

For Immediate Release

RED is not only the talk in politics this month – it is also the talk of the HIV/AIDS community as Positive Living BC announces. RED ... A Positive Day! A celebration of colour, community, couture & caring



Vancouver, BC, October 20th, 2015 –An all-star cast of local dancers, models, designers, fashion retailers, hair stylists, and make-up artists will create fun and drama on the runway to support the work of Positive Living BC and its 5,700 HIV-positive members across BC...All in front of an expected sold-out crowd at the historic, grand Commodore Ballroom(868 Granville Street).

RED A celebration of colour, community, couture & caring, will take guests on a 90-minute theatrical journey through the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. The inaugural event involves over 200 volunteer artists, entertainers and technicians donating their time and talent to benefit Positive Living BC’s programs for aboriginal women, men and lower-income members across BC.

“Twenty years ago, people were dying from AIDS... we lost many of the most artistic, creative, passionate people in our community,” said the show’s producer, Dean Thullner. For Thullner, the event is a dramatic homage to them, as well as “a reminder that all of us are still needed and affected in this cause,” says Thullner. “As a gay man living with HIV I’ve had a lot of support dealing with my illness from my community and this is an opportunity for Vancouver’s finest creative community to pay some of that forward and remind aboriginal women and men and so many others struggling with HIV that we are still a community that cares and understands the need for support!”

“**RED** is going to re-energize our community in ways we haven’t seen in decades,” says Valerie Nicholson, Chair of the Positive Living BC Board. “Already, we’re excited to see so many dedicated, talented and giving volunteers putting on this extravagant show to help our members **THRIVE**.”

The impact of living with HIV is often forgotten now that so many are living longer with the disease, but as Thullner’s own life illustrates, the journey is not an easy one. “There are times I needed critical support, and I want to make sure that support is there for everyone who needs it.”

Proceeds from **RED** bolster the health and confidence of some of the most marginalized people living with HIV across the province, empowering them to manage the social, medical and legal challenges of living with HIV. Positive Living BC is Canada’s largest HIV organization run by and for its HIV-positive members; annually, the Society sees over 16,000 visits. Funds raised at **RED** means Positive Living BC’s HIV-positive members access during these visits HIV-specific naturopathy, dental hygiene and attend transformative Healing Retreats. **RED** also helps support different populations, including men (via social and networking groups), indigenous peoples (peer navigator training), and women (ViVA program).

To purchase general admission tickets for RED! (\$60 in advance; VIP Tables of 6 for \$600), see a full list of **RED** talent, or for more information about the event, please visit www.REDVancouver.ca.

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