

KISSED ON THE LIPS

Written by Steven Esteb

Based on real events, the epic journey of a broken porn director, hiding from a sociopathic drug dealer, who reluctantly becomes part of the final equations of people living at an AIDS hospice in 1992 New Orleans.

A six episode limited series.

JOE WILDER went to Hollywood with dreams of making movies and changing the world. It didn't work out. Now he works in the underbelly of North Hollywood making crappy porn videos. He's a loser, and he knows it.

He gets in too deep with cocaine and a Russian drug dealer, forced to run for his life.

Hiding at an old college friend's house in Uptown New Orleans, he gets a lifeline. His friend offers to pay his debt if he makes a documentary about an AIDS hospice where his lover just died.

1992 New Orleans, a city of beauty and decay, where ghosts often seem more prevalent than the living.

The AIDS pandemic is at its peak, seemingly unsolvable, a human tragedy with massive social and political consequences. Treatments seem to do more harm than good. People are suffering and dying at an alarming rate. The US government has been slow, nearly absent, in its response to the disease.

Families are being split apart from fear and prejudice. Young gay men are being treated like pariahs, and as it has spread to the I.V. drug community and gotten into our blood supply, more and more people are facing the dire consequences.

The theme of this story is simple: You can change everything and make a miracle happen no matter who you are, if you just listen to your heart. It's both intimate and massive in its scope, with moments of great sadness and pain, heroic beauty, and dark deathbed humor.

The hospice is managed by KAT, an eccentric nun who will do anything, including breaking every fucking rule, to give each human being in her care a beautiful death. She has fallen in love with a dying resident, MICK, a former circus clown and Jesuit monk who is a controversial voice and AIDS advocate. And she can't come to terms with his inevitable passing.

The other residents are a tragic gumbo of broken dreams and unfulfilled expectations. TONY, a talented singer who never got his chance to record the album of his dreams. BILLY, an autistic teenage hemophiliac who got AIDS from a blood transfusion and

works at McDonalds. LIZ LESTER, dark and beautiful, who has just lost her husband to the disease. JACK, let out of Angola Prison to die after contracting AIDS inside.

Finally, DAISY, a young prostitute and heroin addict, forced to give up her child, left angry and resentful of the world that betrayed her at every turn. She falls head over heels for Joe.

The heart of this story is Joe's transformation from a self indulgent broken hearted loser to the kind of man that can change the world.

In the end, he marries Daisy just before her death.

From the pain and sadness of Lazarus House, to Joe's transcendent journey to Washington D.C. with Liz to deliver her husband's quilt panel to the Names Project, to a riot in front of the White House, fighting through police on horseback to throw human ashes on to the lawn.

KISSED ON THE LIPS takes us from the intimate suffering of regular people to the triumphant reunions of broken families accepting their sons for who they are, in the last moments of their lives.

It's a snapshot of what's wrong and what's right with America. It speaks to our time as strongly as it did in 1992, challenging us to be better.

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