

VCCT Play**An actor walks in.**

Nurse: Hello everyone! I've come to talk about a new sickness that we have here in this country. All of us in the Pacific are in danger from this illness, either through getting infected or having to look after friends and family who have become infected... **[All the actors come in and watch.]** This sickness is called AIDS...

All: AIDS?!

Boy: Not again!

Girl: We know all about AIDS!

Nurse: You know everything do you? **[The nurse waits for an answer.]** Okay... tell me how you get AIDS.. Go on.

Boy: Umm...

Girl: People who sleep around get it.

Boy: Prostitutes and gays!

Nurse: That's what you think? Okay..tell me what AIDS does to your body? **[The actors look at one another.]**

Girl: It makes you sick!

Boy: It kills you!

Nurse: How?

All: Ummm.....

Nurse: Do you want to know the right answers to these questions?

Girl: What do you think guys? Shall we listen?

Boy: Ahhh! I don't need to know about that! I'm not going to get AIDS!

Boy 2: How do you know?

Boy: Shut up!

Nurse: Lets see how AIDS spreads and what it does in our bodies! Do you want to know?

Girl 2: Yes. I want to know!

Boy: I'm going .. I'm not interested in all that stuff. **[He starts to leave.]**

Nurse: Wait a minute! **[The boy stops.]** Just stay a while.. It's important to understand about AIDS.

Boy: I'm not going to get it!

Nurse: You don't know that. Young people get it.. very young people who haven't had lots of partners. People like you.

Boy: You just want to frighten me!

Nurse: You should be frightened! AIDS has killed millions of people round the world. In South Africa.. where Luku Dube comes from out of every four people.... **[The nurse takes four actors.]** ...one has the AIDS virus in their blood! **[The nurse pushes one actor forwards.]** One out of every four people! Every 6 seconds, somewhere in the world someone gets infected with AIDS.

Girl : Every 6 seconds?

Nurse: Yes! And the number of cases in the Pacific are growing!

Boy: I don't want to get it...

Nurse: You need to know all about AIDS. But first you need to understand about diseases and how they spread.....

Chorus: Everywhere

Nurse: You have to understand this first!

Boy: Why?

Nurse: You'll see! Lets see if you all understand. Why don't we catch all the sicknesses around us? **[The audience should give the right answer.]** Good! Now we can look at what AIDS does to us.

Boy 2: I'm a strong, healthy, young man! And tonight.. I'm going to meet my new girlfriend... **[He stands in front of the mirror making himself look nice and the soldiers of the blood do the same actions as he does.]** Let's go! **[He takes a few steps.]** Look threere she is...Isn't she beautiful? **[He starts to dance with her.]** And she's a good dancer! And tonight.. I'm going to...

Chorus: Hey! Have you got a condom?

Boy 2: She's my girlfriend!

[He goes out behind the bakdrop with her and then runs back in on his own with the blood soldiers.]

Boy 2: Ohh man! What a night!

[The two white blood cells look back over their shoulders and see another actor who comes and stands behind the young man and between the blood cells.]

AIDS: That was my chance to infect him! He went with her but he didn't use a condom! And now I can live in his body!

[AIDS stands with folded arms. The white blood cells try to figth him, but they can't do anything. AIDS stands still behind the boy and speaks .] I'm with you now my friend... There's no way to get rid of me. I'm here until you die. **[They all freeze.]**

Nurse: You see what's happened? **[The nurse waits for an answer.]** How did he get AIDS? Did it fly through the air? How then? **[The nurse waits for an answer.]** Yes.. He got it when he had sex. Okay... He's got the virus in his blood now, but is he sick yet? **[The nurse waits for an answer.]**

Boy 2: I'm not sick! I'm a strong, healthy, young man! I can play football! I can plant crops! I can dance! I'm not sick at all! **[He mimes each action as he speaks and the blood soldiers and AIDS follow him. Then they freeze.]**

AIDS: I'm still inside him.

Nurse: This young man isn't sick at all! He's healthy but the virus is in his blood. What happens if he has sex with a girl now? **[The nurse waits for an answer.]** He can pass the virus to the girl. Yes.

Chorus: And this boy

Can remain healthy

For years!

He isn't sick

But the virus is in his body ..

And slowly..

It does it's work!

[Now AIDS attacks the white blood cells protecting Boy 2. He kills one and then the other.]

Nurse: What has the virus done to this young man? **[The nurse waits for an answer.]** AIDS has slowly killed the white blood cells in the young man's blood. It may

have taken two, three, five or ten years to kill all those soldiers. What happens now when all the soldiers are dead?

Sickness 1: I'm here! And I'm ready to infect him! **[He walks towards the boy shivering and shaking as if he is a fever and coughing too. Boy 2 also coughs and acts as if he has a fever. AIDS smiles. Sickness one goes and stands behind him. The boy is overcome by fever.]**

Sickness 2: Me too! Me too! I'll give him diarrhoea! And he won't be able to get rid of me!
[Sickness two does the same as sickness one. The boy becomes weaker still.]

Boy 2: Ohh.. I'm hot.....and cold... and my stomach.... Ohh...

Nurse: See what's happened to this young man? **[The nurse waits for an answer.]** His body can no longer fight off the germs that are everywhere around us.

AIDS: This is what I do! Now he will get sicknesses no healthy man gets! He will get sicker and sicker! Thinner and thinner! His hair will fall out... He will lie in his own dirt too weak to move. **[The boy falls down and AIDS and the two sicknesses stand over him like vultures. The other actors watch.]**

Nurse: What will happen to him now?

Girl 2: He'll die....
[One of the actors goes and helps the boy and gives him imaginary food.]

Nurse: If he eats well, and his friends and family care for him, he can live for a while yet.
[The actors relax.]

Boy: Yeah.. it's terrible... but we don't have to worry about it!

Girl: We've got cases here you know!

Boy: They got it overseas..

Nurse: Do you think we're different from everyone else in the world? We won't have an AIDS epidemic here? **[All the actors look at each other.]** AIDS is all around us!

Chorus: InFiji!
 In New Caladonie
 Papua New Guinea
 Australia
 New Zealand!
 In every country in the Pacific
 And the number of cases
 Are going
 Up and up!

Nurse: In1990, there were only one or two cases in PNG. Today there are over 7000 cases..

Chorus: In some Pacific countries
 There are not many cases of AIDS
 Only one or two..
 You think!
 But how many people AIDS
 Are carrying the virus in their blood
 And they don't even know they have it?

Boy: You mean they've got it inside them?

Girl 2: Didn't you understand anything? They don't know they've got the virus! They're healthy like you and me. You can't tell if someone is carrying the virus!

Boy 2: AIDS must be here....

Girl: AIDS spreads through sex. Lots of us young people have more than one partner...

Boy: It's not only young people!

Girl 2: What about....How do I know I haven't got it? How can I know?

Boy: Ahh come on?!

Girl 2: Any one could have it! You could have it!

Boy: Not me! Stupid!

Nurse: She's right! You can't tell who is carrying the virus. The only way to find out is to have a test. You can get tested in the hospital.

Boy 2: An AIDS test?! Everyone would find out and you'd get killed!

Nurse: This test is a secret test. You have to go on your own. Before you get tested the nurse must explain everything to you about the test and what it means to find out if you are HIV positive. You have to be sure you really want to have that test.

All: Ohh no...

Nurse: Look I have to go now. I've got to see someone. But you understand a bit about HIV/AIDS now, don't you?

All: Yes.

Nurse: If you ever want to talk or to have a test.. come and see me...Bye! [**The nurse leaves now. They wait till she leaves and then they start talking.**]

Boy: I'm going to play volley...

Girl: Let's go.. I'm feeling really weird after that!
[**They all go out leaving one boy and one girl in the acting area.**]

Girl 2: Would you ever have a test?

Boy 2: I'm too scared...

Girl 2: Why?

Boy 2: I've done some stupid things..... I play football..... You know what girls are like about footballers. When your teams doing well they don't leave you alone! Last year we thought we'd win the league. The whole team promised to stop drinking. We trained really hard! [**The girl goes out and a coach comes in.**]

Coach: Everyone! Ten push ups! One .. two ,,three ...[**He keeps counting.**]

Boy 2: Ohhh.. he's trying to kill us!

Coach: Frog jump! Go on! Go! Go! Go! [**Boy 2 jumps around and until the coach tells him to stop.**] You can stop now! But remember! Tomorrow is the big game! You don't go out tonight. Hear me? [**The coach leaves.**]

Boy 2: I'll go to sleep early. It's the big game tomorrow... [**He starts to go. A girl walks by with some friends. They look at Boy 2.They laugh.**]

Girl 1: Hey! It's the footballer!

Boy 2: Yes...

Girl 1: Where are you going?

Boy 2: Me? I'm going home.

Girl 1: Come with us!

Boy 2: I can't go out tonight..

Girl: What are you? A kid?

Boy: I'm in training for a big match!

Girl 1: You're real hot! ... Come to the club with us.. We'll have a good time! Come on!?! Okay... if you don't want to. [**They start to go out. He hesitates and then the girl disappears behind the backdrop and comes out for a moment and then goes out again. This time he follows her. He comes back inside and falls on the floor dead drunk. The Coaches voice comes form behind the backdrop.**]

Coach: Six oclock! Get up!

Boy 2: Ohhhhh! My head....! Ohhhh no... What happened.. I got drunk and .. oh that girl..

Caoch: Bill! Where are you? Get up!

Boy 2: I have to get up...Ohhh! He'll kill me... [**He gets up and the coach comes in.**]

Coach: You went and got drunk last night!

Boy 2: Me? No I...

Coach: You think I don't know? You went to the club! You were with those girls.. The ones who go with the men from the fishing boats... I hope you had the brains to use a condom.

Boy 2: Condom?

Coach: Don't you think about STI's? !

Boy 2: STI's?

Coach: Haven't you heard of clamymdia or AIDS?

Boy 2: AIDS but...

Coach: Those guys off the boat, they go to places where lots of people have AIDS and they sleep with the prostitutes there...

Boy 2: But I didn't mean to..

Coach: You're stupid! [**He exits.**] We'll lose that game.. Because you couldn't stay at home for one night! [**The coach goes out.**]

Boy 2: She looked so nice.. ... ohh no! What if? I won't think about it! I'm going to try my best! I'll show him!

[**He goes out and there is the noise of a football game behind the backdrop. Everyone screams 'Goal!'. Boy 2 runs in punching the air.**]

Boy 2: We won! I scored! I did it! [**He suddenly stops and stands still.**] Yes we won the game ... I was so glad. But now... . [**The girl comes back inside.**] I'm frightened.. I can't stop thinking about that girl. If only I'd used a condom. What if I've got it?

Girl 2: You could go and get a test.

Boy 2: I don't want to know..

Girl 2: I'm tired of worrying and not knowing. I'm going to have a test.

Boy 2: You? Why?

Girl 2: My boyfriend ..he's not faithful to me.

Boy 2: You sure?

Girl 2: He ... I got an STI.. from him.

Boy 2: Why don't you leave him?

Girl 2: I'm not with him anymore. But if I find another boy I like.. I don't want to infect him... I have to know.

Boy 2: What would you do if you found out you had it?

Girl 2: I don't know..

Chorus: If you know you have the virus in your blood

You can make sure you keep healthy

Eat well, sleep early

Don't drink or smoke

Then the virus

Takes much longer to kill the blood's soldiers.

If you know you have HIV

You can look after yourself

And make sure

You don't pass the sickness to someone else.

Girl 2: I have to know! [**She wanks out.**] See you!

Boy 2: I want to know too but... Ahh! I don't know what to do... What do you think?

[**He asks the audience.**] Should I get tested or not? Tell me?!