

Rear View: September 2022

Monthly spotlight on an item from the HIV/AIDS Graphic Communication Archive

Chosen by Donna Riddington

“Catwalk4Power is a grassroots empowerment project for women with HIV, led by women with HIV. Since late 2017, I am honoured to have had various creative ally roles on this project.

The featured zine marks a collaboration between London-based Catwalk4Power women and ‘Sussex Sisters of Power’. Other zines produced include ‘Manchester Beautiful Bees’, London-based ‘We Rise’ and ‘I Am Here’. Across the front and reverse pages of the Sussex Sisters of Power zine, positive affirmations from women with HIV fill the sky and women from the group are collaged into Brighton beach scenery. Unfolded, the zine reveals images of women in creative roles, as well as messages from allies and support networks, plus local stats referencing women with HIV.

To fight HIV stigma, Catwalk4Power women held workshops on leadership, they strutted, sewed costumes, wrote poetry, set up market stalls, spoke on panels about HIV community building, and produced online content for the [Catwalk4Power toolkit](#). The project has graced performance stages in London, Manchester, Brighton, Amsterdam, and beyond.

Catwalk4Power started as a collaboration between Positively UK Women and Act Up London Women, and is based on creative direct action methods learnt from feminist organising tactics and legendary Act Up actions. A matriarchal line runs through all of this. Refer to the zine ‘We Rise’, you’ll see a hand drawn flyer, sketched during the earliest days of the AIDS pandemic. Founders of Positive Women (now Positively UK), Sheila and Janey, put this flyer up around Soho, inviting other women also living with HIV/AIDS, to meet for support at their flat.

The Catwalk4Power legacy continues in the wonderful work that women with HIV lead on, in Positively UK Women’s Room spaces, via the toolkit or where ever people take up Catwalk4Power approaches to create their own events.”

31 SUSSEX SISTERS OF POWER / CATWALK4POWER zine



Catwalk4Power, Positively UK and Sussex Sisters of Power. Zine: A3 folding to A5. Design: Donna Riddington. 2019.

September Guest Curator

Donna Riddington is a multidisciplinary artist and graphic designer based in London. Her artist practice often involves community collaborations to empower people, using artistic, creative methods. Most recently, Donna has been involved in activism that brings visibility to healthcare access, fighting pharma greed, and fighting stigma surrounding HIV and HCV. She is a Senior Graphic Designer at Crisis UK.

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