

DOWNLOAD PDF ANGELS IN AMERICA: A GAY FANTASIA ON NATIONAL THEMES

Chapter 1 : Tony Kushner - IMDb

Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes is a two-part play by American playwright Tony Kushner. The play has won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Tony Award for Best Play, and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play.

Plot[edit] Part One: Joe hesitates to accept out of concern for his agoraphobic , valium -addicted wife Harper, who refuses to move. Harper suspects that Joe does not love her in the same way she loves him, which is confirmed when Joe confesses his homosexuality. Harper retreats into drug-fueled escapist fantasies, including a dream where she crosses paths with Prior even though the two of them have never met in the real world. Torn by pressure from Roy and a burgeoning infatuation with Louis, Joe drunkenly comes out to his conservative mother Hannah, who reacts badly. Concerned for her son, she sells her house in Salt Lake City and travels to New York to help repair his marriage. Meanwhile, a drug-addled Harper has fled their apartment after a confrontation with Joe, wandering the streets of Brooklyn believing she is in Antarctica as Joe and Louis tentatively begin an affair. Defiantly refusing to publicly admit he is gay, Roy instead declares he has liver cancer. Facing disbarment for borrowing money from a client, Roy is determined to beat the case so he can die a lawyer and he attempts to position Joe in the Justice Department with the aim of having a friend in a useful place. When Joe at last refuses his offer, he flies into a rage and collapses in pain. As he awaits transport to the hospital, he is visited by the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg , whom he prosecuted in her trial for espionage, and who was executed after Roy illegally lobbied the judge for the death penalty. Prior begins to hear an angelic voice telling him to prepare for her arrival, and receives visits from a pair of ghosts who claim to be his own ancestors, who inform him he is a prophet. Prior does not know if these visitations are caused by an emotional breakdown or if they are real. At the end of Part One, Prior is visited by an angel , who crashes through his bedroom ceiling and proclaims that "the Great Work" has begun. Perestroika[edit] At the funeral of a friend, a shaken Prior relates his encounter with the Angel to Belize. God, bored with the angels, made mankind with the power to change and create. The progress of mankind on Earth caused Heaven to suffer earthquake-like tremors and physically deteriorate. Finally, on the day of the San Francisco earthquake in , God abandoned Heaven. The Angel brings Prior a message for mankindâ€™"stop moving! Belize believes that Prior is projecting his own fears of abandonment into an elaborate hallucination, but Prior suspects that his illness is the prophecy taking physical form, and that the only way the Angel can force him to deliver her message is to die. Roy lands at the hospital in the care of Belize, where his condition rapidly declines. He manages to use his political clout to acquire a private stash of the experimental drug AZT , at the expense of withholding the drug from participants in a drug trial. Alone in a hospital, Cohn finds himself increasingly isolated, with only Belize, who despises him, and the ghost of Ethel for company. Joe visits Roy, who is near death, and receives a final, paternal blessing from his mentor. However, when Joe confesses he has left Harper for a man, Roy rejects him in a violent reaction of fear and rage, ordering him to return to his wife and cover up his indiscretion. The two share a spark of recognition from their shared dream, and witness a vision of Joe and Louis together. The confrontation turns violent, and Joe punches Louis in the face, ending their affair. Ethel Rosenberg watches Roy suffer and decline before delivering the final blow as he lies dying: He has been disbarred after all. Delirious, Roy seems to mistake Ethel for his mother, begging her to comfort him, and Ethel sings a Yiddish Lullaby as Roy appears to pass away. However, with a sudden burst of energy he reveals that he has tricked her, viciously declaring that he has finally beaten her by making her sing. He then collapses and dies. He asks Louis to recite the Kaddish for Roy. Unseen by the living, Ethel guides Louis through the prayer, symbolically forgiving Roy before she departs for the hereafter. Prior, who has jealously started stalking Joe, collapses from pneumonia while visiting the Mormon center and Hannah rushes him back to the hospital. Prior tells her about his vision and is surprised when Hannah accepts this, based on her belief in angelic revelations within the Mormon church. At the hospital, the Angel reappears enraged that Prior rejected

her message. Prior climbs into Heaven and tells the other angels that he refuses to deliver their message, as without progress, humanity will perish, and begs them for more Life, no matter how horrible the prospect might be. He returns to his hospital bed, where he awakes from his vision with his fever broken and his health beginning to recover. He makes amends with Louis, but refuses to take him back. The play concludes in Prior and Louis are still separated, but Louis, along with Belize, remains close in order to support and care for Prior, and Hannah has found new perspective on her rigid beliefs, allowing her to accept her son as he is and forge a friendship with Prior. Prior, Louis, Belize, and Hannah gather before the angel statue in Bethesda Fountain, discussing the fall of the Soviet Union and what the future holds. Prior talks of the legend of the Pool of Bethesda, where the sick were healed.

Characters[edit] The play is written for eight actors, each of whom plays two or more roles. Throughout the play, he experiences various heavenly visions. When the play begins, he is dating Louis Ironson. His best friend is a nurse named Belize. He meets Joe Pitt and later begins a relationship with him.

Harper Pitt – An agoraphobic Mormon housewife with incessant Valium-induced hallucinations. After a revelation from Prior whom she meets when his heavenly vision and her hallucination cross paths, she discovers that her husband is gay and struggles with it, considering it a betrayal of her marriage. Joe eventually abandons his wife for a relationship with Louis. Throughout the play, he struggles with his sexual identity.

Roy Cohn – A closeted gay lawyer, based on real life Roy Cohn. Just as in history, it is eventually revealed that he has contracted HIV and the disease has progressed to AIDS, which he insists is liver cancer to preserve his reputation. She moves to New York after her son drunkenly comes out to her on the phone. She arrives to find that Joe has abandoned his wife. Played by the actor playing Hannah.

A smooth talking agent for the International Order of Travel Agents. Played by the actor playing Belize.

Emily – A smart-mouthed nurse who attends to Prior. Played by the actor playing the Angel. Played by the actor playing Harper.

Ethel Rosenberg – The ghost of a woman executed for being a Communist spy, based on the real life Ethel Rosenberg. She visits Roy, whom she blames for her conviction and execution. Prior 1 was a gloomy Yorkshire farmer from the 13th century while Prior 2 was a 17th-century British aristocrat. Played by the actors playing Joe and Roy, respectively. Played by the actor playing Prior. Played by the actor playing Joe. He is played by the actor playing Joe. She is played by the actor playing the Angel. The two sons, Caleb and Orrin, are voiced offstage by the actors playing Belize and the Angel respectively. They are the Angels Europa played by the actor playing Joe, Africani played by the actor playing Harper, Oceania played by the actor playing Belize, Asiatica played by the actor playing Hannah, Australia played by the actor playing Louis, and Antarctica played by the actor playing Roy.

Production history[edit] Front cover of the programme for the National Theatre production of part one of the play. It was performed several times as staged readings by both the Eureka Theatre during the world premiere of part one in, and the Mark Taper Forum in May. In November it received its London debut in a National Theatre production on the Cottesloe stage, in repertory with a revival of Millennium Approaches, again directed by Declan Donnellan. Wolfe, with Millennium Approaches performed on May 4 and Perestroika joining it in repertory on November 23, closing December 4. Among the replacements during the run were F. The published script indicates that Kushner made a few revisions to Perestroika in the following year. These changes officially completed the work in Johnson as Joe Pitt, Barbara E. The production finished its season on July. Asia premiered the play in its entirety in by the New Voice Company in the Philippines. The production received critical praise and launched the new theater company.

Staging[edit] Kushner prefers that the theatricality be transparent. In his notes about staging, he writes: This must be an actor-driven event. The choice to have "no blackouts" allows audiences to participate in the construction of a malleable theatrical world. One of the many theatrical devices in Angels is that each of the eight main actors has one or several other minor roles in the play. For example, the actor playing the nurse, Emily, also plays the Angel, Sister Ella Chapter a real estate agent, and a homeless woman. This doubling and tripling of roles encourages the audience to consider the elasticity of, for example, gender and sexual identities.

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Chapter 2 : Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches - National Theatre Live

Tony Kushner's epic returns to Broadway in glory. Kushner's two-part play is massive: To see it in a single day, with multiple intermissions and a long dinner break, takes 10 hours. Yet every.

Cohn offers court clerk Joe Pitt a job in Washington, D. Justice Department, but Joe has to discuss the job offer with his wife, Harper. Often consumed by fantasies and fears, Harper hides in her home. When she wants to travel, a travel agent named Mr. Lies magically appears to her and offers to take her anywhere she wants. After Joe returns home, he and Harper fight about going to Washington. They also fight about her emotional problems and about the secrets he keeps from her. Prior Walter reveals to his lover, Louis Ironson, that he has a cancerous lesion, a sign of advancing complications from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS. Prior jokes about it, but he fears that Louis might leave him. In truth, Louis does not know if he can stay with Prior to watch him die. Louis thinks Joe is gay and is surprised when Joe denies it. In the dreams, Prior tells Harper that her husband is gay, and Harper tells Prior that deep inside, he is free of disease. For the first time, Prior hears a mysterious angelic voice call to him. His behavior is correct, and that is all that matters. Homosexuals have no clout, but Roy has clout. Roy has sex with men, but he reasons that because he is not homosexual, he does not have AIDS. The doctor advises Roy that an experimental drug called AZT might help him, but the drug has a two-year waiting list. Roy will have to call the president for help. Prior becomes violently ill, and Louis, hysterical, takes him to the hospital. Afraid, Louis leaves him there. Joe tells Roy about his marital problems. Roy, who reveals that he is dying, passes this wisdom to Joe. Roy says that love is a trap, that responsibility is a trap, and that Joe should not be afraid to live alone. Roy, who has been threatened with disbarment, wants Joe to take a job at the Justice Department so that he might protect Roy from his enemies. If he worked at the department, Joe could pressure these lawyers to leave Roy alone. Joe knows that this is unethical. An angry Roy tells Joe that ethics does not matter in the world of politics. Joe and Louis fall in love. They feel that they are caught between their duty to love and their duty to themselves. Both fear and want freedom. They are children of the age: They become lovers, and Louis leaves Prior, saying he has to be free. Joe tells Harper that he has no sexual feelings for her. Harper, who is now heartbroken, asks Mr. Lies to take her to Antarctica. Late at night, Joe calls his mother, Hannah Pitt, who lives in Utah, and tells her he is gay. Angry, she tells him to go home to his wife. Hannah sells her house and travels to New York. He then sees a huge book drop from the heavens and, more and more, feels doomed, as The entire section is 1, words.

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Chapter 3 : Angels in America Tickets | Broadway Tickets | calendrierdelascience.com

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 obses.

His other plays include *Hydriotaphia, Slavs!*: In the early s, Kushner began writing for film. His co-written screenplay *Munich* was produced and directed by Steven Spielberg in The film was directed by Freida Lee Mock. The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln. Kushner is famous for frequent revisions and years-long gestations of his plays. Both *Angels in America*: Kushner has admitted that the original script version of *Angels in America: Perestroika* is nearly double the length of the theatrical version. Said work finally opened on May 15, In it was announced that Kushner was working on a script of a remake of *West Side Story* for Spielberg to direct. Jews, [20] including some opposition to his receiving an honorary doctorate at the commencement of Brandeis University. The Zionist Organization of America unsuccessfully lobbied the university to rescind its invitation to Kushner. Kushner said at the time that his quotes were "grossly mischaracterized. My positions have been lied about and misrepresented in so many ways. More Six-Word Memoirs" on page His six-word memoir was "At least I never voted Republican. In summer , Kushner and Harris were legally married at the city hall in Provincetown, Massachusetts. *La Fin de la Baleine: Yes, Yes, No, No: Louis*, , published in *Plays in Process*, *Millennium Approaches* produced in San Francisco, , *Hern*, *Perestroika*, produced in New York City, Joseph Papp Public Theater, June 19,

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Chapter 4 : Angels in America: Millennium Approaches & Perestroika | a Curtainup Review

Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

National Theatre, London Who: Now playing up until August 19, Why: And the cast in this current production is top notch – actors you might not be able to see in such a production again in your lifetime. But more on the cast later. Angels in America has won almost every theatre award up for grabs. What is it about? There was no cure, and when people started to see purple lesions on their skin, they knew that it was all over. But Angels in America is also about so much more. It delves deep into relationships that we have with each other and especially with ourselves, it deals with power, greed, lust, lies, betrayal as well as fantasy, ecstasy, religion and last but not least life notice that I did not mention death. The show is complex only in that it goes off into the deep end at times for the necessity of one of the characters. Angels is also still very timely, as it touches on immigration and discrimination based on heritage – themes we are seeing first hand in the much changed political climate that we now live in. Joe, a clerk in a law office, is deeply-closeted. So for over seven hours we go on a ride with these characters as Angels in American puts them, and us, through a rollercoaster of emotion and drama. Louis is unable to care for Prior and walks out on him at the moment that Prior needs him most. Louis strikes up more than a casual friendship with Joe as they both work at the same law firm. Meanwhile, Joe, who becomes more than a bit friendly with Cohn his mentor, eventually falls in love with Louis. But in this retelling, and for those of us old enough to be around where all this actually happened, it takes us back to the time when there was nothing we could do for our friends dying of the disease but to just hold their hands and watch them die. And Angels in America takes us back to those horrible time. Lane was made to play Cohn – caustic yet not a bit remorseful, even after the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg practically stands over him waiting for him to die. Lane is just simply superb. Stewart-Jarrett, practically an unknown, holds his own with the acting heavyweights on the stage. His nurse and friend Belize is practically the glue that holds the other characters together – and Stewart-Jarrett does it so sarcastically and beautifully. A star is born. There are two ballots left: For more information and to buy tickets, please go here:

Chapter 5 : Tony Kushner - Wikipedia

In late and early , as the first wave of the AIDS epidemic in America is escalating and Ronald Reagan has been elected to a second term in the White House, the play's two parts bring.

Gay men are dying by the thousands while a president refuses to acknowledge their plight. Some hospitals turn them away untreated; the rubber glove and facial mask industry is suddenly soaring; and people everywhere are afraid to shake hands, to hug, or even to go see those men with the telltale purple lesions. And as the much anticipated Millennium approaches with both widespread excitement and dread, the deaths continued to rise with AIDS being the Number One killer of all Americans by Further, the rights of LGBT have greatly expanded across the country and much of the globe, and same-sex couples are marrying and even having kids by the thousands. Into this current, uncertain, and troubling atmosphere, Berkeley Repertory Company opens its production of Part One: Millennium Approaches and Part Two: And, the production does so in ways magnificently stunning in every respect. More life, the great work begins. Political debates, theological wanderings, and psychic moments of madness could be deadly for an audience, but Tony Kushner keeps us on the edge of our seats for hours with stories and their people that draw us in and do not us let go. And all along the way, we laugh and laugh even when we should perhaps be crying because the playwright has peppered his script with the morbid but still funny humor that often exists side-by-side in our scenes of human tragedy. Louis immediately freaks out and begins his exit, while still professing how much he loves Prior. Their individual stories are one thread of many to be woven in this Angels quilt about to spread before us, and both Randy Harrison as Prior and Benjamin T. Ismail as Louis are exceptional in their individual portrayals. Prior, as his body deteriorates in inhumanly cruel seizures both physical and mental; and Louis, as his increasing guilt for abandoning the one he loves will lead him too quickly to jump into another relationship with someone who is opposite of him in almost every thing he values. Bethany Jillard is intensely wonderful as Harper with hands that clasp, grip, and frantically flit in such ways to speak their own discourse. The journey of his Joe will transform him through stages of being scared and helpless like a little boy to being hot and steamy as a desperate lover to being threatening to self and others in his outrage as a man unsure who he really is. Stephen Spinella, who won two Tonys for Best Actor for both parts of the original Broadway Angels, perhaps shines above all the stellar performances of this eight-person cast; but there is nothing sunny, good, or admirable about his Roy. His raspy voice roars as he makes on multiple phone lines simultaneous deals with the devil in his own power plays. When he is diagnosed with a disease that anyone else is calling AIDS but that he manhandles his doctor to calling liver cancer, his Roy joins in a deadly, downward spiral the thousands of other men around him he refuses to see or to help. We watch a performance of torment and torture by Mr. Spinella that is shocking in its stark reality – all the time he splatters it with the hatred and callous humor of the real Roy Cohn. These major storylines are just a glimpse of the landscape of tales that Tony Kushner provides in this epic of a history that was still playing out its horrible course even as he wrote it. Many other characters – some historical, some of this world, and many of another dimension way out of this world – come and go in small-set scenes that stream on and off stage beautifully and gracefully as part the scenic design of Takeshi Kata. Along with taking on other roles from an elder Rabbi to the oldest living Bolshevik, Ms. He is also Belize, the not-taking-any-of-your-crap nurse of Roy Cohn. Nichols cover the massive walls and backstage with forests, cities, bridges, neighborhoods, and all sorts of subtly changing designs and colors that are a show unto themselves. The large Roda Theatre literally shakes at times with the earthquake power of the sound design by Jake Rodriguez and Bray Poor; and at other times, the effects are subtle background signals of worlds real and maybe not so real. And all is somehow magically and masterfully held together by a director Tony Taccone who -- as he has shown in past Berkeley Rep productions -- clearly knows how to take Tony Kushner plays and milk the hell out of the script to produce world-class theatre. Francisca Faridany and Lisa Ramirez alternate the demanding role flying in suddenly from above, with Ms. As the Angel, Ms.

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Faridany is both heavenly in appearance and attitude but also with a streak of human wit and flaw running through her. Everybody is in the land of the free. In this world, there is a kind of painful progress. A Gay Fantasia on National Themes at Berkeley Repertory Theatre as timely in as it was in and in the national themes that these Two Parts once again expose and expound. Tickets are available at [http:](http://) Photos by Kevin Berne.

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Chapter 6 : Angels in America - Wikipedia

Berkeley Rep revives Angels in America, in all its soaring spirit In a way that American drama has not since equaled, Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony-winning script combines a joyful imagination, linguistic wizardry, mischievous theatricality, vertiginous intellect, daring yet self-aware politics and all-encompassing heart."

Millenium Approaches - Part 2: And the spookiest thing of all, has to do with AIDS. When the play was written there were 7 million people with the disease. There are now 33 million. But the show will go on for another five weeks. This extraordinary and audacious act of imagination is populated by an array of unforgettable characters, both fictional and real. Their stories fill a giant canvas with provocative themes. Grandiose but gratifyingly on the mark in its ambition, it really delivers on that rather showy A Gay Fantasia on National Themes. The writing is lyrical and witty, evoking laughter sometimes hilariously so despite the pain and feverish delusions on display. Zachary Quinto as Louis Photo: Joan Marcus The century and celestial sphere spanning seven hour saga that includes 2 intermissions for each part still has enough characters to fool you into thinking that this cast is at least a dozen strong even though it actually consists of just eight actors who do some bravura multiple tasking. Kushner, who at the time of the Broadway premiere was caught up in the crush of deadlines for having Perestroika ready to join The Millenium Approaches in repertory, has since been able to polish and refine it. And so, while the first part is virtually unchanged, the second part includes extensive revisions, albeit none that alter the overall structure and story lines. The more or less straightforward plot still revolves around two couples: Harper and Joe Pitt, two New York immigrants from Salt Lake City whose Mormon faith exacerbates rather than helps them deal with his deeply closeted homosexuality. She deals with his rejection with an over reliance on valium induced fantasies, some of which are brilliantly acted out; for example, when her delusion transforms the stage into Antartica as a metaphoric safe haven for her numbed feelings. Naturally, spending from two to five PM and an evening lasting until well past eleven in the theater is as exhausting as it is exhilarating. The three hours of Millenium actually passed as if propelled by angel wings. Zachary Quinto, the only movie star in this ensemble he played the young Spock in the reboot of the famous Star Trek film franchise is also the only one without a string of stage credits on his resume. He is profoundly moving as he journeys from being being terror stricken and angry to strong and determined survivor. Frank Wood, usually seen in more understated roles, is a marvelously and maniacally awful Roy Cohn. With his rat-a-tat speech and contorted mouth he actually looks and sound like the real Cohn. Another terrific performance is delivered by Billy Porter as Belize; ditto for Robin Weigert as the more scary than comforting Angel who tries to turn Prior into a prophet. My honors for taking on the most roles go to Robin Bartlett. Greif and scenic designer Mark Wendland take us to the diverse earthbound and heavenly locales with unfussy elegance. I could go on singing the praises of Mr. While Angels in America will always be associated with the disheartening aspects of the Reagan era and the burgeoning AIDS crisis, it is a morality tale without a closing date. That includes Prior, who has been to heaven and back. When this already twice extended run ends, the season continues. Millenium Approaches - Part 2, Perestroika Playwright: The program lists only the main roles though there is a good deal of double role playing, especially by played by Robin Bartlett Scenic design:

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Chapter 7 : Angels in America at Berkeley Rep

Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes: Revised and Complete Edition by Tony Kushner A revised edition of one of the most influential plays of our time, published with a new forward by the author, and debuting in celebration of Signature Theatre Company's Tony Kushner season.

We have a new agenda and finally a real leader. They got back the Senate but we have the courts. By the nineties the Supreme Court will be block-solid Republican appointees, and the federal bench Republican judges like land mines, everywhere, everywhere they turn. Take it to court. The end of New Deal Socialism. The end of ipso facto secular humanism. The dawning of a genuinely American political personality. Neither is it attributable to a Fox News pundit or one of the Republican legislators who shamelessly support all this unpresidential behavior. Neither is it attributable to a Fox News pundit or one of the Republican legislators who shamelessly support his unpresidential behavior. The scene is between Martin Heller, an uber-conservative justice department administrator and the Mephistophelean lawyer Roy Cohn. A play about a Gay-centric health and social catastrophe is not too much of its era to warrant investing over seven hours of your time. Granted, the plot still revolves around a group of characters affected by the AIDS epidemic and the intolerance towards same sex relations, even though an AIDS diagnosis is no longer a death sentence, and fewer and fewer gay men and women feel compelled to keep their true identity in the closet. Kushner used his brilliantly imaginative voice in behalf the agonizing plight of the Gay community. With all its dark issues, Angels. Surely, we all need more than a spoonful of both laughter and hope these days. But both stage craft and performances once again prove that rich source material fosters continuous all around excellence. To begin with the director. These scenic shifts also allow two separate interactions to often play out simultaneously. But whatever he calls it, AIDS it is. While everyone, even those in the key roles, gamely take on additional roles. That includes making them participants in Ms. The most versatile multi-tasker on board is Susan Brown. But ignore my quibble. Whether you see each part on separate evenings or all in one day, as I did, the hours spent with this Angels in America provide the most satisfyingly grand theatrical outing currently on any New York stage. Search CurtainUp in the box below.

Chapter 8 : SparkNotes: Angels in America: Key Facts

Review - Angels In America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes, Part 1: Millennium Approaches, National Theatre Wednesday 19 April Over 7 hours, 2 nights and at least 3 intervals (we do not yet know how many Part 2 holds).

Chapter 9 : SparkNotes: Angels in America

Key Facts. full title Â· Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes; Part One is entitled Millennium Approaches; Part Two is entitled Perestroika. author Â· Tony Kushner.