

a e DVD

# An Early Frost 1985 TV Movie Available on DVD

## REVIEW BY MIKHAEL YOWE

NBC first broadcast *An Early Frost* on November 11, 1985, when it beat Monday night football as the top-rated program that night. People wanted to know something, anything, about this new disease that was sweeping the country. The movie won four of the fourteen Emmys that it was nominated for.

The DVD hit the streets on July 18 of this year. I didn't even know this movie existed until now.

*An Early Frost* was the first major film to look at the AIDS crisis. Well, it didn't exactly look at the whole crisis. It followed one young man's interaction with his family as he became ill and found out he had AIDS.

I watched this movie three days ago, knowing that it would push all my buttons, and it did. It was a trip back in time to a place where my friends were dying. It was a place where everyone was afraid and confused about what was going on and what to do about it.

It was a year after the broadcast that my friends died and our little girl was diagnosed with HIV. I can remember the horror of that day and the year that followed. It seems ironic that she died two years to the day after the movie aired.

As I watched the movie, I could relate to the emotions of the characters. The realistic portrayal of people's reactions to

AIDS and those who had it reminded me of how some of our friends and family shied away, or found excuses not to come around. But in 1985, the average person didn't know how it was contracted.

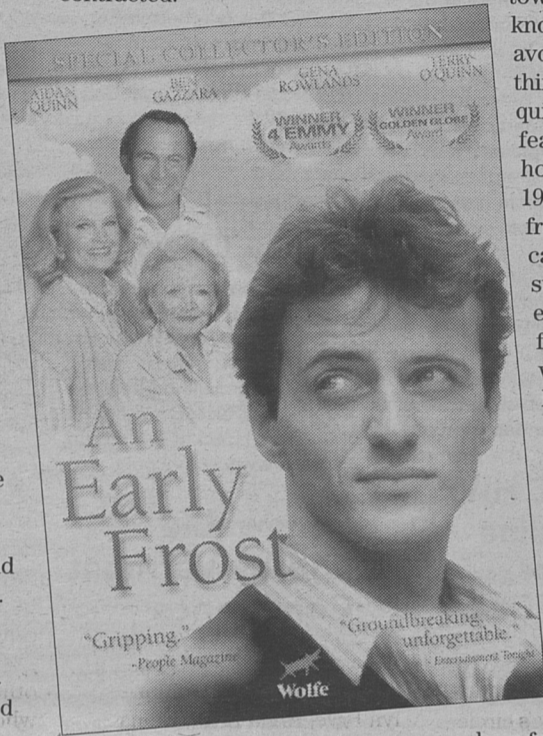
deal with their fathers. Aidan Quinn's portrayal of Michael was powerful. His self-effacing struggle was evident though out the movie.

This movie went a long way toward letting Americans know how they could avoid getting AIDS. I think that it probably quieted some people's fears. I wonder, though, how many people in 1985 were turned off from the movie because it was a gay man struggling with the disease. His family was forced to cope not just with AIDS, but also his homosexuality. But back then, maybe everyone else really thought that it was just a gay disease, and they could sit back and not worry about it.

Watching this movie and looking back twenty-one years reminds me

how far we have come since the epidemic started. It also reminds me how far we still have to go. It is a good movie. It is a reminder that the battle is not over. *An Early Frost* is relevant today, because as always, history repeats itself until we learn from past mistakes. ▼

**➔** Michael Yowe is a married trans-queer leatherman who lives in Williamstown, Vermont.



IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED, OR IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEE

## It's better to know



### YOU CAN GET HEALTH CARE AND TREATMENT IF YOU TEST POSITIVE.

For information on HIV testing:

- call toll-free from in Vermont  
**800-882-AIDS (800-882-2437)\***
- for hearing impaired TTY access  
**800-319-3141\***
- or visit us on-line at  
**http://www.healthyvermonters.info**

\* The Vermont AIDS Hotline is open weekdays, 8:30-4:30. (For information 24/7, call the National AIDS Hotline **800-342-2437**.)

**Take the TEST. Take CONTROL.**



IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEEDLE SINCE YOUR LAST TEST, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AN HIV TEST. IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED, OR IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEEDLE SINCE YOUR LAST TEST, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AN HIV TEST.

IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEEDLE SINCE YOUR LAST TEST, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AN HIV TEST. IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TESTED, OR IF YOU'VE HAD UNPROTECTED SEX OR SHARED A NEEDLE SINCE YOUR LAST TEST, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET AN HIV TEST.

## HIV/AIDS PROGRAM info

To learn more about:

- HIV testing
- Benefits of knowing your HIV status
- Treatment, support and counseling options

Call Vermont AIDS Hotline:

**1-800-882-AIDS**



Three bedroom home in Five Sisters neighborhood. It is very well maintained with its original charming woodwork & flooring. Updates include a new furnace, plumbing & most wiring. There are thermal windows, slate roof a 2-car tandem garage and a private fenced yard.  
\$399,900 [www.Burlington5Sisters.com](http://www.Burlington5Sisters.com)



Great country home with privacy galore! Upgrades everywhere from cherry kitchen cabinets, new stainless steel appliances, & granite countertops. New carpet, painted interior & exterior in 2003. Family room with hearth and woodstove, formal dining room, media room with great bath and Jacuzzi tub just to name a few.  
\$419,000 [www.UnderhillColonial.com](http://www.UnderhillColonial.com)



You will love the soaring vaulted ceiling in the living/dining area in this impeccably maintained 3 bedroom home. The 3-season sunroom is perfect for your morning coffee. Other features include 40 year architectural shingles on the roof, and a furnace recently converted to natural gas, and vinyl siding.  
\$267,900 [www.MiltonRanch.com](http://www.MiltonRanch.com)



**802.655.3335**

**WWW.THEDESAUTELSGROUP.COM**

463 Mountain View Dr, Colchester - 802.655.3333



The Desautels Group

WE KNOW WHAT HOME



MEANS TO YOU!



Bill Ext. 217 Jon Ext. 260 Virginia Ext. 268 Sarah Ext. 230 David Ext. 243 Kathie Ext. 251 Deb Ext. 267 Rob Ext. 245 Diane Ext. 221