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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“COMMEMORATIVE QUILT SQUARES , RAFFLE PRIZES AT ELEGIES ”

(Brattleboro, VT) In recognition of the 35th year of the AIDS pandemic and to honor the work of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont (APSV), “A Weekend to Remember & Celebrate... Life, Loss, Love” will be presented at the Latchis Theatre, 50 Main Street in Brattleboro, Vermont the weekend of October 15 and 16.

The benefit weekend begins on Saturday, October 15 at 7:30pm with the one-night-only performance of the 1989 show, “Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens,” the first piece written about the AIDS pandemic. The show was developed in the late 1980s and originally entitled “The Quilt” to acknowledge the AIDS Memorial Quilt, founded in 1985 by AIDS activist, Cleve Jones. **In recognition of the commemorative nature of the Quilt, muslin quilt squares 6”x6” may be purchased before or at the event to honor the lives of loved ones lost to AIDS, the work of AIDS activists, caregivers and medical professionals, or to share thoughts about the pandemic.** They will be displayed in the main theatre during the show, sewn into finished 6’x6’ panels and then submitted for inclusion in the AIDS Memorial Quilt, now the size of 30 football fields and weighing over 60 tons.

Muslin squares cost \$5 each. Inscription and payment details via credit card or check for advance purchase can be found online at www.elegiesvt.com. Also available for purchase prior to the show.

Raffle prizes include framed, autographed Broadway show posters donated by Broadway Cares, and a framed original poster of the Quilt from the late 80s. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased in advance; winners do not have to be present to win. Payment details online via credit card at www.elegiesvt.com or purchase tickets in person at the APSV office, 15 Grove Street, Brattleboro VT.

On Sunday, October 16, the 1955 film, “All That Heaven Allows,” starring Rock Hudson will be shown at 4pm in the main theatre of the Latchis. This film is free and open to the public. Donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted at the door.

Hudson was the first major Hollywood star to go public with an AIDS diagnosis. In 1995, *All That Heaven Allows* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.” Hudson was only 30 when he starred in this film opposite Jane Wyman. The section of the Quilt that includes Hudson’s memorial panel will be on display.

Lead sponsor for the event is **The Samara Fund**, a component fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, helping to create a vibrant Vermont LGBTQ community and

ensure that LGBTQ Vermonters are connected, healthy, appreciated, safe, and empowered. The Fund will celebrate its 25th anniversary as Vermont's premiere philanthropic organization for LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS causes in 2017. The Vermont Community Foundation is a family of hundreds of charitable funds and foundations dedicated to creating healthy and vital Vermont communities.

<http://www.vermontcf.org/samara>

Net proceeds benefit the **AIDS Project of Southern Vermont**, a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1988. <http://www.aidsprojectsouthernvermont.org/>

For all details about weekend events, visit www.elegiesvt.com. To purchase tickets visit <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=larts>

To read more about Cleve Jones and his involvement in LGBTQ activism, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/aids/interviews/jones.html>. Jones' new book, *When We Rise: My Life in the Movement*, will be released in November.

<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/cleve-jones/when-we-rise/9780316315449/>

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