

MEDIA RELEASE  
August 14, 2017

An Arts Club Theatre Company production

# ANGELS IN AMERICA

## PART TWO: PERESTROIKA

By Tony Kushner

Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage  
September 7 – October 8, 2017 (Media opening: September 13)  
Tue–Thu at 7:30 PM, Fri & Sat at 8 PM, Wed at 1:30 PM, and Sat & Sun at 2 PM  
Tickets from \$29 at [artsclub.com](http://artsclub.com) or the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644

**IN BRIEF** The soaring conclusion to the Arts Club’s Jessie Award–winning production of *Angels in America* comes to the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage from September 7 to October 8: *Part Two: Perestroika* is a pivotal turning point as several characters brace for change and visibility against political and personal tensions.

**VANCOUVER, B.C.**— Lauded as one of the most influential works of 20th-century theatre, *Angels in America* is a poignant account of the AIDS crisis and the Reagan era, weaving together the stories of eight core characters struggling to find harmony among their beliefs, 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 in *Part Two: Perestroika*, which features the same cast as *Part One: Millennium Approaches*.

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. Atkins’ performance in the Arts Club’s production of *Millennium Approaches* earned a Jessie Award for Outstanding Actor in a Lead Role; the production itself received a total of nine nominations and also won for Outstanding Production.

The political tensions in *Perestroika* are certainly not bound to the onstage performance. In a gutsy move, Kushner included the real-life political fixer (and closeted gay man) Roy Cohn as a character in his play. Once a mentor and legal advisor for Donald Trump, Cohn bridges the play’s era and ours with topical themes. According to *Vancouver Presents*, “*Angels in America* feels very much like 2017.”

Theatrical elements will echo these themes. Set Designer **Ken MacKenzie** says, “Where *Millennium Approaches* was about the power of empire and the political body in the design of the set, *Perestroika* is about the abuse of that power and abandonment of the political body. It has become an infected place of sickness and decay. We’re taking advantage of the differences between the stories.”

As Director **Kim Collier** (*Saint Joan, Tear the Curtain!*) says, “*Part Two*’s set is not a slow deterioration of this ‘empire’; it is a natural event, like the AIDS crisis, that has happened suddenly—like an earthquake. This design world is from the perspective of the marginalized who feel abandoned, more afraid, and lost in a culture that seems to have no place for homosexuals, difference, or diversity. *Perestroika* is a magnificent second part to this epic story. It allows us to experience catharsis and hope for the characters we have gotten to know across the seven hours of theatre. And, through them, to experience catharsis and hope possibly in our own lives, too.”

“One of the strongest casts ever assembled on a Vancouver stage” —*Vancouver Sun*

Starring **Lois Anderson** (The Angel, Emily, Mother/Orin, Voice/BBC), **Damien Atkins** (Prior Walter), **Ryan Beil** (Louis Ironson, The Angel Australia), **Craig Erickson** (Joseph Porter Pitt, Prior 1, Father, The Angel Europa), **Stephen Jackman-Torkoff** (Mr. Lies, Belize, Caleb, The Angel Oceania), **Brian Markinson** (Roy M. Cohn, Prior 2, The Angel Antarctica), **Gabrielle Rose** (Aleksii Antedilluvianovich Prelapsarianov, Hannah Porter Pitt, Henry, Ethel Rosenberg, The Angel Asiatica), **Celine Stubel** (Harper Amity Pitt, The Angel Africanii)

Director **Kim Collier** Set Designer **Ken MacKenzie** Costume Designer **Nancy Bryant** Lighting Designer **John Webber** Original Music and Sound Designers **Torquil Campbell** and **Alessandro Juliani** Projection Designer **Joel Grinke** Assistant Director **Cameron Mackenzie** Assistant Sound Designer **Malcolm Dow** Stage Manager **Caryn Fehr** Assistant Stage Manager **Ronaye Haynes** Apprentice Stage Manager **Geoff Jones**

## CONTACT

Sarah Barton-Bridges, Publicist: 604.687.5315, ext. 278, or [publicity@artsclub.com](mailto:publicity@artsclub.com). High-resolution images from last spring's production of *Part One: Millennium Approaches* are available for download at [artsclub.com/media](http://artsclub.com/media); photos from *Part Two: Perestroika* will be available after September 8. The username is **journalist** and the password is **photos4media**. Video footage is available by request and at [youtube.com/ArtsClubVan](http://youtube.com/ArtsClubVan).

## 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 the Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre—as well as on tour throughout the province.

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