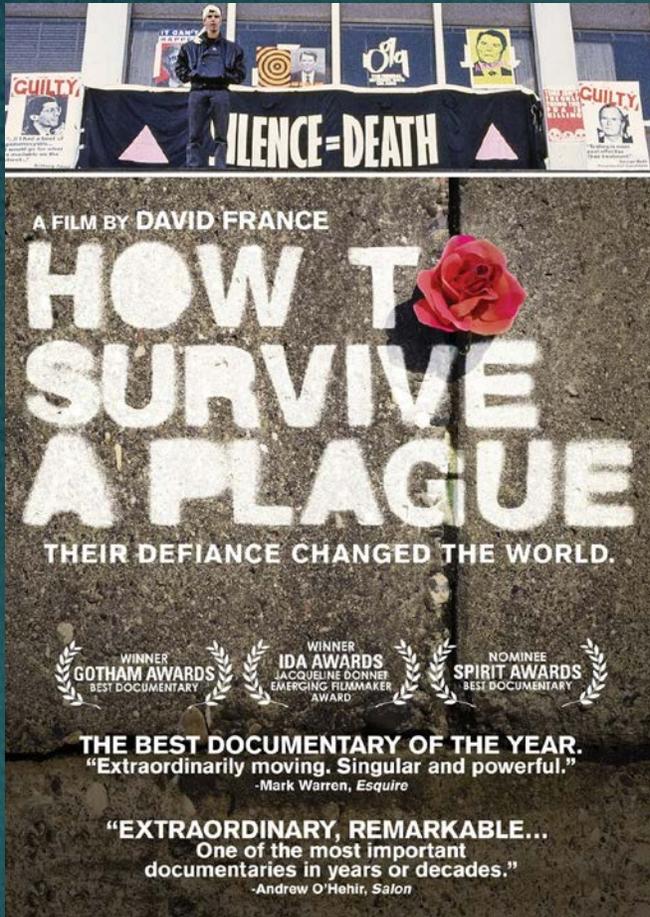


# Why is it important to tell stories

- ▶ “Just as computer simulations help us get to grips with complex problems like flying a plane or forecasting the weather, so novels, stories and dramas help us understand the complexities of social life.”

**Dr Keith Oatley, Ph.D.**

- ▶ Steven Spielberg describes telling of a story as the following, “People have forgotten how to tell a story. Stories don’t have a middle or an end any more. They usually have a beginning that never stops beginning.”



Dir. David France (2012)  
 ACT UP & TAG; how their  
 activism and innovation  
 started the wave of change  
 with HIV perception and  
 treatment



Dir. David Weissman, Bill  
 Weber (2011)  
 Reflective look at the AIDS  
 epidemic in San Francisco  
 and how individuals rose to  
 face the crisis

# Cultural Relevance

- ▶ "A Single Thread" looks at the first known case of HIV recorded in the early 1980's. 32 years after the epidemic reached the shores of Barbados. 1.5% of the population; currently **285 505** is known to be living with HIV.
- ▶ Many persons impacted by HIV, exist in at risk populations and are more susceptible due to stigma and discrimination.



Dir. Andrew Jenks (2014)  
A look at HIV/AIDS through the lens of millennials in South Africa, India, and middle America

# Culture References



# Through Positive Eyes



Gideon Mendel,  
Photojournalist



- ▶ Co-founder of "Through Positive Eyes"
- ▶ "...created a participatory photography project that encourages people who are H.I.V. positive to tell their stories."
- ▶ 72 PLHIV in six cities across the globe

"The father of my children died from HIV and that gave me a lot of problems. I cried. There are still people who stay away. They are afraid and they talk among themselves, always pointing their fingers at me. Sometimes I think, maybe I should have died. But then I say no, life is still beautiful. I will continue to drink my medication." –Medina, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 2014



# Dēmos: Photo Series

- ▶ Dēmos; Latin for “the people” is a series incorporating the Japanese concept of Kintsugi; the word translates to the phrase golden joinery.
- ▶ It is the practice of mixing powdered gold with resin and using the mixture mend broken pottery.
- ▶ The fractures in the item don't represent the end of the item but a turning point of transformation.



Photo Credit. Matthew Tyas



Kintsugi Head 1,  
Billie Bond

# Aim

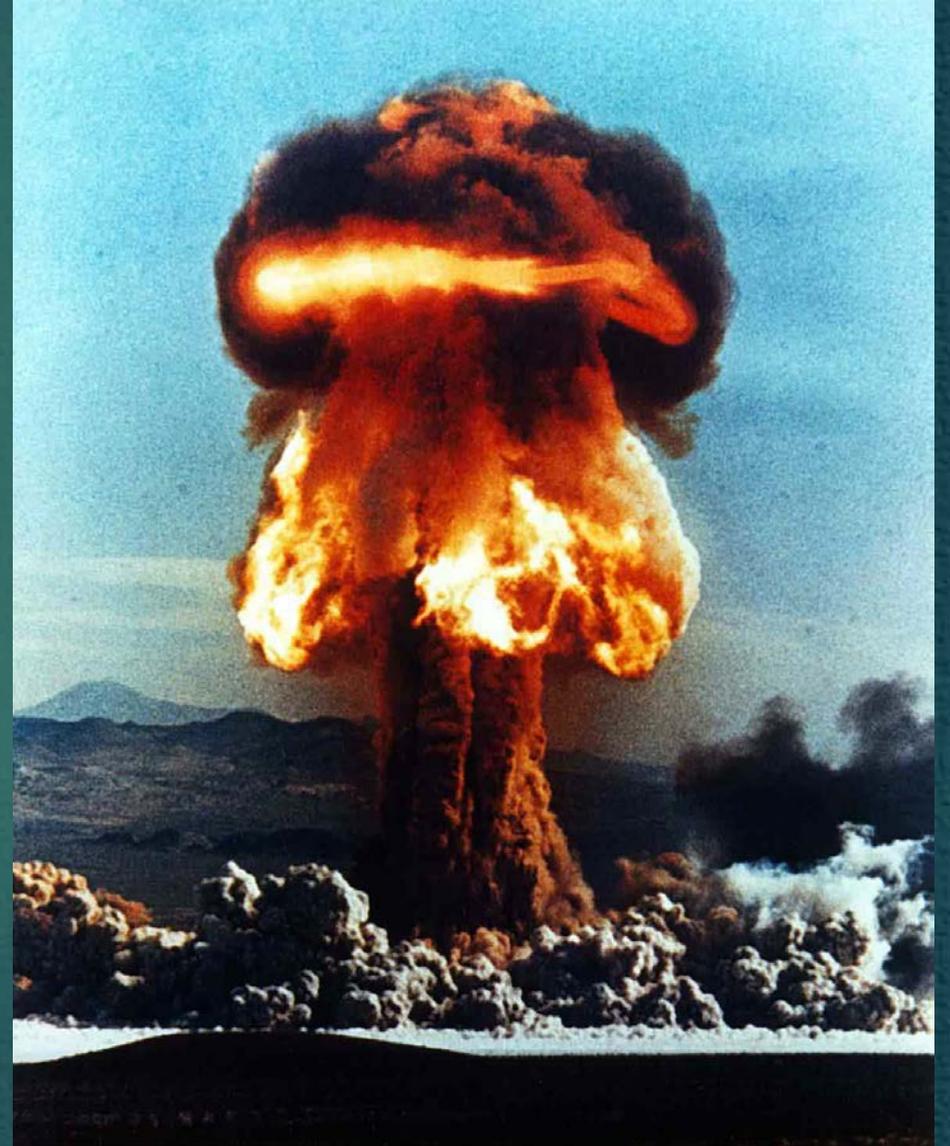


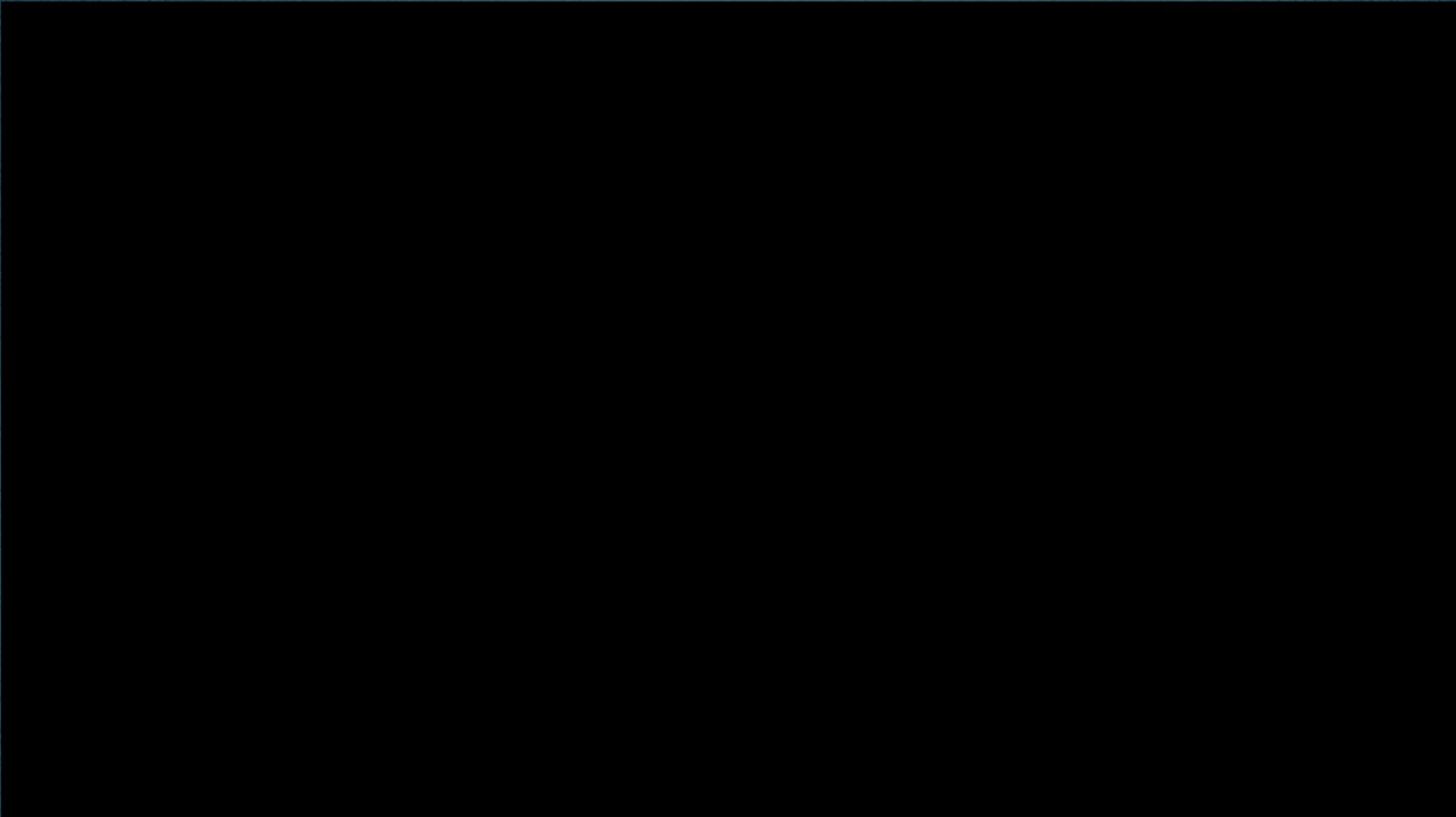
# Execution

- ▶ Currently several individuals have been identified as participants for this project
- ▶ Based on their background, interaction with the epidemic; whether that be via a medical, personal, or social stand point
- ▶ Contact with these persons was done via my own network or accessing the network someone with more experience in the areas I sought to examine and engage

# Challenges

- ▶ The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone to blame it on.  
Robert Bloch







The World breaks everyone and afterward  
many are stronger in the broken places.

Ernest Hemingway - A Farewell to Arms

# References

- ▶ <http://throughpositiveeyes.org/>
- ▶ <https://vimeo.com/joedonaldson>
- ▶ <http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/barbados>
- ▶ "Get Creative - Broken a Pot? Copy the Japanese and Fix It with Gold." *BBC Arts*, BBC, [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/326qTYw26156P9k92v8zr3C/broken-a-pot-copy-the-japanese-and-fix-it-with-gold](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/326qTYw26156P9k92v8zr3C/broken-a-pot-copy-the-japanese-and-fix-it-with-gold).