

# Memorial service for 'Madonna's mentor'

By Bruce Baron  
Contributing Writer

"AIDS is a powerful, and mysterious disease that continues to elude us, but we are more powerful because we can stop it from spreading any further by educating ourselves and finding out the facts."

- Madonna,  
1987 Madison Square  
Garden AIDS benefit concert.

Christopher Flynn, one of Madonna's closet friends, died in November of complications of AIDS. A memorial service was held for Flynn in California on December 3rd, the same day Madonna appeared on ABC's Nightline to discuss her video "Justify My Love". She appeared on the program dressed in black. Flynn is one of several friends

*Flynn was several years Madonna's senior and gave the pop diva her first taste of club life at hot spots like Bookie's and Menjo's.*

Madonna has lost to AIDS, including artist Martin Burgoyne who designed the cover art for her "Burning Up" single.

Flynn lived in the Detroit area in the mid-seventies and was Madonna's first dance instructor at a ballet school he ran in Rochester. Flynn was several years Madonna's senior and gave the pop diva her first taste of club life at hot spots like Bookie's and Menjo's. Madonna once noted, "He was my first introduction to

glamour and sophistication. He used to take me to all the gay discotheques in downtown Detroit. Men were doing poppers and going crazy.

"He made me push myself. He was constantly putting all that stuff about (going to) New York in my ear. I was hesitant and my father and everybody was against it, but he really said 'Go for it'".

In the late seventies Flynn's ballet studio closed and Madonna moved to New York with \$35 in

her pocket to make it big. Flynn moved to the west coast and kept in touch with the "Material Girl" as her career exploded. In 1989, Flynn attended The First Annual AIDS Project Los Angeles Dance-A-Thon at the Shrine Auditorium in L.A., with Madonna, Sandra Bernhard and singer Nikki Harris. At the event Flynn addressed the participants regarding Madonna's presence, "She was one of the first people I turned to when I was diagnosed. She understands, and

she knows that being here makes all the difference in the world, and as her oldest living disco partner, I claim the first dance." The charity event raised money to help fight the disease and possibly help find a cure.

Donations can be made to the AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES by calling (213) 962-1600. %  
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