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Dance performance video highlights the importance of acting together on the rise of HIV

Published August 9, 2018 7:05pm

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01:45

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A dance performance video featuring some of the country's best contemporary ballet dancers is making the rounds on the internet today.

It's moving performance on its own, but learning what it's about makes it even more stirring: "Move Together" aims to break the stigma and fear of HIV transmission, highlighting the importance of acting on the rise of HIV, together.

It's a collaboration between HIV advocate group The Red Whistle and ballet dancers Rita Winder, Jean Marc Cordero, Al Bernard Garcia, Victor Maguad, EJ Arisola and Nikka Melissa Anne Bola.

The dance is choreographed by Sydney-based dancer and choreographer Novy Bereber and written and directed by Filipino Niccolo Cosme, the same creative behind Project Headshot Clinic.

GMA **Amazing dance performance on ending HIV together - Ris...**
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But making the video even more important are the presence of three persons living with HIV: Elena Felix, who has had the virus for 24 years, Jabar Esmael, who has been living with HIV for 3 years already, and Basha Rivera, a proud transwoman living with HIV for 10 years.

According to a press statement posted on its website (http://theredwhistle.com/movetogetherph/), Niccolo said he wanted to show a lot of body contact to break the stigma and fear of HIV transmission. “We wanted to reach out to all our brothers and sisters living with HIV through the video and give them the message of hope and support, that together, we can rise above the challenges and beat AIDS,” he said.

According to data from the Department of Health’s HIV/AIDS

(https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/646498/newly-discovered-hiv-strain-in-phl-could-fuel-rise-in-cases-experts-warn/story/)the number of new HIV cases reported per day rose drastically from only one case per day in 2008 to 31/day in 2017.

In February alone, 900 new cases were reported. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/649473/as-hiv-cases-rise-doh-asks-public-don-t-wait-for-symptoms-get-tested-now/story/> [f://www.facebook.com/gmanews](https://www.facebook.com/gmanews) [t://twitter.com/gmanews](https://twitter.com/gmanews) [y://www.youtube.com/gmanews](https://www.youtube.com/gmanews) [v://chats.viber.com/gmanews](https://chats.viber.com/gmanews)

The video, which is part of Red Whistle's #MoveTogetherPH campaign, aims to eradicate the stigma of HIV. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/>

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Singapore ivory store that sparked outrage was WWF awareness stunt

Published August 8, 2018 9:39pm

By JOHN GEDDIE, Reuters



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01:40



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SINGAPORE — A wildlife charity set up a fake online ivory shop in Singapore, attracting widespread condemnation, in a stunt to underline local laws which it says continue to facilitate illicit ivory trade globally.

A week after the launch of Ivory Lane, which purported to sell vintage ivory jewelry items through an online store and social media accounts, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) on Tuesday unveiled it was behind the stunt.

WWF said the campaign "sparked a heated debate on wildlife trade, national legislation and enforcement in Singapore" garnering 65,000 reactions on social media.

Singapore banned the commercial import and export of ivory in 1990, although ivory that entered the market before 1990 is still permitted for sale in the city-state. WWF says this continues to facilitate illicit ivory trade globally as recently poached ivory could masquerade as vintage ivory.

The Singapore government is looking into implementing a domestic ban on the sale of ivory, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore said in an emailed statement, adding that the implementation details are currently being worked out.

WWF's investigations found more than 40 shops in Singapore selling ivory products and numerous online listings on popular e-commerce and classified platforms. In physical shops, WWF investigators said traders explained how to smuggle ivory across borders undetected which they said showed how easily the loopholes in the law can be misused.

Singapore, a global trading hub, has made large scale-seizures of ivory in recent years and conservation groups say it acts as a transit hub for the illegal wildlife trade —

Reuters

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