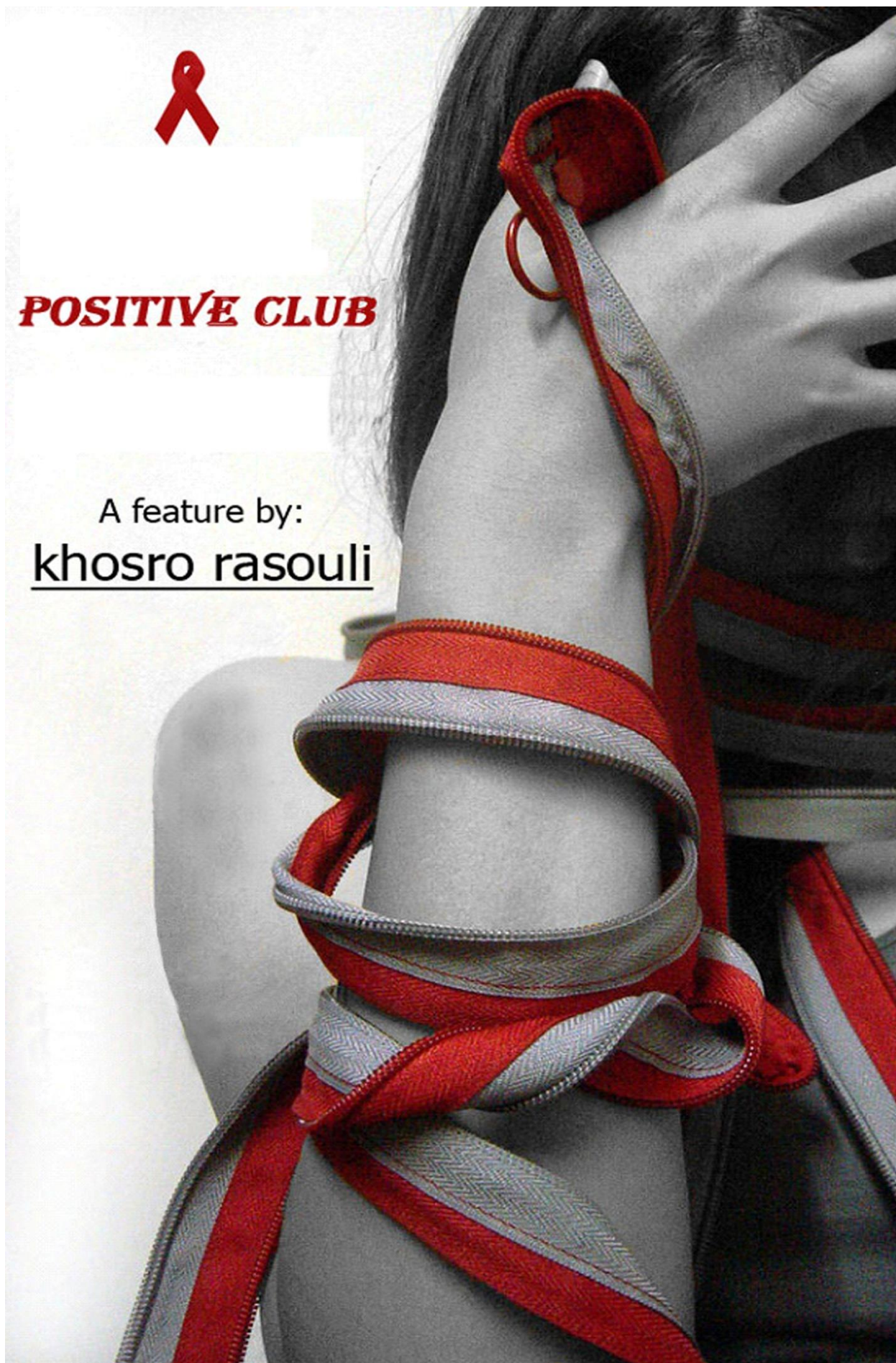




POSITIVE CLUB

A feature by:
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A summary of the program

Over the thousands of years of human civilization, men and women have not had equal rights, yet. In many societies, women are still more victims of sexual look of society and their relatives. One of the situations where men and women do not share similar conditions is when they face with HIV disease. The women suffering HIV, experience severe mental and social stress, whereas men do not as much.

The documentary of “Positive Club” is a story about the life of women suffering from HIV in my city. They gather one day a week in order to forget their unsaid sufferings for a while. The sufferings, which are due on the one hand to the very HIV disease and to mental stress of the community.

The social approach of some communities is that all women suffering from HIV are simply permissive in their sexual behaviors and this could be very painful for the most women who live in the strict societies.

While the women with AIDS often contract the virus from their lawful spouses they are always victims sexual looks of their families, relatives and society and are always punished for something they are never guilty of it.

Some fun and party atmosphere created by several women in a class titled as “Positive Club”, a psychologist who is speaking about “hope” in current session, at the same time it goes announcing the name of the place (Positive Club) by the individual women and then by the whole women and finally, they all brake into applause ...

- Music goes and then fun and party continues ...

- Narration:(00.52)

Here is Positive Club. This club differs from any other clubs in the world. Some women gather round here one day a week in order to forget their sorrows for a while. Beyond this joy and fun, each of them have their own sad story deserve to be heard.

- First woman:(01.30)

I have no more hope since I met the doctor the day before yesterday. For a small operation, he asks me to go to Tehran(capital city),“because you are infected with HIV and we cannot hospitalize you here”. Well, I go who with? I have nobody to go with. My parents are not aware of my illness. My brothers don’t know I am infected with HIV and still, my husband died, so who on earth can I ask to take me to Tehran?

- The psychologist:(01.44)

You should speak to one of your family members about the issue, anyway.

- First woman:(01.48)

Nobody believes me. How can I tell them that I was infected with HIV by my ex-husband? Nobody ever listens.

- The psychologist:(01.54)

No, no, I mean you bring them into the clinic. Here, we explain them from the tests when you were infected with HIV and when your ex-husband passed away.

- First woman:(02.03)

I swear to God they won't believe me. Definitely they don't believe a word Of it.

- Second woman:(02.07)

What do you think of my family who claims to be urban settlers? I still couldn't dare to tell them about my infection with HIV. I can't think how to tell my problem to them. Even yesterday, when some discussion of AIDS disease occurred at home I lost my cool. I just couldn't understand how I sat there and when I stood up and went away. I nearly died of anxiety. It's just so hard, very ... we live in a society where they have stereotypical image of the disease and think that all people suffering from AIDS tend to be affected by illicit relations. But it's not true. I myself got the disease from a dentist's. She's standing over there has got the disease from her husband, the other one has also got it from her husband.

- First woman:(02.48)

We should keep the disease secret till we've been buried in the grave. When we die, we'll be left in peace.

- Second woman:

No, we won't die.

- First woman:

Why not? We will ... All too soon we'll die ... How can you be sure that we won't?

- Second woman:

We won't die. The one who suffers from cancer will die in forty days ... but we don't die as soon.

- First woman:

But I know for sure we'll die. So soon will we die.

- Music:(03.01)

- Narration:(03.14)

According to recoded statistics, about 40 million people affected with HIV virus are living in the world out of them nearly 18 million are women. The experts observed that apparently, the real statistics must be five to ten times more than that. But, which factors cause people suffering from AIDS, especially women, to hide their illness?

- Short piece of music:(03.45)

- Third woman:(03.57)

I got the fright of going out, just in case somebody realizes I have AIDS and looks me up and down.

- Short piece of music:(03.56)

- Forth woman:(04.00)

I made my mind to tell I got lung cancer.

- Short piece of music:(04.03)

- Fifth woman:(04.08)

I was scared of going out and I was still alone in the building.

-short piece of music:(04.12)

- First woman:(04.18)

I turned on the gas to be choked once forever but my child was there and I couldn't do that so I hurried to turn it off.

-music:(04.24)

-Doctor:(04.40)

Why we say women are important but men are not? If a woman gets the disease, from her lawful spouse of course, and if she is deserted by her husband, what do you think of what they'll talk behind her back rather than a man who has even a wife and establishes a sexual relation? We have more often the cases where the husband contracted the disease through an infected syringe and then he sexually transmitted the disease to his lawful wife before he died. Now, since she was dependent economically on her husband, she needs a job, she needs to live. Can she find a job? Moreover, in the absence of her husband, can this woman tell her community that, "I've got AIDS"? A man is also subject to the same issues but because of laws and many other structural issues involving the women in some societies, the problem turns to be of great importance, too.

- Music:(05.33)

- Narration:(05.50)

In recent years, although the number of people suffered from AIDS in the countries located in Western Europe has been decreased, the trend continues to be increased in the countries located in Asia and Eastern Europe and the main part of the growth is seen among the women living in these countries. Women as the compulsory receivers of the disease can find no opportunity to express themselves.

- Short piece of music:(06.19)

- Forth woman:(06.28)

At this moment in time, I have a thousand and one problems, apart from the disease. Because my husband who was addicted passed away. I have to cover living expenses of my two children by myself. There're so problems and still, imagine that I have the kind of illness at the same time. I need medical expenses while I haven't any job. I have to be both mother and father. If I'm to bring up my children I should be healthy. I need to earn my living so that I can stand on my own feet. Who provides me with cost of living? Who handles my living?

-short piece of music:(07.03)

- Second woman (crying):(07.12)

I was sitting tenant. I have no job so I caused my widowed mother discomfort. The governments should support people suffering the disease. Why they don't pay attention to our problems? Why not anybody listens to our confidences? Once I was working somewhere as a nurse. A person realized my problem and informed them and they fired me. This disease looks bad in people's view. Looking at patients suffering cancer, why do they take pity on them? What's wrong with us? You see? The society look at us with contempt ... why?

- Short piece of music:(07.46)

- The first woman's daughter recites a poem:(07.58)

My mother has combed my hair again

She has drawn a picture of butterfly on my dress

My mother entrusts me to God again

She touches her caressing hands on my head

Laughter has become guest staying at everyone's lips

It's about time I go to school

-music:(08.25)

-narration:(08.37)

-music:(08.58)

- First woman:(09.06)

As God is our witness, if this child was not existed I would have killed myself. I swear on Quran, to Fatima. How I can find anybody to tell that I've this disease? Wherever I consult, I'm told why don't you marry? You're still young. Be sure and marry to someone. They don't even know what's wrong with me? Who I can tell my sorrow to? If I speak about my problem then they circulate it

everywhere.

- Third woman:(09.06)

I'm told the same things. We have no choice. They ask me why you don't marry.

- Second woman (humorously):(09.37)

Then tell them, "I'm looking for a bank boss", or "a new president who asks for my hand in marriage". If you say these then no one will insist ... laughter of club goes all around ... and music ...

the end