BROOKLYN, NY (May 17, 2021)-- VICE TV, America’s fastest growing entertainment cable network1, announced today the commission of a special documentary film which will mark the 40th anniversary of HIV/AIDS in the USA, voiced by Emmy-nominated television personality, New York Times best-selling author and activist Jonathan Van Ness. The two-hour documentary entitled VICE VERSA: The Neglected Pandemic, 40 Years of HIV & AIDS, will be a comprehensive look at what it is to be HIV positive in the USA in 2021. The special is produced by VICE Studios and distributed worldwide by VICE Distribution. It premieres Wednesday June 2nd at 9 pm ET/PT on VICE TV.

Through personal accounts, insights from different communities, organisations, races, genders and sexual orientations, VICE VERSA: The Neglected Pandemic, 40 Years of HIV & AIDS, will showcase the frontlines of scientific advancements in the field and the reality of the experience. Exploring the truth behind the statistics, viewers will be taken across the

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1Nielsen, Live+Same Day; M-Su 8-11P, 1Q21: 12/28/20-3/28/21 vs. 1Q20: 12/30/29-3/29/20; Cable Networks in more than 60m homes based on 2020 Cal Year Household Coverage Universe Estimates average; TV Usage based on broadcast A18-49 & A25-54 PUTs; Qanon stat based on Total Viewers; Dark Side of the Ring stat based on all key adult demos including A18-49 & Total Viewers, Vice TV-date: 8/29/16-3/28/21.
United States to meet those living with HIV/AIDS, such as Hamilton star and activist Javier Muñoz, and the advocates fighting for better civil rights for the affected communities

Jonathan Van Ness, who stars on Netflix’s Emmy award-winning series Queer Eye, revealed their own HIV positive status in their 2019 memoir Over The Top: A Raw Journey to Self-Love in the hopes it would break the stigma surrounding the disease. Van Ness’ appearance on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert to discuss their book and life with the illness earned a GLAAD Media Award for 'Outstanding Variety or Talk Show Episode.' Van Ness is passionate about using their platform and voice for change and has worked closely with Planned Parenthood and The Trevor Project on campaigns aimed at removing the shame and stigma that comes along with talking about sexual health.

“It made so much sense to partner with VICE TV on this project, as they are built around a mission to tell courageous true stories you won’t see anywhere else told by authentic, first person voices” said narrator Jonathan Van Ness. “Living with HIV has changed my life and my outlook on the world. The HIV Social Safety Net in the United States does not serve people equally and being part of this mission to educate more people is something I’m honored to do.”

The special will also feature insights from Dr. Anthony Fauci, who rose to prominence during the AIDS crisis in 1984, becoming the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a position he still holds today. With a focus on the present, acknowledgement of the past, and an assessment of where we need to go, this powerful and timely film will see America move into a momentous period of change.

“In reflecting on the global response to COVID-19, it is jarring to realize there was a real absence of a united medical and legislative response during the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980’s” said Morgan Hertzan, Executive Vice President and General Manager, VICE TV. “We know now that this was rooted in a lack of regard and compassion towards the communities most affected by the illness. It is tragic to think about how many lives could have been saved and where we might be today had the public been less fearful all those years ago.”

VICE VERSA: The Neglected Pandemic, 40 Years of HIV & AIDS is part of VICE TV’s VICE VERSA strand, a series of independent documentary specials that serve as a hub for compelling storytelling that challenges the status quo. VICE VERSA: The Neglected Pandemic, 40 Years of HIV & AIDS follows VICE VERSA: One Man and His Shoes, a deep dive into the global love affair with Nike’s Air Jordan sneakers; VICE Versa: Bernie Blackout, which investigated whether Bernie Sanders’ campaign for presidency was sabotaged by corporate media bias and the mainstream press; and VICE VERSA: Meghan Markle Escaping The Crown, which explored if institutionalized racism drove the U.K’s first black princess to flee the crown.

VICE TV is available via all major satellite and cable providers and the VICE TV app via iOS, Android, Apple TV, Roku, and Chromecast. For more information about VICE TV, go to VICETV.com

VICE VERSA: The Neglected Pandemic, 40 Years of HIV & AIDS is narrated by Jonathan Van Ness. Executive producer is Yonni Usiskin and co-executive producer is Lexi Rose.
Directed and produced by Linda McCarthy for VICE Studios. Falguni Lakhani Adams is Executive Producer for VICE TV and Tara Nadolny is Senior Development Manager for VICE TV. Catherine Whyte is EVP, Head of Production, VICE TV. VICE Distribution, the global distribution division of VICE Media Group, holds worldwide rights.

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ABOUT VICE TV
VICE TV is the Emmy®-winning international television network from VICE Media Group. Since its inception in 2016, the channel has ushered new audiences to cable with its compelling and provocative programming. Boldly redefining news and current affairs, VICE TV produces hundreds of hours of original content for over 150 million homes worldwide. Built around a mission to tell courageous stories you won’t see anywhere else, told by the people you won’t hear from anywhere else, VICE TV showcases the best in informative and entertaining original series, documentaries and movies, and is the destination for content that challenges popular knowledge and opinion.

ABOUT VICE STUDIOS
VICE Studios is a global production and distribution division within VICE Media Group delivering premium original programming across documentary, scripted and film. With development and production teams in the USA, Canada, UK, Europe, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, VICE Studios cuts through culture, delivering stories that are popular, human and spotlight the unexpected for audiences around the world.

VICE Studios also houses VICE’s new licensing and distribution group, with a catalogue of over 1000 hours of programming created across the VICE Media Group, across a range of genres from documentary to lifestyle to Vice News.

VICE Studios upcoming original productions include Flee, World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize winner at Sundance 2021, six-part documentary series Pride which launches 14 May on FX, an ‘American Gladiators’ docs series with ESPN, and Moments Like This Never Last which premiered at DOCNYC. Launched in 2017, VICE Studios productions include Chris Smith’s Emmy-nominated Jim & Andy: The Great Beyond and Fyre: The Greatest Party that Never Happened (Netflix); feature film The Report starring Adam Driver and Annette Bening (Amazon); Diego Osorno’s 1994 (Netflix), Dark Side of the Ring (VICE TV), AKA Jane Roe (FX), and Satanic Verses (BBC).

ABOUT VICE MEDIA GROUP
VICE Media Group is the world’s largest independent youth media company. Launched in 1994, VICE has offices in 35 cities across the globe with a focus on five key businesses: VICE.com, an award-winning international network of digital content; VICE STUDIOS, a feature film and television production studio; VICE TV, an Emmy-winning international television network; a Peabody award-winning NEWS division with the most Emmy-awarded nightly news broadcast; and VIRTUE, a global, full-service creative agency with 25 offices around the world. VICE Media Group’s portfolio includes Refinery29, the leading global media and entertainment company focused on women; PULSE Films, a London-based next-generation production studio with outposts in Los Angeles, New York, Paris and Berlin; and i-D, a global digital and quarterly magazine defining fashion and contemporary culture.