

Fwd: RA Board: Soho screening of Positive Hell

From: **Joan Shenton 18/4/16**

Dear All,

It all went beautifully. We had a full house with some people sitting on the floor in our small screening room. The room normally seats 44 and we were about 48. I expressed my thanks for the support shown by the audience and said we had received good wishes from all over the world.

There were no protesters and at the end of the screening we had a very good panel discussion. We filmed the event for our archives and London Live TV sent a reporter/cameraman who filmed it as well. The London Live reporter did a series of brief interviews which are going to be woven into the studio interview they did with me a few days ago. I don't think London Live have been able to get hold of anybody from 'the other side' so their reporter asked quite aggressive questions using words like "dangerous" (of the film) and suggesting that we, the film makers were involved in some kind of denialist conspiracy. Those were not his exact words but it was along those lines. It occurs to me that London Live must have received complaints about the fact that I was put on without any opposition the other day - I could be wrong of course.

Dr Manolo Garrido and Manoel Penin were on the panel together with me and Kevin Corbett (Senior Lecturer in Nursing). Kevin spoke very well of the right of the individual to oppose or refuse a drug regime and the injustice in putting pressure on or forcing people to take antivirals. He quoted examples of non-compliance in diabetes and schizophrenia but the elephant in the room was, of course, the general acceptance that AIDS is sexually transmissible and that it is therefore dangerous not to take the medicine. Kevin teetered on the edges of the orthodoxy when he spoke of the "body of evidence" surrounding the HIV/AIDS hypothesis. But this was no bad thing as it gave us militants more credibility for having him there. In order to counteract I tried to explain that the "body of evidence" is totally flawed as demonstrated by the anomalies surrounding the HIV test and the shenanigans that went on between the Gallo/Reagan-Montagnier/Chirac accord - difficult to do convincingly in a few headline sentences! I was helped by Dr Garrido's assertion that AIDS was a total fraud from beginning to end.

There was a good question from the floor asking why, when the test is so full of anomalies, we (the dissidents) haven't managed to pierce

holes in it and thus deflate the orthodox AIDS balloon.

There was a great deal of indignation from the audience at the banning of the film by the director of the London Independent Film Festival. Manoel and Manolo (Dr Garrido), aided by the consecutive interpreting from my good friend Corina Poore, made some very moving statements about the way they had been treated in the past by their doctors and by their peers.

People asked why so little is known about challenges to the science behind HIV/AIDS. I brought up the subject of censorship, suffocation of dissenting scientists and activists and the non-existence of funding for non-HIV based research.

There was a young pharmacist there who, before the screening, said she was going to be very skeptical. By the end she said stories like those she had witnessed in the film should be widely circulated amongst professionals who are handing out drug regimes and she promised to approach the Soho HIV clinic team. I didn't dare say she was on a losing wicket as they are the most famous HIV clinic in London. However, I agreed to back up her approaches.

Andi Reiss gave a good interview to the London Live. I don't have great hopes for the London Live piece, but you never know.

At the end of it all we repaired to the Dean Street Pizza Express (about 14 of us) and there was further animated discussion and exchange of contact details.

I must take my hat off to our publicist, Rob Shepherd and his assistant Jill Cargill from the Press Dispensary who have produced the excellent press releases resulting in very good publicity, and given up their Saturday in order to get the last press release out about the arrival of Manolo and Manoel.

Thanks are also due to Mo Aziz who helped where needed.

When I got home I fell asleep for 6 hours. Tomorrow am taking Manolo and Manoel sightseeing in London.

Ends.