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Make a difference

Come and join 42 celebrities in lending their voices to the AIDS campaign this Thursday, writes **NUR AQIDAH AZIZI**

IF you want to rub shoulders with your favourite celebrities and at the same time contribute to charity, keep this Thursday free for The Body Shop AIDS Awareness Campaign.

Held in conjunction with World AIDS Day this year, this campaign is co-organised by The Body Shop, PT Foundation and Ruumz. It will be held at Fahrenheit 88 in Jalan Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur at 6pm.

The 42 celebrities lending their voices to this cause include Datuk Marina Mahathir, Datuk Sheila Majid, Datin Seri Tiara Jacquelina, Jojo Struys, Erra Fazira, Amber Chia, Asha Gill, Jehan Miskin, Tony Eusoff and Deborah Henry, among others.

Actress/model-cum-radio presenter Struys says the public needs to be more aware of AIDS.

"I went to Chow Kit Road to speak to the people from PT Foundation to research for my

column on HIV. Speaking to them on the stigma and discrimination that they have to live with and face every day has deeply affected me," says Struys, also a columnist with a daily newspaper.

"People need to know that AIDS cannot be transmitted through touching or hugging," she adds.

"It is hard enough to live with HIV, there is no need for others to make it more difficult for them. Don't turn your back against people with HIV."

The Body Shop managing director Datin Mina Cheah-Foong says: "It is always impactful when there is a famous person behind a cause as it generates a greater response from society. We hope that this will make a difference.

"Having seen the devastation that AIDS has on families, communities and society over the years I have worked in this area, there remains an urgency to keep HIV prevention at top of mind. We have a window of opportunity to keep our young safe from infection, with knowledge and the right information," she adds.

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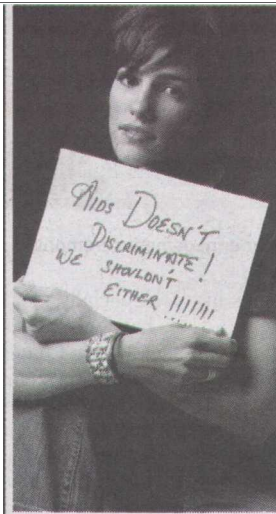
To date, over 13,000 Malaysians have died from the disease in Malaysia.

The public is encouraged to join the campaign by sending personalised messages and uploading their pictures and messages at www.thebodyshop.com.my or www.aidsaware.ruumz.com in the hope of collecting 13,000 signatures to commemorate the lives lost.

Or, you can show your support by buying the limited edition desktop calendars of your favourite celebrities at selected The Body Shop stores.

All proceeds from the calendars will go to PT Foundation for their work in HIV education, prevention, care and support programmes.

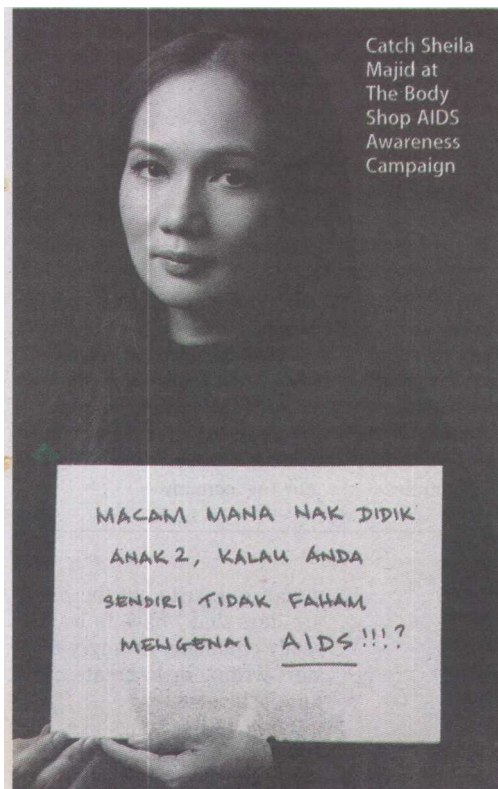
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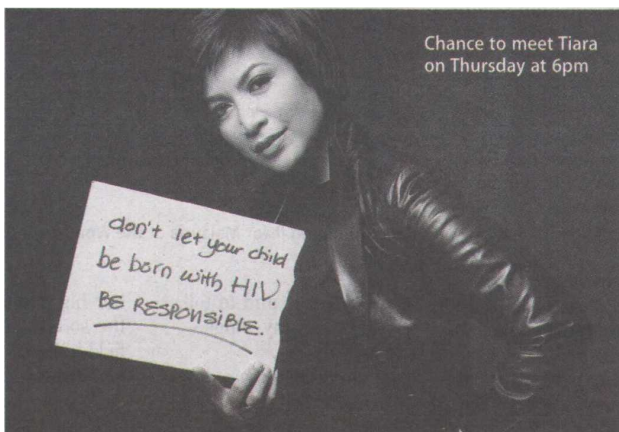
Asha Gill



Jojo Struys



Catch Sheila Majid at The Body Shop AIDS Awareness Campaign



Chance to meet Tiara on Thursday at 6pm