

Comedy Gala for World AIDS Day at Pleasance Theatre raises £2,706

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Ania Magliano performing at the Pleasance Theatre. Photo Credit: Twitter @ThePleasance

Ten comedy acts raised £2,706 for the National Aids Trust at a sold-out performance at the Pleasance Theatre in Holloway, on 29 November.

More than 150 people came to see famous comedians such as Mae Martin and Joe Lycett at this Gala for World AIDS Day.

The event was organized by Molly Stewart, who has produced the annual gala since 2018.

Like every year, all the money raised from the event will go to the National AIDS Trust. Stewart explained the importance of choosing this particular organization: “When people think of an HIV charity, they think of the Terrence Higgins Trust, which is obviously fantastic but [it’s] much bigger and gets people’s attention and money more often. I wanted to highlight a smaller and lesser-known charity.”

According to Stewart, the historical component is also important as “HIV and AIDS have been a cause that has largely been ignored by people outside of gay and queer communities.”

“I wanted to do a fundraiser for World AIDS Day because, five years ago, it felt like World AIDS Day and HIV weren’t a cause that everyone was aware of... Not everyone wears a red ribbon the way they wear a poppy flower,” she said.

Everyone who was involved in the event, including the comedians themselves, performed for free. This made organizing the event difficult since “not everyone can commit to doing that,” Stewart said.

Stewart is already thinking about next year and wants to improve the range of acts: “I always try to focus on making sure that the line-up is diverse and representative of the comedy scene in the UK. I want to do better at that next year.”