

Dear Parent,

Your high school student has been invited to participate in a collaboration between the Vashon High School Drama Club and Island artists West McLean, Peter Serko, and Chris Boscia as part of World AIDS Day (Dec 1st) activities.

The project is a video recreation of a speech given by AIDS activist Vito Russo in 1988 known as "Why We Fight". The speech is considered one of the most important milestones in the early years of the AIDS epidemic and the AIDS activist movement. Vito's speech was a call to action that marked an important turning point in the movement's history. The AIDS activist movement would go on to become one of the most effective and successful activist movements in history saving millions of lives worldwide.

Each student will be responsible for performing a section from the speech on camera. Students will be coached and directed by noted director Chris Boscia. In preparation for their performance, students will watch a CNN documentary about the epidemic's early years to help orient them to the nature of the epidemic in the 1980s and the issues faced by people with AIDS at that time.

Our goal is to create a polished professional presentation that will be made public and sharable by students and others on social media. The video will only be used for educational purposes by us. In keeping with standard industry practice, we require a signed "talent release" form. If your student is younger than 18 the release must be signed by you and the student to allow their participation. Students who do not have a signed release can not participate in the video but will benefit from the educational component of our program.

You can find out more information at: [vashonworldaidsday.org/course/why-we-fight/](http://vashonworldaidsday.org/course/why-we-fight/)