

MEDIA RELEASE

February 24, 2017



An Arts Club Theatre Company production

ANGELS IN AMERICA

PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES

By Tony Kushner

March 23–April 23, 2017

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage

Media opening: Wednesday, March 29

IN BRIEF An Arts Club Theatre Company production: *Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches* at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage (2750 Granville St., at 12th Ave.) from March 23 to April 23, 2017 (**MEDIA OPENING: March 29**). Tuesday – Thursday 7:30 PM, Friday & Saturday 8 PM, Wednesday 1:30 PM, and Saturday & Sunday at 2 PM. Tickets start at \$29, inclusive of taxes and fees. Call the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644 or visit artsclub.com.

VANCOUVER, B.C.—A GAY FANTASIA ON NATIONAL THEMES

Considered one of the greatest works of 20th-century theatre, *Angels in America* is a gripping tale of companionship, abandonment, and awakening that gives a compassionate voice to the fears engulfing a nation. Set in New York City at the height of the Reagan era and the beginning of the AIDS crisis, eight core characters struggle to find harmony among their beliefs, their desires, and the societal roles they feel obligated to uphold. Tony Kushner's modern masterpiece is an epic exploration of politics, religion, sexuality, and love that crescendos to an arresting finale.

Central to the story is Prior Walter (**Damien Atkins**), a gay man recently abandoned by his lover Louis (**Ryan Beil**) after revealing his AIDS diagnosis. This performance reunites Atkins with his role in the 2013 and 2014 Soulpepper productions, hailed by *The Toronto Star* as “deliver[ing] genuine loss, pain, fear and anguish. An awesome piece of acting.”

Director **Kim Collier** (*Saint Joan, Helen Lawrence, Tear the Curtain!*) says, “Brian Markinson and I first proposed doing *Angels in America* to Bill Millerd in 2015 because it's an incredible piece of theatre—a story that eloquently captured the magnitude of fears, complexities, and change happening in the '80s and '90s. After the recent US election, with its shift in political narrative and the resulting resistance and pain coming from its citizens, *Angels in America* feels more urgent than ever. There are many reasons to do this play. It is ever vital in its ability to widen compassion and empathy in the world. It provides catharsis to those who have suffered, whether from AIDS or other tragic losses. It is shockingly relevant in the questions it asks of whether we will act in self-interest or as a citizen to defend our marginalized communities.”

Theatrical elements will echo the sentiments staged by Collier. Set Designer **Ken MacKenzie** calls his expansive world, painted entirely in white, “an arena of the soul,” and Sound Designers **Torquil Campbell** and **Alessandro Juliani** refer to their trumpet-infused original music as “anthems for empathy.”

The captivating sequel to *Millennium Approaches* will open the Arts Club's upcoming season. *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika* plays at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage from September 7 to October

8, 2017. *Perestroika* hits a pivotal turning point as several characters brace for change and visibility against political and personal tensions, while Prior wrestles with the angel and his illness on the path to redemption and acceptance. Tickets to *Perestroika* are currently available through Arts Club subscription packages and single tickets will be on sale in August.

“Heaven sent” —*National Post*

Starring **Lois Anderson** (The Angel/Emily/Sister Ella Chapter/ Woman in the South Bronx), **Damien Atkins** (Prior Walter/The Man in the Park), **Ryan Beil** (Louis Ironson), **Craig Erickson** (Joseph Porter Pitt/Prior 1/The Eskimo), **Stephen Jackman-Torkoff** (Belize/Mr. Lies), **Brian Markinson** (Roy M. Cohn/Prior 2), **Gabrielle Rose** (Hannah Porter Pitt/Rabbi Isodor Chemelwitz/Henry/Ethel Rosenberg), **Celine Stubel** (Harper Amity Pitt/Martin Heller).

Director **Kim Collier** Set Designer **Ken MacKenzie** Costume Designer **Nancy Bryant** Lighting Designer **John Webber** Sound Designers **Torquil Campbell** and **Alessandro Juliani** Video Designer **Sean Nieuwenhuis** Assistant Director **Cameron Mackenzie** Assistant Costume Designer **Jessica Oostergo** Stage Manager **Jan Hodgson** Assistant Stage Manager **Peter Jotkus** Apprentice Stage Manager **Geoff Jones**

CONTACT

Amy Lynn Strilchuk, Publicist: 604.687.5315 or publicity@artsclub.com. High-resolution images are available for download at artsclub.com/media. The username is **journalist** and the password is **photos4media**. Video footage is available by request and at youtube.com/ArtsClubVan after **March 23**.

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club Theatre Company, founded in 1964, is Canada’s largest not-for-profit urban theatre company. Led by Artistic Managing Director Bill Millerd and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

Website: artsclub.com

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#ACTCAngelsPt1