

ANGELS IN AMERICA

by Tony Kushner | directed by **Amanda Kellock**
produced by **THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**
| SEASON 2014-15 | FORCES



NOVEMBER

26-29 at 8pm
29-30 at 2pm

DECEMBER

1 at 8pm
World AIDS Day
Special Fundraising
performance

**D.B. CLARKE
THEATRE**

1455 Maisonneuve W.

\$10 | \$5 students
seniors

Image, Program
and more @
concordia.ca/theatre

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The plays selected for our 2014-15 season of Public Performances all engage with the theme of FORCES. Whether the issues are politics, AIDS, nationalism, saints, religion, war, faith, or human aspiration, the FORCES that impact us and the need for creative human response are very much in the air.

Programming *Angels in America* (part I) under the direction of Amanda Kellock was an easy choice to endorse. This well-known play explores several powerful themes, and introduces the audience to characters who may be distant from their reality. This is why these stories need to be heard: acknowledging these forces is to admit that we have much in common.

Today, it is also time to make a difference. Please consider giving to the AIDS Montreal Direct Help Foundation. Your donations are more valuable than you may think, whatever amount you could provide.

I hope you'll have a memorable time while encountering the young talents at work here in their learning environment.

Raymond Marius Boucher / Artistic Director

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In working on this show, I often asked myself two interrelated questions: What is the Angel in *Angels in America*? and How do people or nations change? They are interrelated for me because the Angel (and there are many different angels in this play) is that with which we must wrestle with in order to change. That which most scares us about ourselves.

In the second part of this two-part opus, *Perestroika*, Harper asks the Mormondiorama lady how change happens, to which she replies that God slices us open from throat to belly and, with a dirty hand, yanks our guts out and then shoves them back in – leaving us to try and re-assemble them while walking around. And so, in the process of change, we are “just mangled guts pretending.” But it's the only way – change, real change, isn't pretty or smooth; it's messy and scary and sometimes ugly, but it is necessary. The characters in this play who have the courage to wrestle with their Angels will survive and thrive. Those who don't will not.

Another Tony Kushner quote that has been central to my approach with this play hints at what, maybe, we ought to be moving towards with all this change: “I really believe the world is doomed unless we can recreate ourselves as social beings as opposed to little ego-anarchists.” To me, this will require much more wrestling and way less pretending. I don't think we're there yet.

The team working on this show has wrestled with their own Angels throughout the process, and I'm very proud of how much thought, hard work and generosity has been exhibited by everyone involved. Thank you to all my Angels, and to everyone who will come see the show – you are the final and most important part of our team. Let the great work begin.

Amanda Kellock

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Amanda Kellock is an actor, director, writer and teacher with a BFA in Theatre and Development from Concordia University and an MFA in Directing from the University of Ottawa. She was part of the Directing Masterclass at Magnetic North in 2007, and the Directing Intern at the National Arts Centre for their 2007/2008 Season (under Peter Hinton) where she directed the popular theatrical event Shakespeare's Birthday. Directing credits include – for Repercussion Theatre: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2013) for which she was nominated for a META award, and *Scapin* (2007) which she translated into English and directed in both English and French and for which she was nominated for a MECCA award; for Geordie Productions: the mainstage production of *For Art's Sake* by Colin Heath (2010) as

well as numerous touring shows: *The Shape of a Girl* by Joan Macleod (2008), *Once Upon a Home* (2009) which she also wrote, *Derwent is Different* by Jamie Norris (2013) and *Jabber* by Marcus Youssef (2012) which was nominated for a DORA when it ran at YPT in Toronto (2013) and will be touring to the U.S. this Fall; for the Centaur – True Nature by Colleen Curran (2011); for Composite Theatre Company – *Angel's Share* by Alexis Diamond (2013 Montreal Fringe). She was Artist in Residence at Playwrights' Workshop Montreal in 2011, has had two monologues from her play *Fair(L)y (S)Tale* published, is a guest artist for Imago Theatre's Artista mentoring project, and teaches/has taught at McGill University, Dawson College and Concordia University

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Tony Kushner (b. 1958) is an award-winning, American playwright and screenwriter. His most famous works include the musical *Caroline, or Change*, *Angels In America : A Gay Fantasia on National Themes, Part One : Millennium Approaches* and *Angels In America, Part Two : Perestroika*. Kushner was awarded the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, the Tony Award for Best Play, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Angels In America, Part One : Millennium Approaches*, and also received a Drama Desk Award and Tony Award for *Angels In America, Part Two: Perestroika*. As well, Kushner worked on the screenplays for both *Munich* and *Lincoln*, both receiving critical acclaim. Tony Kushner's works often incorporate themes from the queer community, political trends, and historical events and characters, making him one of the most successful American playwrights among audiences and critics in recent history.

REAGAN, A PLAGUE AND NEW YORK CITY

by Julie Foster and Michael Martini, *Angels In America* :
Millennium Approaches Dramaturges

New York City, 1985. The United States of America is a very different place. The country is starting to panic as what was previously known as “gay cancer” seems to be affecting more than just the queer community. A plague is spreading, and everyone is going into crisis mode, except Ronald Reagan, the President of the United States, who would like to avoid any type of emergency at all costs, especially if it has anything to do with homosexuality. Following the vicious homophobia of the McCarthy era, aided by figures such as influential lawyer Roy Cohn, the United States government ignores the epidemic until it is immutable, after many have already succumbed to the disease. A revolution has started, and the organization ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) protests and continues to fight for the attention of the government and for the rights to affordable health care for the disease that is afflicting them. HIV/AIDS is spreading quickly, and there is no vaccine, cure, or legitimate government support. The cost is out of this world for AZT, the one drug approved by the government, and it is nearly impossible to receive. The bathhouses have closed in New York, by the help of Ed Koch, the New York Mayor who has also seemingly done nothing while his city’s population rapidly dies. Central Park at night becomes a more and more commonly used place for cruising, yet it becomes more and more dangerous. New York City is a mosaic of originality: a growing queer community and drag scene, a subway system littered with graffiti, protestors fighting to live. We are in New York City, 1985. There is a plague spreading. The world is a very different place.

SYNOPSIS

Set in New York City at the height of the AIDS crisis, Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* is a self-proclaimed "Gay Fantasia on National Themes." This modern-day epic follows the interconnected lives of two couples whose relationships are disintegrating, and tackles issues of power, love, truth, loss and forgiveness with humour, integrity and imagination.

MULTIPLE FACTS

Visit <http://harpersamerica.tumblr.com/> a blog developed by Harper Duffy, Assistant Director and learn more about some characters and historical context.

CREATIVE TEAM

Tony Kushner
Playwright

Amanda Kellock
Director

Amy Keith
Design Supervisor

Calla Wright
Harper Duffy
Assistant Directors

Julie Foster
Michael Martini
Dramaturges

Kate MacMullin
Stage Manager

Britta Janssen
Daniella Tran Van
Kimberly Hall
Assistant Stage Managers

STUDENTS CAST

Anthony Kennedy
Mr. Lies

Cassia Giancola
Emily the Nurse, Angel Voice,
Woman in the Bronx

Daniel Chichagov
Louis Ironson

Devon MacKinlay
Joe Pitt, Eskimo

France Maurice
Harper Pitt

Gabriel Schultz
Roy Cohn

Jake Wilkinson
Martin Heller, Prior 2

Jay Mordeno
Belize

Jillian Harris
Sister Ella Chapter, Woman in
the Bronx, Angel Voice

Kelly Craig
Hannah Pitt, Angel Voice

Madeline Smart
Hattie, Ethel, Women in the
Bronx, Angel Voice

Madeleine Skidmore
Rabbi, Angel, Women in the
Bronx, Angel Voice

Rémi Mireault
Prior Walter

Wilson Menary
The Man, Prior 1



STUDENT DESIGN TEAM

Clara Gonzalez
Set Designer

Sophie El Assaad
Costume, Make up and
Hair Designer

Sandrina Sparagna
Assistant Costume Designer

Robert Mallin
Lighting Designer

Bryanna Blackwell
Properties Designer

Vanessa Zurrini
Sound Designer

Ariel St-Louis Lamoureux
Assistant Set Designer

Michelle Lee
Assistant Costume Designer

Öykü Önder
Assistant Lighting Designer

Marie-Michelle Castonguay
Assistant Properties Designers

STUDENT PRODUCTION TEAM

Matthieu Xavier Marin
Assistant Technical Coordinator/Light

Christian Stephens, Tricia Moore
Scene Shop Crew

Cedric Chau
Head Dresser, Costume Shop Crew

Sarah Morena
Hair & Make-up, Costume Shop Crew

Helena Magee
Stitcher, Costume Shop Crew

Alysia Piatkowski
Heather Strain
Katharine So
Leyla Sutherland
Ella Storey
Annalise Peterson-Perry
Helena Magee
Dressers

Alexandra Lasek
Caitlin Ross
Clarisse Bériault
Hannah Liesenseld
Mathis Raabe
Silvia Poxleitner
Lighting Crew

Alexandra Maisonneuve
Michelle Soicher
Sarah Hiseler
Properties Shop Crew

Alysia Piatkowski
Heather Strain
Katharine So
Justine Orbovic
Costume Shop Volunteers

Nicolas Ruzza, Mishelle Lam
Lighting Crew Volunteers

MUSIC

Felix Lu - Piano
Izabela Köenig - Violin
Philippe Mius d'Entremont - Cello
Musicians Volunteers

This is Not America by David Bowie
Popcorn by Anarchic System

SPECIAL THANKS

Normand Lanthier, Centaur Theatre
Lucy Segal, Dawson College
Ryal Cosgrove at Cineeffects productions Inc.

DEPARTEMENT OF THEATRE

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Edward Little

Acting Chair, Professor

Andreas Apergis

Visiting Artist

Sandeep Bhagwati

Associate Professor
Canada Research Chair,
Matralab Director

Raymond Marius Boucher

Senior Lecturer (ETA)

Kit Brennan

Associate Professor

Ana Cappelluto

Professor, Associate Dean

Amy Keith

Assistant Professor (LTA)

Noah Drew

Assistant Professor

Gene Gibbons

Associate Professor

Nancy Helms

Professor Pre-Retirement (LTA)

Amanda Kellock

Visiting Artist

Eric Mongerson

Professor

Clea Minaker

Visiting Artist

Ursula Neuerburg-Denzer

Assistant Professor

Robert Reid

Associate Professor

Mark Sussman

Associate Professor

PART-TIME PROFESSORS

Denise Boulanger

Frederic Carpenter

Elisabeth Couture

Joe De Paul

Jean-François Gagnon

Dirk Gindt

Shannon Holmes

Cristina Lovita

Corinne Merrell

Cathia Pagotto

Rachael Van Fossen

Liz Valdez

PRODUCTION STAFF

Norberts J. Munčs

Director of Performance Production
(DPP)

Pietro Cerone

Technical Coordinator / Multimedia

Jen Strahl

Administrative Assistant to the DPP/
Stage Management Coach

Paul Teichgraber

Technical Coordinator / Lighting

Ted Stafford

Stage Supervisor, D.B. Clarke Theatre

Tim Rodrigues

Head Technician, D.B. Clarke Theatre

Marlène Lucas

Head of Scene Shop

Lucie Arseneault

Scene Shop Assistant

Sandrina Sparagna

Rajieenthan Unakenthan

Work Study Student, Scene Shop

Corinne Merrel

Scenic Painting Coach

Mairi Robertson

Head of Properties Shop

Jeremy Gordaneer

Properties Shop Assistant

Marika Karlsson

Kayla Freeman

Work Study Students, Properties Shop

Brie Birdsell

Head of Costume Shop

Sonya Vallis

Mireille Tremblay

Costume Technicians

Chad Johnson

Caitlin Ross

Clarisse Bériault

Tricia Moore

Work-Study Students,
Costume Shop

Gabrielle Kellock

Make-up Technician

Jennifer Johnson

Venues Assistant

Roxane Halary

Graphic Designer

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Maud David-Lerebours

Department Administrator

Jen Cressey

Department Assistant

Nicoletta Pasquino

Department Assistant

Jen Reimer

Office Assistant

THE SAINT PLAYS

by Erik Ehn
directed by Clea Minaker



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
SEASON 14-15 | FORCES

ANTIGONE

by Sophocles
translated by Lynn Kozak
directed by Andreas Aspergis



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March 1, 2015



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