

Carla and Jamal

Playing It Safe



INCEPTION
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Mature Content

Carla and Jamal

Playing It Safe

Visionaries:

SA Health, WA Health, NT Health and QLD Health formed a partnership to fund the production of a blood-borne virus awareness comic and poster series.

Workshops:

The workshops to develop the script were held with young people in Adelaide and Perth.

Production:

Damian:	Workshops, Script, Creative Supervision
Rachel:	Project Manager
Chris:	Workshop Notes and Script
Jintaiquan, Weiyl:	Pencils and Inks
K. Loh:	Colours
Jaymes:	Letters
Diane, Jax, Kelly:	Editing
Rachel, Mengling:	Editing
Erik, Orlando, Liz:	Proofing
Rachel, Elsie:	Proofing
Lesley:	Pre-press

Thanks:

Lisa Bastian, Christina Phung, Daniel Gallant, Lindsay Krassnitzer, Andrew Young and Judith Bevan.

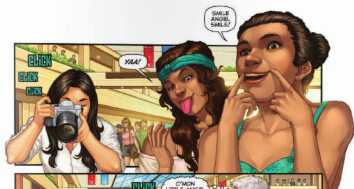


Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

We hope this comic helps to reduce the spread of blood-borne viruses and assists the community to better understand the importance of needle and syringe programs.

Damian Amamoo, CEO, Inception Strategies

www.inceptionstrategies.com

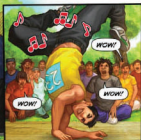


*MUMS AND DADS SHOULD ENSURE THEIR CHILDREN ARE VACCINATED FOR HEPATITIS B SO THEY ARE PROTECTED FROM INFECTION.



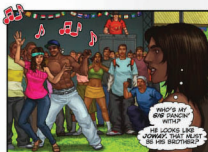


LATER, STREET BEATS YOUTH CENTRE











*HIV CAN BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH SEX WITHOUT A CONDOM, SHARING DRUG INJECTING EQUIPMENT, UNSTERILISED EQUIPMENT USED FOR SKIN PENETRATION (E.G. TATTOOING AND PIERCING), AND FROM AN INFECTED MOTHER TO CHILD DURING PREGNANCY OR CHILD BIRTH.



*IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE TESTED REGULARLY SO TREATMENT CAN COMMENCE EARLY IF HIV INFECTION OCCURS.





NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGE NEXT MORNING



NEXT DAY AT MALIKIZOH'S HOUSE



I WANNA GET A TATTOO IN MEMORY OF MY BROTHER, JOWAY.

COMIN' RIGHT UP.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BROTHER, MAN. WERE YOU CLOSE?



JOWAY DIED WHEN I WAS 15.

WE WERE CLOSE WHEN HIS WAS LITTLE. THEN WE DRIFTED APART AND HE DID MORE OF HIS OWN THING. I WISH I GOT TO KNOW HIM BETTER.

GO MALIKIZOH, WHERE'D YOU GET THE TATTOO GUN?



I MADE IT MYSELF, MAN.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE INK BOTTLES? DO YOU THROW 'EM AWAY AFTER EACH JOB?



NAH, IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.

MAL, DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN SPREAD BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES* BY RE-USING THE SAME INK BOTTLES?



I KNOW WHAT I'M DOIN'. I NEVER INFECTED NOBODY. HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT STUFF?

RELAX, MALIKIZOH.

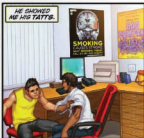
*BLOOD BORNE VIRUSES (BBVs) CAN BE SPREAD DURING TATTOOING AND PIERCING BY REUSING EQUIPMENT THAT CONTAINS TRACES OF INFECTED BLOOD. EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING INKS) SHOULD EITHER BE NEW, SINGLE-USE OR STERILIZED. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT TATTOOS ARE ONLY DONE BY PROFESSIONAL TATTOOISTS WORKING OUT OF ESTABLISHED STUDIOS.

I WAS GETTING MY TRAVEL SHOTS WITH DR. CLINTON BEFORE I WENT BACK TO VIETNAM FOR A HOLIDAY.

WE GOT TALKIN' ABOUT TATTOOS.



HE SHOWED ME HIS TATTOO.



HE WAS TELLIN' ME ALL ABOUT THE HISTORY OF TATTOOS. IT WAS AMAZIN'!"



*SCIENTISTS HAVE FOUND TATTOOS ON THE SKIN OF A MAN WHO LIVED IN 3000 B.C. WHILE THE REASONS FOR TATTOOS VARY ACROSS AGES AND CULTURES, THE PRACTICE OF DECORATING THE HUMAN BODY WITH SYMBOLS IS WIDESPREAD.



I TOLD HIM I WAS THINKING OF GETTING ONE TOO. THAT'S WHEN HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THE INFECTION THROUGH BLOOD-TO-BLOOD CONTACT THING.

HAS THAT INK BEEN USED BEFORE?



NAH, MAN!

MAYBE I SHOULD GET TESTED ANYWAY.

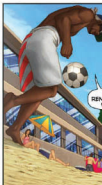
THEY GET A NEEDLE/ SYRINGE READY TO USE



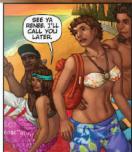
FOLKIE, WE HAVE A 6-MONTH-OLD BABY GIRL WITH A NEEDLESTICK INJURY FROM ONE OF OUR PUBLIC PARKS.



ARE THESE NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAMS MAKING OUR STREETS SAFER? OR ARE THEY MAKING THE PROBLEM WORSE? I'M TAKING CALLS NOW!











BUT FIRST DAY OUT HE WENT TO DREW'S HOUSE. THEY SHARED A NEEDLE* AND WENT OUT TO PARTY.



*SHARING INJECTING EQUIPMENT PLACES YOU AT RISK OF BLOOD-BORNE VIRUS INFECTIONS. THE BLOOD OF A PERSON WITH HIV, HEPATITIS B OR HEPATITIS C, CAN TRANSMIT THE INFECTION TO ANOTHER PERSON IF INJECTING EQUIPMENT (SUCH AS NEEDLES, SYRINGES, TOWAQUET, WATER, SPOONS, SHABS AND DRUG MOO) IS SHARED.

WHEN THEY WERE DRUNK, DREW CONFESSED TO JONWAY THAT HE HAD BEEN UNFAITHFUL.



GAVIN, THE DEALER, GAVE DREW SOME DRUGS IN EXCHANGE FOR FAVOURS. THEY ALSO SHARED INJECTING EQUIPMENT AND THAT'S HOW DREW CAUGHT HEP C.



DREW APOLOGISED TO JONWAY FOR BEING UNFAITHFUL, BUT JONWAY WAS ANGRY THAT DREW DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT BEING HEP C POSITIVE.



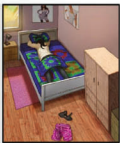
I DIDN'T KNOW HE'D BOUGHT SOME HEROIN, AND HIS TOLERANCE WAS LOW 'CAUSE HE DIDN'T USE ANY IN DETENTION.



I FOUND HIM DEAD FROM AN OVERDOSE* THE NEXT MORNING.



*DON'T USE DRUGS ON YOUR OWN. IF SOMEONE IS UNCONSCIOUS OR IN TROUBLE CALL 000 AND ASK FOR THE AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY. POLICE ARE NOT CALLED OUT UNLESS AMBULANCE OFFICERS CALL FOR HELP OR A DEATH OCCURS. IF YOU ARE UNSURE IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY YOU CAN STILL CALL THE AMBULANCE FOR HELP. AMBULANCE OFFICERS WILL HELP YOU OVER THE PHONE WHILE THE AMBULANCE IS COMING.







TWO MONTHS LATER



OF COURSE I'LL SUPPORT YOU, YOU'RE MY BROTHER!

TONIGHT WE HAVE A DEBATE ABOUT THE ETHICS OF NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAMS* IN OUR SOCIETY.

OUR GUEST PANELISTS ARE...

Have your say

...MRS PHOEBE SMYTHE FROM CITIZENS FOR ZERO TOLERANCE...

...DR CLINTON FROM ROYAL HOSPITAL...

...DAVINN, AN ABORIGINAL ELDER AND GRANDMOTHER...

...AND GRAVIN, A PAST INJECTING DRUG USER.

*ALSO KNOWN AS NSP'S OR CLEAN NEEDLE PROGRAMS (CNP)

RECENTLY ANGIE, A SWEET INNOCENT BABY, RECEIVED A NEEDLESTICK INJURY IN A LOCAL PARK.

HER MOTHER HAD TO ENDURE AN AGONISING 3-MONTH WAIT TO FIND OUT IF HER CHILD WAS INFECTED WITH HIV OR HEP C. SHOULD WE REALLY BE RUNNING NEEDLES AND SYRINGE PROGRAMS THAT PUT MORE NEEDLES OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY? PHOEBE SMYTHE, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I DON'T BELIEVE NSP'S DO ANY GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY. THEY'RE MAKING STREETS AND PARKS MORE DANGEROUS BECAUSE THEY ENCOURAGE DRUG USE AND PUT MORE SYRINGES OUT THERE. EVEN A BABY ISN'T SAFE FROM DIRTY NEEDLES.

DAVINN, YOU WERE THERE WHEN ANGIE WAS INJURED. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT NSP'S?

I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ANGIE. BUT WE NEED MORE NSP'S BECAUSE THEY PROMOTE SAFE DISPOSAL OF NEEDLES AND SYRINGES THROUGH EDUCATION AND PROVISION OF SHARP'S CONTAINERS.

I HAVE A NEPHEW WHO ACCESSSED AN NSP AND GOT ADVICE ABOUT HOW TO GET HELP AND GIVE UP DRUGS ALTOGETHER.

DR CLINTON, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

NSP'S KEEP THE COMMUNITY SAFER FROM ANY AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES (BBV'S).

MORE NEEDLES KEEPING THE PUBLIC SAFER? HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?

YES, MORE NEEDLES DO MAKE THE COMMUNITY SAFER. WITH NSP'S, INJECTING DRUG USERS HAVE ACCESS TO STERILE INJECTING EQUIPMENT.



A LOWER INFECTION RATE FOR INJECTING DRUG USERS MEANS A LOWER INFECTION RATE ACROSS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, MAKING EVERYBODY SAFER, INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO DON'T USE DRUGS.



Hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV are blood borne viruses (BBVs), which means they can be transmitted from the blood of a person with a BBV to another person. Sharing injecting equipment, using unsterile tattooing or piercing equipment, or anything that could have someone's blood on it can put you at risk of getting a BBV. Hepatitis B and HIV can also be transmitted through unprotected sex, and it is possible that a pregnant woman with these infections can pass them on to her unborn child.

BBVs can cause serious illness, but they can all be prevented. Treatments are available but you may have to take them for a long time. The best way to keep yourself safe from BBVs is to always use condoms and never share any injecting equipment, unsterile piercing or tattooing gear, or anything that could have someone else's blood on it. It is important to get tested regularly.

For more information about blood borne virus prevention (including hepatitis B vaccination), testing and treatment please contact your health worker or local health clinic, or one of the agencies below.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

Hepatitis WA

Hepatitis Helpline: (08) 9328 8538 (Metro)
1800 800 070 (Country)
www.hepatitiswa.com.au

Western Australian Substance Users' Association (WASUA)

(08) 9321 2877
www.wasua.com.au

WA AIDS Council (WAAC)

(08) 9482 0000
www.waaidc.com

Freedom Centre

(08) 9228 0354
www.freedom.org.au

QUEENSLAND:

Queensland Health

13 HEALTH (13 432584)
www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth

Hepatitis Queensland

1300 HEP ABC (1300 437 222)
www.hepqld.asn.au

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ)

(07) 3844 9166
www.eccq.com.au

Queensland Positive People

(07) 3013 5555
www.qpp.org.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

Free and confidential sexual health and BBV testing and treatment is available at:

Clinic 34

Darwin	(08) 8999 2678
Nhulunbuy	(08) 8987 0357
Katherine	(08) 89739049
Alice Springs	(08) 8951 7549
Tennant Creek	(08) 8962 4603

http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Clinic_34/index.aspx

NT AIDS and Hepatitis Council

Provides confidential support to people with HIV and Hepatitis C and operates a Needle and Syringe Program

Darwin	(08) 8944 7777
Palmerston	(08) 8931 3676
Alice Springs	(08) 8953 3172

<http://www.ntahc.org.au/>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Clinic 275

No appointment necessary: (08) 8222 5075 (metro) 1800 806 490 (regional callers)
<http://www.stdservices.on.net/Default.aspx>

Hepatitis SA

Hepatitis SA Helpline (08) 8362 8443
or 1300 437 222 (regional callers)
www.hepatitissa.asn.au

The AIDS Council of South Australia

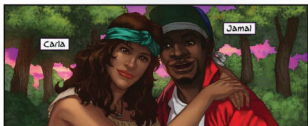
Telephone Information Service (08) 8334 1611
<http://www.acsa.org.au/home.html>

Sexual Health information networking and education (SHine SA)

Free sexual health services for women and men under the age of 25

East/West Adelaide	Woodville	(08) 8300 5300
Northern Adelaide	Davoren Park	(08) 8256 0700
Southern Adelaide	Christies Beach	(08) 8186 8600

<http://www.shinesa.org.au/>



We would like to thank the following talented people for their assistance in developing the storyline: Francis Oneka, Michael Blackwell, Chloe Wallace, Robert Charles, G-Marl Jamal, Aimee-Jo Christensen, Jessica Gray, Hayden Wilson, Dawnn Graham, Shanamae Davies, Emilia Ling, Jarad Turvey, Glen Rodney, Jonnie, Malikizoh, John Edwards, Josh Loo, Ian Gowing, Angie Roche, Michael Nguyen, Quang Thanh Nguyen and Carole Rogomaicake.