

angels in america millennium approaches

angels in america millennium approaches is a groundbreaking play that has left a profound mark on American theater and cultural discourse. Written by Tony Kushner, this iconic work explores the intersection of politics, identity, and spirituality during a time of crisis in the United States. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into the historical context of Angels in America: Millennium Approaches, analyze its major themes and characters, examine its stylistic innovations, and discuss its enduring impact on audiences and society. Whether you are a student, theater enthusiast, or someone interested in understanding the complexities of American drama, this article provides a thorough exploration of Kushner's masterpiece, highlighting its relevance in both the past and present.

- Historical Context and Background of Angels in America: Millennium Approaches
- Key Themes and Motifs in Angels in America: Millennium Approaches
- Major Characters and Their Significance
- Structural and Stylistic Innovations
- Cultural Impact and Legacy
- Critical Reception and Awards
- Frequently Asked Questions

Historical Context and Background of Angels in America: Millennium Approaches

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches premiered in 1991, a period marked by social and political upheaval in the United States. The play is set during the mid-1980s, a time when the AIDS crisis devastated communities and ignited fierce debates on morality, health, and civil rights. Tony Kushner's work captures the anxieties and aspirations of Americans during this era, blending historical events with intimate personal struggles.

Kushner wrote the play as the first part of a two-part epic, with Perestroika following Millennium Approaches. The play not only reflects the climate of the Reagan administration but also incorporates themes of change and transformation associated with the millennium. By situating his characters within this tumultuous period, Kushner provides a lens through which audiences can examine issues of sexuality, religion, politics, and the search for meaning in uncertain times.

- Set in New York City during the 1980s
- Focuses on the AIDS epidemic and its impact
- Explores conservative politics and social change
- Draws on real historical figures and events

Key Themes and Motifs in Angels in America: Millennium

Approaches

AIDS Crisis and Social Stigma

One of the central themes of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* is the AIDS epidemic and the associated social stigma. The play vividly portrays the fear, discrimination, and isolation experienced by those affected by HIV/AIDS, especially within the gay community. Kushner uses the characters' journeys to highlight the need for compassion, understanding, and activism in the face of crisis.

Identity, Sexuality, and Self-Discovery

The exploration of identity and sexuality stands at the heart of *Millennium Approaches*. Characters grapple with their sexual orientations and the societal pressures that seek to suppress their true selves. The play challenges traditional notions of masculinity and femininity, offering nuanced portrayals of characters striving for authenticity.

Politics, Power, and Morality

Political ideology and moral conflict are woven throughout the narrative. The play critiques the conservative climate of the 1980s, examining how politics shapes personal lives and influences social attitudes toward illness, sexuality, and justice. The clash between progressivism and conservatism serves as a driving force for character development and plot progression.

Spirituality and the Supernatural

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches incorporates supernatural elements, most notably the

appearance of angels and prophetic visions. These elements symbolize hope, transformation, and the search for meaning amid suffering. Kushner's use of the supernatural blurs the line between reality and fantasy, inviting audiences to contemplate the possibility of redemption and transcendence.

Major Characters and Their Significance

Prior Walter

Prior Walter is one of the central figures in the play, representing vulnerability, resilience, and the struggle for dignity in the face of illness. Diagnosed with AIDS, Prior's journey is marked by visions and encounters with supernatural beings, symbolizing the intersection of suffering and hope.

Louis Ironson

Louis Ironson is Prior's lover, whose philosophical reflections and internal conflicts mirror the broader societal debates of the era. His actions and choices raise questions about loyalty, ethics, and the complexity of human relationships during times of crisis.

Harper Pitt

Harper Pitt, the wife of Joe Pitt, struggles with addiction and psychological distress. Her character embodies themes of escapism, denial, and the quest for truth, providing a poignant counterpoint to the political and social dramas unfolding around her.

Joe Pitt

Joe Pitt is a Mormon lawyer wrestling with his sexuality and career ambitions. His internal struggle reflects the tension between personal identity and societal expectations, making him a compelling figure in the play's exploration of morality and self-discovery.

Roy Cohn

Roy Cohn, based on the real-life political figure, is a powerful lawyer who epitomizes corruption, manipulation, and denial. His character serves as a critique of conservative politics and the destructive consequences of moral hypocrisy.

Structural and Stylistic Innovations

Epic Theater Techniques

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches employs epic theater techniques, including non-linear storytelling, direct address, and the blending of realism with fantastical elements. Kushner's innovative structure allows characters to break the fourth wall, engage with the audience, and reflect on their own narratives.

Symbolism and Visual Imagery

The play is rich in symbolism, from the angel's dramatic entrance to the depiction of illness and transformation. Visual imagery is used to evoke emotion, highlight themes, and deepen the audience's engagement with the story's metaphysical dimensions.

Language and Dialogue

Kushner's dialogue is both poetic and political, blending humor, pathos, and philosophical inquiry. The language of *Millennium Approaches* reflects the play's diverse characters and their inner lives, creating a tapestry of voices that resonate with authenticity and urgency.

Cultural Impact and Legacy

Since its premiere, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* has become a touchstone in American theater and LGBTQ+ culture. The play's candid exploration of AIDS, sexuality, and politics sparked important conversations and contributed to changing attitudes toward marginalized communities. Its influence extends to subsequent generations of playwrights, activists, and audiences who continue to find relevance in its themes.

- Shaped public discourse on AIDS and LGBTQ+ rights
- Inspired adaptations in television, film, and literature
- Remains a staple in educational curricula and theatrical repertoires
- Recognized for its artistic innovation and social impact

Critical Reception and Awards

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches received widespread acclaim from critics and audiences alike. The play won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. Reviewers praised Kushner's bold storytelling, complex characters, and the play's ability to capture the spirit of a generation. Over three decades later, Millennium Approaches remains a vital work, celebrated for its artistry and its enduring relevance to contemporary issues.

- Pulitzer Prize for Drama (1993)
- Tony Award for Best Play (1993)
- Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play
- Multiple Obie Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the main plot of Angels in America: Millennium Approaches?

A: The play follows several interconnected characters in 1980s New York as they confront personal, political, and spiritual crises during the AIDS epidemic. It centers around Prior Walter's illness, the breakdown of relationships, and supernatural interventions that challenge the boundaries between reality and fantasy.

Q: Who wrote Angels in America: Millennium Approaches?

A: Tony Kushner is the playwright behind Angels in America: Millennium Approaches. He is renowned

for his contributions to contemporary theater and his focus on social justice issues.

Q: What themes are explored in Angels in America: Millennium

Approaches?

A: The play explores themes such as AIDS, sexuality, identity, politics, morality, spirituality, and social change, offering a multifaceted examination of American life during the 1980s.

Q: Why is Angels in America: Millennium Approaches considered important?

A: The play is regarded as a landmark work for its artistic innovation, honest portrayal of the AIDS crisis, and its role in advancing conversations about LGBTQ+ rights and social justice.

Q: What awards has Angels in America: Millennium Approaches received?

A: Angels in America: Millennium Approaches has won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Tony Award for Best Play, Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, and several others.

Q: Who are the central characters in Angels in America: Millennium Approaches?

A: Major characters include Prior Walter, Louis Ironson, Harper Pitt, Joe Pitt, and Roy Cohn, each representing different facets of the play's themes.

Q: What is the significance of supernatural elements in the play?

A: Supernatural elements, such as angelic visitations, serve as metaphors for hope, transformation, and the search for meaning amid suffering and uncertainty.

Q: How did Angels in America: Millennium Approaches impact American culture?

A: The play helped shift public attitudes toward AIDS and LGBTQ+ issues, influencing theater, television, and social activism.

Q: Is Angels in America: Millennium Approaches part of a larger work?

A: Yes, it is the first part of Tony Kushner's two-part epic, followed by Perestroika, which continues the story and themes introduced in Millennium Approaches.

Q: What makes the play's structure and style unique?

A: Kushner's use of epic theater techniques, poetic language, and the blending of realism with fantasy distinguish Millennium Approaches as a revolutionary work in modern drama.

Angels In America Millennium Approaches

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Angels in America: Millennium Approaches - A Deep Dive into Tony Kushner's Masterpiece

Introduction:

Are you ready to journey into the heart of a Pulitzer Prize-winning play that redefined American theatre? This in-depth exploration of *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* will delve into its complex characters, its potent themes, and its enduring relevance in the 21st century. We'll uncover the brilliance of Tony Kushner's writing, examine the play's historical context, and unpack its allegorical power. Whether you're a seasoned theatre aficionado or a newcomer eager to understand this landmark work, this post will equip you with a deeper appreciation for *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*.

The Unfolding Drama: A Synopsis of Millennium Approaches

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches, the first part of a two-part play, unfolds in the 1980s amidst the backdrop of the burgeoning AIDS crisis. The narrative intertwines the lives of several seemingly disparate characters in New York City, showcasing the devastating impact of the epidemic on individuals and society. We meet Prior Walter, a young man diagnosed with AIDS, whose struggles with illness and faith are central to the play. His relationship with Louis Ironson, a conflicted lover who abandons him, forms a core narrative thread. Meanwhile, the play introduces Roy Cohn, a powerful lawyer, struggling with his own mortality and shrouded in denial. His intricate relationship with Joe Pitt, a closeted Mormon lawyer, adds another layer of complexity to the narrative. The play masterfully weaves these individual stories together, revealing the interconnectedness of their lives and the pervasive influence of the AIDS crisis.

The Power of Allegory: Beyond the AIDS Crisis

While the AIDS crisis serves as the immediate context, *Millennium Approaches* transcends the specifics of the epidemic to explore universal themes of love, loss, faith, morality, and the nature of identity. Kushner uses the crisis as a lens to examine larger societal issues, including the hypocrisy of power structures, the struggles of marginalized communities, and the search for meaning in a rapidly changing world. The play's allegorical nature allows it to resonate powerfully across time and cultures, making it as relevant today as it was during its initial performance.

Key Characters and Their Journeys

Prior Walter: The Embodiment of Suffering and Resilience

Prior Walter's journey is one of profound physical and spiritual transformation. His battle with AIDS becomes a metaphor for the fight against oppression and the search for spiritual transcendence. His relationship with Louis reveals the complexities of love and commitment in the face of mortality.

Louis Ironson: The Struggle with Self-Deception and Abandonment

Louis is a complex character grappling with his own fears and prejudices. His initial abandonment of Prior is a pivotal moment, reflecting the societal anxieties and the fear of the unknown surrounding AIDS.

Roy Cohn: The Archetype of Power and Denial

Roy Cohn, a real-life figure known for his ruthlessness and political maneuvering, embodies the destructive power of denial and self-deception. His death scene is a particularly powerful moment of reckoning.

Joe Pitt: Faith, Sexuality, and the Weight of Societal Expectations

Joe Pitt's internal conflict between his religious beliefs and his homosexuality highlights the struggles faced by many in the LGBTQ+ community at that time. His journey toward self-acceptance is a powerful and moving arc.

The Legacy of Angels in America: Millennium Approaches

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches achieved critical acclaim and remains a cornerstone of modern American theatre. Its impact extends beyond the stage, influencing literature, film, and popular culture. The play's exploration of complex human relationships and its unflinching portrayal of a devastating epidemic continue to resonate with audiences worldwide, making it a timeless and essential work of art. The play's enduring power lies in its ability to engage with profound philosophical questions while simultaneously offering a compelling and deeply human narrative.

Conclusion

Angels in America: Millennium Approaches is more than just a play; it is a powerful statement on the human condition, a testament to the strength of the human spirit, and a profound meditation on faith, love, and loss in the face of adversity. Tony Kushner's masterpiece continues to provoke, inspire, and challenge audiences, ensuring its place as a landmark achievement in American theatre. Through its complex characters and its profound themes, the play offers a deeply moving and unforgettable theatrical experience.

FAQs

1. What is the relationship between Millennium Approaches and Perestroika? Millennium Approaches is the first part of a two-part play; Perestroika is the second, and both are essential to fully understanding the complete narrative.
2. Is Angels in America suitable for all audiences? Due to its mature themes of sexuality, illness, and death, parental guidance is advised.
3. How long is Millennium Approaches? The play's length varies depending on production, but it typically runs for about three hours.
4. What are the major themes explored in the play? Major themes include the AIDS crisis, homosexuality, faith, politics, morality, and the search for meaning in the face of mortality.
5. Where can I find more information or watch a production? You can find information on past and future productions through theatre websites, local listings, and online databases like Broadway.com.

angels in america millennium approaches: [Angels in America](#) Tony Kushner, 1993

angels in america millennium approaches: **Angels in America** Tony Kushner, 2017-04-13
America in the mid-1980s. In the midst of the AIDS crisis and a conservative Reagan administration, New Yorkers grapple with life and death, love and sex, heaven and hell. This edition, published alongside the major revival at the National Theatre in 2017, contains both plays, Part One: Millennium Approaches, and Part Two: Perestroika.

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angels in america millennium approaches: *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* Tony Kushner, 2014-01-16 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama
Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes includes Part One, Millennium Approaches and Part Two, Perestroika
"Glorious. A monumental, subversive, altogether remarkable masterwork...Details of specific catastrophes may have changed since this Reagan-era AIDS epic won the Pulitzer and the Tony, but the real cosmic and human obsessions—power, religion, sex, responsibility, the future of the world—are as perilous, yet as falling-down funny, as ever." -Linda Winer, *Newsday*
A vast, miraculous play... provocative, witty and deeply upsetting... a searching and radical rethinking of American political drama. - Frank Rich, *New York Times*
A victory for theater, for the transforming power of the imagination to turn devastation into beauty. - John Lahr, *New Yorker*
"An enormously impressive work of the imagination and intellect, a towering example of what theater stretched to its full potential can achieve." -Philadelphia Inquirer
Angels in America is the finest drama of our time, speaking to us of an entire era of life and death as no other play within memory. It ranks as nothing less than one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century. - John Heilpern, *New York Observer*
"Some playwrights want to change the world. Some want to revolutionize theater. Tony Kushner is that rarity of rarities: a writer who has the promise to do both." -New York Times
This new edition of Tony Kushner's masterpiece is published with the author's recent changes and a new introduction in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of its original production. One of the most honored American plays in history, *Angels in America* was awarded two Tony Awards for Best Play and the

Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It was made into an Emmy Award-winning HBO film directed by Mike Nichols. This two-part epic, subtitled *A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, has received hundreds of performances worldwide in more than twenty-six languages. Tony Kushner's plays include *Angels in America*; *Hydriotaphia, or the Death of Dr. Brown*; *The Illusion*, adapted from the play by Pierre Corneille; *Slavs!*; *A Bright Room Called Day*; *Homebody/Kabul*; *Caroline, or Change*, a musical with composer Jeanine Tesori; and *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*. He wrote the screenplays for Mike Nichols's film of *Angels in America* and for Steven Spielberg's *Munich* and *Lincoln*. His books include *The Art of Maurice Sendak: 1980 to the Present*; *Brundibar*, with illustrations by Maurice Sendak; and *Wrestling with Zion: Progressive Jewish-American Responses to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, co-edited with Alisa Solomon. Among many honors, Kushner is the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize, two Tony Awards, three Obie Awards, two Evening Standard Awards, an Olivier Award, an Emmy Award, two Oscar nominations, and the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2012, he was awarded a National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama. He lives in Manhattan with his husband, Mark Harris.

angels in america millennium approaches: *Approaching the Millennium* Deborah R. Geis, Steven F. Kruger, 1997 Leading critics, scholars, and theater practitioners consider the most talked-about play of the 1990s

angels in america millennium approaches: *Angels in America, Part One* Professor Tony Kushner, 2017-01-18 *ANGELS IN AMERICA* has proved to be a watershed drama, the most lyrical and ambitious augury of an era since Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*. John Lahr, *The New Yorker* The most influential American play of the last two decades. Patrick Healy, *The New York Times* Daring and dazzling! The most ambitious American play of our time: an epic that ranges from earth to heaven; focuses on politics, sex and religion; transports us to Washington, the Kremlin, the South Bronx, Salt Lake City and Antarctica; deals with Jews, Mormons, WASPs, blacks; switches between realism and fantasy, from the tragedy of AIDS to the camp comedy of drag queens to the death or at least absconding of God. Jack Kroll, *Newsweek* The greatest American play of the waning years of the twentieth century. Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*

angels in america millennium approaches: *The World Only Spins Forward* Isaac Butler, Dan Kois, 2018-02-13 *Marvelous . . . A vital book about how to make political art that offers lasting solace in times of great trouble, and wisdom to audiences in the years that follow.*- Washington Post
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR
A STONEWALL BOOK AWARDS HONOR BOOK
The oral history of *Angels in America*, as told by the artists who created it and the audiences forever changed by it--a moving account of the AIDS era, essential queer history, and an exuberant backstage tale. When Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* hit Broadway in 1993, it won the Pulitzer Prize, swept the Tonys, launched a score of major careers, and changed the way gay lives were represented in popular culture. Mike Nichols's 2003 HBO adaptation starring Meryl Streep, Al Pacino, and Mary-Louise Parker was itself a tour de force, winning Golden Globes and eleven Emmys, and introducing the play to an even wider public. This generation-defining classic continues to shock, move, and inspire viewers worldwide. Now, on the 25th anniversary of that Broadway premiere, Isaac Butler and Dan Kois offer the definitive account of *Angels in America* in the most fitting way possible: through oral history, the vibrant conversation and debate of actors (including Streep, Parker, Nathan Lane, and Jeffrey Wright), directors, producers, crew, and Kushner himself. Their intimate storytelling reveals the on- and offstage turmoil of the play's birth--a hard-won miracle beset by artistic roadblocks, technical disasters, and disputes both legal and creative. And historians and critics help to situate the play in the arc of American culture, from the staunch activism of the AIDS crisis through civil rights triumphs to our current era, whose politics are a dark echo of the Reagan '80s. Expanded from a popular *Slate* cover story and built from nearly 250 interviews, *The World Only Spins Forward* is both a rollicking theater saga and an uplifting testament to one of the great works of American art of the past century, from its gritty San Francisco premiere to its starry, much-anticipated Broadway revival in 2018.

angels in america millennium approaches: Tony Kushner's Angels in America Ken Nielsen, 2013-08-05 Angels in America paved a new way for American theatre in its combination of heightened theatricality and politics. Tony Kushner has emerged as one of the American theatre's leading playwrights and productions worldwide have meant that the play has been recognized as the most important American play in decades. With the scope of the characters' sexual, class and religious affiliations in the play, Angels in America offers a unique possibility to discuss the construction of American identity in the late 1980s and 1990s. This guide provides a comprehensive critical introduction to the play, giving students an overview of the background and context; detailed analysis of the play including its structure, style and characters; analysis of key production issues and choices; an overview of the performance history from the first performances of Millennium Approaches and Perestroika to recent productions and the 2003 HBO adaptation; and an annotated guide to further reading highlighting key critical approaches.

angels in america millennium approaches: Angels in America Tony Kushner, 1995 Dramatizes the effects of AIDS on the United States through the experiences of lawyer Roy Cohn, a Mormon couple, and a young man called Prior Walter.

angels in america millennium approaches: Yellow Face (TCG Edition) David Henry Hwang, 2009-11-01 "A thesis of a play, unafraid of complexities and contradictions, pepped up with a light dramatic fizz. It asks whether race is skin-deep, actable or even fakeable, and it does so with huge wit and brio." -TimeOut London "A pungent play of ideas with a big heart. Yellow Face brings to the national discussion about race a sense of humor a mile wide, an even-handed treatment and a hopeful, healing vision of a world that could be" -Variety "It's about our country, about public image, about face," says David Henry Hwang about his latest work, a mock documentary that puts Hwang himself center stage. An exploration of Asian identity and the ever-changing definition of what it is to be an American, Yellow Face "is by turns acidly funny, insightful and provocative" (Washington Post). The play begins with the 1990s controversy over color-blind casting for Miss Saigon before it spins into a comic fantasy, in which the character DHH pens a play in protest and then unwittingly casts a white actor as the Asian lead. Yellow Face also explores the real-life investigation of Hwang's father, the first Asian American to own a federally chartered bank, and the espionage charges against physicist Wen Ho Lee. Adroitly combining the light touch of comedy with weighty political and emotional issues, Hwang creates a lively and provocative cultural self-portrait [that] lets nobody off the hook" (The New York Times).

angels in america millennium approaches: Tony Kushner in Conversation Tony Kushner, 1998 The premier American playwright of this decade speaks out about art, sexuality, and social justice

angels in america millennium approaches: The Feminist Spectator as Critic Jill Dolan, 1991 Extends the feminist analysis of representation to the realm of performance

angels in america millennium approaches: The Illusion Pierre Corneille, Tony Kushner, 1994 Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner's free adaptation of Pierre Corneille's neoclassical French comedy, L'Illusion Comique.

angels in america millennium approaches: A Doll's House Henrik Ibsen, 2024-10-11 Step into the world of societal expectations and personal liberation with Henrik Ibsen's groundbreaking play, A Doll's House. This poignant narrative follows Nora Helmer, a seemingly content wife, as she grapples with the constraints of her marriage and the roles imposed on her by society. As the story unfolds, Ibsen masterfully reveals the complexities of marriage, gender roles, and individual identity. Nora's journey of self-discovery challenges the traditional notions of femininity and duty, making this play a timeless exploration of personal freedom and societal norms. But here's the provocative question that will ignite your curiosity: What happens when a woman decides to reclaim her autonomy in a world that expects her to conform? Nora's bold choices lead to dramatic revelations that resonate deeply with audiences, prompting reflection on the nature of love and sacrifice. With its rich character development and powerful dialogue, A Doll's House remains a cornerstone of modern theater. Ibsen's unflinching examination of societal expectations encourages readers to

confront their own beliefs about relationships and personal agency. Are you ready to witness Nora's transformative journey as she challenges the confines of her domestic life? This play is essential for anyone interested in literature that examines social issues and the human condition. Ibsen's compelling storytelling invites audiences to engage with the fundamental questions of identity, duty, and freedom. Don't miss the opportunity to experience this revolutionary work. Purchase *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen today and join the conversation about the roles we play in our own lives.

angels in america millennium approaches: *A Bright Room Called Day* Tony Kushner, 1994-05-01 From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Angels in America* comes this powerful portrayal of individual dissolution and resolution in the face of political catastrophe. "It's brash, audacious and...intoxicatingly visionary."—Sid Smith, *Chicago Tribune*

angels in america millennium approaches: *Homebody/Kabul* Tony Kushner, 2010-10 Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* is the most remarkable play in a decade...without a doubt the most important of our time."--John Heilpern, *New York Observer* In *Homebody/Kabul*, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner, author of *Angels in America*, has turned his penetrating gaze to the arena of global politics to create this suspenseful portrait of a dangerous collision between cultures. Written before 9/11, this play premiered in New York in December 2001 and has had subsequent highly successful productions in London, Providence, Seattle, Chicago and Los Angeles. This version incorporates all the playwright's changes and is now the definitive version of the text.

angels in america millennium approaches: *Meditation from Angels in America*, 2016

angels in america millennium approaches: *Angels in America* Tony Kushner, 2013-12-24

angels in america millennium approaches: *Boy Gets Girl* Rebecca Gilman, 2011-04-01 What is a stalker? And what kind of life can a woman lead when she knows she is being followed, obsessively and perhaps dangerously, by one? This is the dilemma facing Theresa Bedell, a reporter in New York, in Rebecca Gilman's tensely fascinating new play. When Theresa goes on an awkward blind date with a friend of a friend, she sees no reason to continue the relationship--but the man, an attractive fellow named Tony, thinks otherwise. While Theresa is at first annoyed yet flattered by his continuing attention, her attitude gradually changes to one of fear and fury when he starts violently to menace her and those around her. In brilliantly delineating the kind of terror a woman in full control of her life feels when everything around her suddenly seems to be a threat, Gilman probes the dark side of relationships in the 1990s with the rich insight and compelling characterizations that have distinguished her earlier plays and made her one of the most exciting young playwrights working today.

angels in america millennium approaches: *The Pride* Alexi Kaye Campbell, 2010 *THE STORY*: Alternating between 1958 and 2008, *THE PRIDE* examines changing attitudes to sexuality and the perennial themes of love, lust and betrayal. In 1958 Philip is married to Sylvia but finds himself falling in love with another man. His refusal

angels in america millennium approaches: *Lincoln* Tony Kushner, 2013-02-05 "All forward thrust and hot-damn urgency...A brilliant, brawling epic. Screenwriter Tony Kushner blows the dust off history by investing it with flesh, blood, and churning purpose. . . . A great American movie."

—Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone* "Lincoln is a rough and noble democratic masterpiece. And the genius of Lincoln, finally, lies in its vision of politics as a noble, sometimes clumsy dialectic of the exalted and the mundane...And Mr. Kushner, whose love of passionate, exhaustive disputation is unmatched in the modern theater, fills nearly every scene with wonderful, maddening talk. Go see this movie."

—A.O. Scott, *New York Times* "A lyrical, ingeniously structured screenplay. Lincoln is one of the most authentic biographical dramas I've ever seen...grand and immersive. It plugs us into the final months of Lincoln's presidency with a purity that makes us feel transported as if by time machine."

—Owen Gleiberman, *Entertainment Weekly* A decade-long collaboration between three-time Academy Award® winner Steven Spielberg and Pulitzer Prize winner Tony Kushner, *Lincoln* is a revealing drama that focuses on the 16th President's tumultuous final months in office. Having just won re-election in a country divided, Lincoln pursues a course of action designed to end the war, unite

the country and abolish slavery. With the moral courage and fierce determination to succeed, his choices during this critical moment will change the fate of America, and generations, to come. Containing eight pages of color photos from the film and inspired by Doris Kearns Goodwin's critically acclaimed *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, *Lincoln* is now a major motion picture by DreamWorks starring two-time Academy Award® winner Daniel Day-Lewis. Tony Kushner's plays include *Angels in America*, Parts One and Two; *A Bright Room Called Day*; *Slavs!; Homebody/Kabul*; *Caroline, or Change*, a musical with composer Jeanine Tesori; and *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*. He wrote the screenplays for Mike Nichols's film of *Angels in America* and for Steven Spielberg's *Munich*. Kushner is the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize, two Tony Awards, three Obie Awards, two Evening Standard Awards, an Olivier Award, an Emmy Award, and two Oscar nominations, among other honors. In 2008 he was the first recipient of the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award.

angels in america millennium approaches: *Angels in America: Perestroika* Tony Kushner, 1994

angels in america millennium approaches: *The Concept of Progress in Tony Kushner's "Angels in America"* Amelie Meyer, 2020-04-02 Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject American Studies - Miscellaneous, grade: 1,0, University of Göttingen (Philosophische Fakultät), course: The American Rhetorical Tradition, language: English, abstract: While this extensive film encompasses a variety of themes and topics, the focus of this paper will be its proposition of progress. It will be argued that *Angels in America* confirms progress to be inevitable and essential by drawing on, and redefining, American concepts and myths of westward movement and migration, equality and pluralism. Thus, traditional elements of the construct "American Dream" will be analyzed. The first part will consist of a short overview of different approaches to progress employed in the film: historical, religious and political. Subsequently, the second and third part will focus on a set of selected scenes and investigate how progress, and the lack thereof, is communicated in the depiction of different characters as they are caught in a constant struggle between motion and staying put, between moving on and giving up, between living and death. From this, the redefinition of aforementioned American concepts will be derived. In 2003, playwright Tony Kushner adopted his two-part play premiered in 1991 and 1992, *Angels in America*, to the screen. The HBO miniseries was directed by Mike Nichols and starred celebrated actors such as Al Pacino, Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson. Set in New York City in the mid 1980s, a time of Reagan's politics and the silencing of AIDS, the series revolves around a set of characters differing greatly in ethnicity, religion, worldview and sexual orientation. They include Louis and Prior, a homosexual couple having to cope with Prior's AIDS diagnosis, and Harper and Joe, Mormons, who are faced with Joe's oppressed homosexuality destroying their marriage. Other characters are Hannah, Joe's mother from Salt Lake City, Roy Cohn, a lawyer also diagnosed with AIDS, and Belize, Prior's black homosexual friend who is also Roy's nurse. Throughout the film, these characters come together in unexpected ways in an attempt to move out of their crises and transform themselves.

angels in america millennium approaches: *AIDS* Elizabeth Fee, Daniel M. Fox, 1988
Chronicles the responses of societies in times past to deadly diseases and illnesses, exploring the relevance of, and the lessons to be learned from, these events in terms of the current AIDS crisis.

angels in america millennium approaches: *Angels in America* Trinity Repertory Company, Tony Kushner, Oskar Eustis, 1996

angels in america millennium approaches: *Ten Acrobats In An Amazing Leap Of Faith* Yussef El Guindi, 2018-02-15 What if Neil Simon wrote a lovable comedy about a Muslim-American family trying to hold itself together amidst the misunderstandings that run amuck and the comedy that ensues when the generations collide? It would probably resemble something like the surprisingly enjoyable, charming and oftentimes hilarious *TEN ACROBATS IN AN AMAZING LEAP OF FAITH*. Fabrizio O Almeida, New City Chicago With *TEN ACROBATS IN AN AMAZING LEAP OF FAITH*, playwright Yussef El Guindi takes the genre (of the immigrant experience) to a new place--the Arab-American experience post September 11, 2001. With humor, passion and a lovely

touch of whimsy, he's created a theatrical experience that's not to be missed. Louis Weisberg, CFP El Guindi's engrossing play...finds a workable balance between sharp humor and head-banging angst, which shapes his story effectively. Mary Houlihan, Chicago Sun-Times Woven into this complicated family drama are scenes of delightful humor. Humanity is the substance that ties not only all of the characters together but also binds the audience to them. This play beautifully serves the purposes of drama, comedy, the artistic theatrical process and, perhaps most importantly, demystifying the hate that comes from fear of unknown cultures. Venus Zarris, Gay Chicago Magazine The drama comes from an emotionally vivid story that captures a world of anger, joy, love and frustration as it plays out in a Muslim-American family. The appeal lies in Guindi's ability to transcend ethnicity while still writing a rich depiction of a Muslim family... The emotional difficulties could belong to any family of any (or no) religion... Smart, challenging, poignant, whimsical and at times, delightfully silly. Catey Sullivan, Pioneer Press

angels in america millennium approaches: Tony Kushner's "Angel in America" - A Jewish American Epic Sonja Longolius, 2007-09 Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1, Free University of Berlin (John-F.-Kennedy Institut), language: English, abstract: Much has been written about the homosexual and political playwright Tony Kushner. Interestingly, not so much has been said about his Jewish background and its impact on his dramatic work. Especially, his most acknowledged play Angels in America - A Gay Fantasia on National Themes which is mainly set in New York City this strange place, in the melting pot where nothing melted as Rabbi Isidor Chemelwitz observes in the first scene of Millennium Approaches, is highly concerned with Judaism in general and American Jewry in particular. Naturally, different readings of Kushner's two-part play are possible. Nevertheless, it is crucial to reveal and analyze the importance of the Jewish tone and setting in Angels in America to fully understand Kushner's complex work. Kushner picks out the topic of religion and traditional heritage in our secular, modern world as one of his central themes. As Hilary de Vries wrote in her Chicago Tribune critique, Kushner credits much of his interest in religion to his family background as part of the little known but thriving Jewish community in [Lake Charles] Louisiana. When Kushner moved to New York City in 1974, the Jewish population of the city was over one million making it the largest Jewish community in the world. Even though Kushner struggles with an ambivalence toward Judaism due to homophobic traditions within his faith, as James Fisher stated, he nevertheless strongly connects to his own Eastern European roots. Kushner's ambivalence is that of American Jewry in general, being torn between the modern, secular society and historical ties to ethnic and religious identity. This dilemma is put forward through the play's fine-nuanced Jewish characters. Furthermore, the play circles around general religious allegories, which origins can be traced back to wr

angels in america millennium approaches: My Name is Rachel Corrie Rachel Corrie, 2005 A deeply moving personal testimony... Theatre can't change the world. But what it can do, when it's as good as this, is to send us out enriched by other people's passionate concern.--Guardian Intensely topical account of the life and early death of a young female activist--adapted from her own writings and published alongside the premiere.

angels in america millennium approaches: Brundibar Tony Kushner, 2004 Aninku and Pepicek find their mother sick one morning, they need to buy her milk to make her better. The brother and sister go to town to make money by singing. But a hurdy-gurdy grinder, Brundibar, chases them away. They are helped by three talking animals and three hundred schoolchildren, to defeat the bully. Brundibar is based on a Czech opera for children that was performed fifty-five times by the children of Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp in 1943.

angels in america millennium approaches: Thinking about the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness Tony Kushner, 1995 In this first collection of writings by Tony Kushner, including his latest play Slavs!, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright grapples with the timeless issues of bigotry, war, faith, love, as well as tackling the contemporary topics as AIDS, gay rights and the moral horrors of the Gulf War.

angels in america millennium approaches: Up in the Cheap Seats Ron Fassler, 2017-01-13

Actor and theatre aficionado Ron Fassler recalls his upbringing on Broadway, in conversation with Harold Prince, Stephen Sondheim, Bette Midler, Sheldon Harnick, James Earl Jones, Austin Pendleton, Ken Howard, Hal Linden, Stacy Keach, Jane Alexander and Mike Nichols among many others.

angels in america millennium approaches: *A Gypsy Good Time* Gustav Hasford, 1992 When his girlfriend is murdered, Dowdy Lewis tries to follow the trail, and comes up against mobsters, Hollywood moguls, and drug dealers in his pursuit of the killer

angels in america millennium approaches: **As is** William M. Hoffman, 1990 THE STORY: The time is now, the place New York City. Rich, a young writer who is beginning to find success, is breaking up with his longtime lover, Saul, a professional photographer. The split is particularly difficult for Saul, who still loves Ric

angels in america millennium approaches: *From Aphra Behn to Fun Home* Carey Purcell, 2019-12-04 Theatre has long been considered a feminine interest for which women consistently purchase the majority of tickets, while the shows they are seeing typically are written and brought to the stage by men. Furthermore, the stories these productions tell are often about men, and the complex leading roles in these shows are written for and performed by male actors. Despite this imbalance, the feminist voice presses to be heard and has done so with more success than ever before. In *From Aphra Behn to Fun Home: A Cultural History of Feminist Theatre*, Carey Purcell traces the evolution of these important artists and productions over several centuries. After examining the roots of feminist theatre in early Greek plays and looking at occasional works produced before the twentieth century, Purcell then identifies the key players and productions that have emerged over the last several decades. This book covers the heyday of the second wave feminist movement—which saw the growth of female-centric theatre groups—and highlights the work of playwrights such as Caryl Churchill, Pam Gems, and Wendy Wasserstein. Other prominent artists discussed here include playwrights Paula Vogel Lynn and Tony-award winning directors Garry Hynes and Julie Taymor. The volume also examines diversity in contemporary feminist theatre—with discussions of such playwrights as Young Jean Lee and Lynn Nottage—and a look toward the future. Purcell explores the very nature of feminist theater—does it qualify if a play is written by a woman or does it just need to feature strong female characters?—as well as how notable activist work for feminism has played a pivotal role in theatre. An engaging survey of female artists on stage and behind the scenes, *From Aphra Behn to Fun Home* will be of interest to theatregoers and anyone interested in the invaluable contributions of women in the performing arts.

angels in america millennium approaches: **The Theater of Tony Kushner** James Fisher, 2021-09-30 The Theater of Tony Kushner is a comprehensive portrait of the forty-year long career of dramatist Tony Kushner as playwright, screenwriter, essayist, and public intellectual and political activist. Following an introduction examining the influences of Kushner's development as an artist, this updated second edition features individual chapters on his major plays, including *A Bright Room Called Day*, *Hydriotaphia, or The Death of Dr. Browne*, *Angels in America*, *Slavs! Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *Caroline, or Change*, and *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*, along with chapters on Kushner's adaptations, one-act plays, and screenplays, including his two Academy Award-nominated screenplays, *Munich* and *Lincoln*. A book for anyone interested in theater, film, literature, and the ways in which the past informs the present, this second edition of *The Theater of Tony Kushner* explores how his writings reflect key elements of American society, from politics and economics to race, gender, and spirituality, all with the hope of inspiring America to live up to its ideals.

angels in america millennium approaches: Plotting Motherhood in Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern Literature Mary Beth Rose, 2017-01-20 This book explores the inconsistent literary representations of motherhood in diverse texts ranging from the fourth to the twentieth centuries. Mary Beth Rose unearths plots startling in their frequency and redundancy that struggle to accommodate—or to obliterate—the complex assertions of maternal authority as it challenges

traditional family and social structures. The analysis engages two mother plots: the dead mother plot, in which the mother is dying or dead; and the living mother plot, in which the mother is alive and through her very presence in the text, puts often unbearable pressure on the mechanics of the plot. These plots reappear and are transformed by authors as diverse in chronology and use of literary form as Augustine, Shakespeare, Milton, Oscar Wilde, and Tony Kushner. The book argues that, insofar as women become the second sex, it is not because they are females per se but because they are mothers; at the same time the analysis probes the transformative political and social potential of motherhood as it appears in contemporary texts like *Angels in America*.

angels in america millennium approaches: *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* Robert Olen Butler, 2012-03-11 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize: "Uncannily perceptive stories written by an American from the viewpoint of Vietnamese citizens transplanted to Louisiana" (People). *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* is Robert Olen Butler's Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of lyrical and poignant stories about the aftermath of the Vietnam War and its enduring impact on the Vietnamese. Written in a soaring prose, Butler's haunting and powerful stories blend Vietnamese folklore and contemporary American realities, creating a vibrant panorama that is epic in its scope. This new edition includes two previously uncollected stories—"Missing" and "Salem"—that brilliantly complete the collection's narrative journey, returning to the jungles of Vietnam to explore the experiences of a former Vietcong soldier and an American MIA. "Deeply affecting . . . A brilliant collection of stories about storytellers whose recited folklore radiates as implicit prayer . . . One of the strongest collections I've read in ages." —Ann Beattie

angels in america millennium approaches: *Fires in the Mirror* Anna Deavere Smith, 2015-01-21 Derived from interviews with a wide range of people who experienced or observed New York's 1991 Crown Heights racial riots, *Fires In The Mirror* is as distinguished a work of commentary on black-white tensions as it is a work of drama. In August 1991 simmering tensions in the racially polarized Brooklyn, New York, neighborhood of Crown Heights exploded into riots after a black boy was killed by a car in a rabbi's motorcade and a Jewish student was slain by blacks in retaliation. *Fires in the Mirror* is dramatist Anna Deavere Smith's stunning exploration of the events and emotions leading up to and following the Crown Heights conflict. Through her portrayals of more than two dozen Crown Heights adversaries, victims, and eyewitnesses, using verbatim excerpts from their observations derived from interviews she conducted, Smith provides a brilliant, Rashoman-like documentary portrait of contemporary ethnic turmoil.

angels in america millennium approaches: *Homos, Or Everyone in America* Jordan Seavey, 2018 'um yes we've been a community since since stonewall certainly harvey milk probably ancient greece maybe' Equality is here - now what? In a supposedly 'post-gay' America on the brink of passing marriage equality, a first date at a New York bar starts two men on a fearless, funny and fragmented journey leading up to a historic moment of change. Jordan Seavey's play *Homos, or Everyone in America* is a raw and provocative portrait of a love story, exploding attitudes, emotions and prejudices that sit at the heart of relationships across the world. This dazzling kaleidoscope of a play asks us all the question - are personal and political choices really all that different? *Homos, or Everyone in America* won numerous awards on its premiere Off-Broadway in 2016, and received its European premiere at the Finborough Theatre, London, in 2018.

angels in america millennium approaches: *Holding the Man* Timothy Conigrave, 1996-07-02 The mid-seventies - and satin baggies and chunky platforms reigned supreme. Jethro Tull did battle with glam-rock for the airwaves. At an all-boys Catholic school in Melbourne, Timothy Conigrave fell wildly and sweetly in love with the captain of the football team. So began a relationship that was to last for 15 years, a love affair that weathered disapproval, separation and, ultimately death. *Holding the Man* recreates that relationship. With honesty and insight it explores the highs and lows of any partnership: the intimacy, constraints, temptations. And the strength of heart both men had to find when they tested positive to HIV. This is a book as refreshing and uplifting as it is moving; a funny and sad and celebratory account of growing up gay.

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