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Positiv
(Positive)
(WEST GERMAN-DOCU)

VARIETY

Berlin A Rosa von Praunheim Filmproduktion, with WDR. Directed by Rosa von Praunheim. Screenplay, von Praunheim; camera (color), Mike Kuchar, Evan Estern, Elfi Mikesch; editor, Mike Shepard, von Praunheim; sound, Mark Milano, Klaus Klingler. Reviewed at Berlin Film Festival (Panorama section), Feb. 16, 1990. Running time: 90 MIN.

(English soundtrack)

■ **"Positive" is the first of three feature-length docus about the AIDS epidemic made in the U.S. by German director Rosa von Praunheim. As such it will be widely seen and used by everyone interested in the subject, but probably by few others.**

Von Praunheim features a number of key AIDS activists, including writer Larry Kramer, founder of a self-help group, who makes extraordinary accusations against former New York mayor Ed Koch), and docu film director Phil Zwickler ("Rights and Reactions"). Also featured is singer Michael Callen, one of the longest survivors of AIDS.

Von Praunheim provides sobering writer Larry Kramer, founder of a self-help group, who makes extraordinary accusations against former New York mayor Ed Koch), and docu film director Phil Zwickler ("Rights and Reactions"). Also featured is singer Michael Callen, one of the longest survivors of AIDS.

Von Praunheim provides sobering statistics and interviews men who blame former President Ronald Reagan and Koch for the way the virus has spread, asserting they failed to act because the disease seemed at first to affect only the homosexual community.

At one point Zwickler half-jokingly tells the audience, "He (von Praunheim) wants me to die on camera," but this isn't a voyeuristic film, rather an angry and informative one.

Some hardcore gay footage would have to be trimmed before the film is aired on most tv stations around the world. — *Strat.*