The School of Media, Film and Journalism are proud to host a special preview of Transmission: The Journey from AIDS to HIV

The screening will be introduced by Staffan Hildebrand and followed by a Q&A mediated by Associate Professor Mia Lindgren.

Staffan Hildebrand has been filming the HIV/AIDS epidemic since 1986, and is the founder and producer of the Face of AIDS film archive housed at the prestigious Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. In addition to several feature films, all box office hits in Sweden, Staffan’s documentary films on HIV/AIDS have featured at many international AIDS conferences and form an important record of the global impact of HIV/AIDS.

Transmission: The Journey from AIDS to HIV was commissioned for AIDS 2014, the meeting of the International AIDS Society to be held in Melbourne, 21-25 July 2014. AIDS 2014 is the biggest conference of its type in the world with an estimated attendance of 14,000 delegates.

This film is a centerpiece for the conference that will engage delegates, HIV/AIDS professionals and the general population by exploring how the Australian response was coordinated across political and ideological boundaries and driven by the community but why today, young people continue to be at risk of HIV.

It introduces us to many of the characters who have been influential over the three decades of the fight against HIV and AIDS. It contains original never before seen historical footage from the Face of AIDS archive, along with new interviews from contrasting countries in the Asia Pacific region and how there is the real possibility of the virtual elimination of the transmission of HIV, and the hope that a cure or vaccine might yet be found. Yet there are still a range of challenges that need to be overcome.

The Face of AIDS film project raises important questions about the role of documentary and life stories in medical research. These and other questions about this historic collaboration between a filmmaker and the medical sciences will be discussed in a Q&A following the screening.