



**ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES**
on every
stage.

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

Casey and Diana

by Nick Green



2024.2025 Season
Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage
April 24 – May 25, 2025

The show is generously sponsored by:



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Welcome

This guide was created for teachers and students. It contains an overview of the play's story as well as informative resources and activities for teachers and students. The guide aims to provide background knowledge and critical perspectives on the play that will yield fruitful discussion and foster an understanding and appreciation of theatre arts.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the guide, please contact our Education & Community Engagement Coordinator, Mikenzie Page, mpage@artsclub.com.

This study guide was written by Stella Jack-Rennie and Mikenzie Page.

About the Arts Club Theatre Company

The Arts Club of Vancouver was founded in 1958 as a private club for artists, musicians, and actors. It became the Arts Club Theatre in 1964 when the company opened its first stage in a converted gospel hall at Seymour and Davie Streets. Now in its 61st season of producing professional live theatre in Vancouver, the Arts Club Theatre Company is a non-profit charitable organization that operates three theatres: the Granville Island Stage, the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, and the Newmont Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre. Its popular productions range from musicals and contemporary comedies to new works and classics.

Learn more about the Arts Club Theatre Company at artsclub.com. 

Ćəsnaʔəm: The Story of this Land

The Stanley Industrial Alliance Theatre stands on the ancestral territory of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm Nation, and the former city of ċəsnaʔəm, which was located at the mouth of the Fraser River. The city of ċəsnaʔəm is an important historical site for Musqueam. It symbolizes the nation's resilience and its connection to the land. We honour the history of this land as a step towards recognition and respect to the Musqueam people. Just as Musqueam was named for the blooming flower məθkʷə́y, we hope to grow our connection with the land and its people.

The Arts Club Theatre Company would like to acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał Nations, the original stewards of this land on which we operate. We would like to ask those visiting or living here to share their thanks by supporting local Indigenous artists and communities. Acknowledging is always a start to supporting; as we step forward, we wish to be better partners, healers, and helpers to our Indigenous neighbours.

For further reading, click below to read more about Musqueam's Story from the Musqueam Indian Band website:

[Musqueam's Story](https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/our-story/)

<https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/our-story/>



PRE SHOW RESOURCES

In the following pages, you will find resources that may be helpful before attending the show

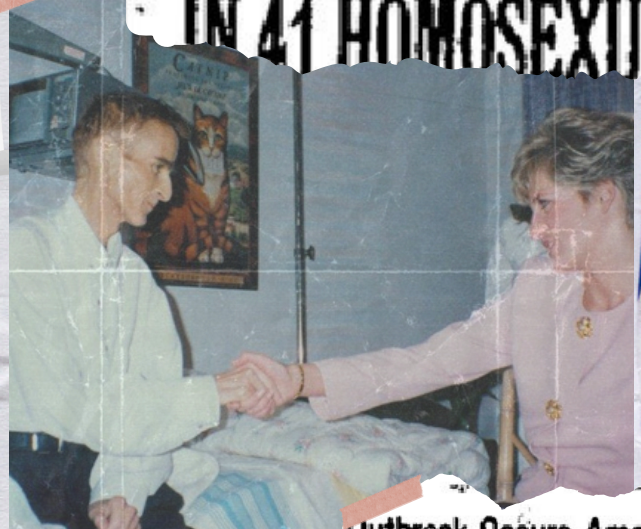
SILENCE=DEATH

THE GOVERNMENT HAS
BLOOD ON ITS HANDS



ONE AIDS DEATH
EVERY HALF HOUR

**MAKE CANCER SEEN-
IN 41 HOMOSEXUALS**



New Pneumonia Linked To Gay Lifestyle

Atlanta, GA - According to the U.S. Public Health Service's Center for Disease Control, five sexually active gay men, two of whom died, were treated between October 1980 and May 1981 for pneumonia caused by the *Pneumocystis carni* parasite. The center reported: "The fact that these patients were all

Outbreak Occurs Among Me

A Pneumonia That Strikes Gay Males

A mysterious outbreak of a sometimes fatal pneumonia among gay men has occurred in San and several other major

A.I.D.S.: WE NEED
RESEARCH,
NOT HYSTERIA!

Learning Objectives



After viewing *Casey and Diana* and working through the following activities, students will:

- Encourage active participation in the arts as an essential way to build culture, express identity, and provide insight into different human experiences.
- Think critically and creatively about representations of gender, sexuality, and acceptance on stage and explore the impact of culture and society's impact on marginalized people and connect it to events happening today.
- Identify how real-world topics and conflicts can drive a story.

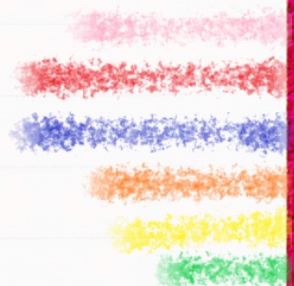
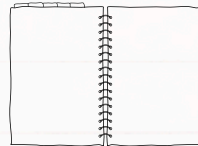
Show Content

Genre: Drama, based on true events

Show Dates: April 24 — May 25, 2025

Age Range: Grades 9 — 12

Venue: Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage



About the Playwright:

Nick Green is an actor and playwright based in Tkaronto (Toronto) who's won Dora Mavor Moore and Elizabeth Sterling Haynes awards for his writing. He's a graduate of the University of Alberta and has been praised for his plays that center LGBTQ+ stories. Other plays he's written include: *The Fabulous Buddha Boi*, *In Real Life*, *Living The Dream*, *Every Day She Rose*, *Happy Birthday Baby J*, and *Body Politic*. During the pandemic he created "The Social Distancing Festival" to help produce works online across the world.



Learn more about Nick Green from his website:

<https://www.writingbynickgreen.com/>

Content Advisory



This production MAY contain flashing lights and water-based haze and fog. Please contact our box office for more information.

Alcohol/Drugs:

●○○○○

A character refers twice to going drinking.

Sexual Content:

●●●○○

References to nude magazines, references to being aroused and a sexual awakening though none of it is shown in the show. Talk of "cruising".

Strong Language:

●●●○○

Some swear words used. There are also references that are made using more crude language.

Violence/Injury:

●●○○○

A character falls and badly injures themselves. There's reference to blood.

Death:

●●●●●

One of the shows main themes is death due to the AIDS crisis, and the show talks about how the characters are dealing with it often. One of the characters dies onstage.

SPOILER ALERT!

Anything past this page may contain major plot point
spoilers!

Read at your own discretion...

Brief Synopsis



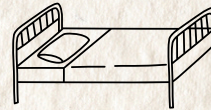
"I swear, I absolutely swear that hope has a sound." It's 1991, the peak of the AIDS crisis. Casey House, Canada's first freestanding AIDS hospice, receives uplifting news: Diana, Princess of Wales, will be making a historic visit. Inspired by true events, this powerful drama reminds us of how community, joy, and compassion can persist, even in the face of an overwhelming pandemic. Experience the transformative moments between Casey House residents, their heroic caregivers, and a rebel princess.



Detailed Synopsis



ACT I



The play opens with Thomas, a patient at Casey House, in his bed with Vera and Princess Diana in Thomas' room. Vera, a nurse at Casey House, introduces Thomas to Diana. Thomas confesses that he and his sister are big fans of Diana and talks about watching her wedding and wondering what it's like to have the world watching you. He tells her that when he dies, he wants to have a train like hers, and then begins telling her of the week leading up to her arrival as the show transitions.

•1991•

It's a week earlier, October 17th, 1991, and Andre is arriving to Casey House and being pushed into Thomas' room by Marjorie and Vera. Thomas introduces himself and tries to bring light to the situation by referencing *Steel Magnolias*. Andre was told that he wouldn't have a roommate and ignores him. Thomas remarks that he'll be gone soon anyway. Marjorie and Vera try to comfort the two men before they leave to let the men sleep. Marjorie and Vera leave the room. They talk as they approach a candlestand on a desk and light a candle for Jacob who died a couple days ago, then discuss the other men who lived at Casey House who have died. Marjorie remarks that it's a shame that Jacob isn't around for the big visit. Vera shushes her but the two continue to whisper about the big news, and how they get to share it the next day.



It's the morning of October 18th. Thomas wakes Andre up by loudly playing Marco Polo with him and Andre gets annoyed. Marjorie enters and the three discuss the "gay breakfast" from the place the Thomas used to work at, Frankie's Diner, and how disgusting it is. Still sour, Andre asks about getting the phone call that Marjorie promised him last night. Andre is helped into his chair as Vera enters the room to announce the big news of Princess Diana coming to visit in seven days. The men are excited, and Marjorie and Andre leave for the phone call as Vera changes Thomas' bandages.



Andre is on the phone. He hangs up upset because the man he called doesn't pick up. Marjorie tells him to look on the bright side. He confesses that no one knows that he's at Casey House and he needs to contact his landlord so he can get all his items without calling his mom. Marjorie offers to break the rules and grab his stuff for him, and he accepts, and they finally work on his intake form.



Diana is sitting by Thomas' bed like the first scene, and they talk about Thomas dying. He tells Diana that his sister Pauline was the first person to bring him to a gay bar, where he met his best friends. But slowly it was just the two of them left, and she abandoned him once he got sick. Thomas brings up Diana's Emmanuel's black dress. Thomas tells her that after Vera left, he started seeing Diana around the room in his mind, though he knows it's impossible. He pictures Diana encouraging him to stand and eventually with her encouragement, he makes his way to standing. Thomas goes to the doorway and yells to the House that he has decided that everyone is going to stay alive these seven days, and that people can choose to die after that.

The morning of October 19th, 1991 arrives. Vera is on the phone when Marjorie arrives, and she tells her to help in the kitchen but Marjorie counters with that she wouldn't be wanted but agrees. Marjorie tells Vera that she's going to check in on Andre before going to work in the kitchen. In Thomas and Andre's room, Thomas again greets Andre with a game of Marco Polo. Andre tells Thomas that Thomas was talking to himself all night. Thomas says that it was probably sundowning* and announces that he is either going to go to Queen's Park to cruise**, or he's going to go to the kitchen and back. Marjorie comes in the room with all of Andre's stuff from his apartment and they look through the items she brought over for him. Marjorie also gives him a journal.



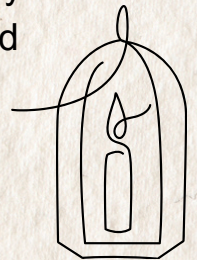
It's October 20th and Thomas is on a walk with Diana, showing her the song he made about her life to remember any Diana related conversation topic. He continues to sing until it is interrupted by Pauline entering and following Thomas. Thomas tells her that she is dead to him after she abandoned him. Thomas asks her why she's at Casey House and connects it to Princess Diana's arrival. Pauline denies it and tells her that she didn't know that he was in hospice. Vera enters and tries to break up the argument by offering to bring Thomas back to his room. Pauline shouts to Thomas that she'll be back.



Andre is reading in his bed when Marjorie enters with a secret order of Frankie's Diner eggs. They chat about how disgusting the food is and Marjorie brings up her late best friend of 30 years Micheal. She talks about going to Frankie's with him and Andre talks about Sunday breakfast with his family before they stopped inviting him. Thomas enters irritated and Marjorie gives him the eggs, and he knocks them over and gets upset. Marjorie scrambles to clean it up just as Vera enters the room. Vera tells Thomas that Pauline has left, and Thomas says that he's upset because he thought that he had put the past behind him, and Vera decides to leave and let him rest. Marjorie tries to make things better by reminding him of Diana's visit, but it doesn't help.



Thomas talks about the way he wants the visit to go, as says that he wants himself to be the focus of Diana's visit. He vows to not die before that day, as he wants to be ushered off the earth by a princess. Thomas also announces that he has the best ice-breaking question to ask Diana, which is what she's going to be for Halloween. Thomas tells Diana that the visit made everyone have more motivation to stay alive; the men start getting out of bed and grooming themselves and Thomas prays that everyone will make it.



ACT II

It's the morning of October 22 and Thomas tries to play Marco Polo, but Andre doesn't move. Thomas panics thinking Andre is dead until Andre flips him off and the two men burst into laughter. Marjorie enters as Andre says that he couldn't sleep because he was thinking about his mom and that Thomas was hitting on him.

Thomas says that it was sundowning and says that it's because his sister sent his recovery back a week and tries to get Andre to go for a walk with him. Marjorie tells him that she's going to give Andre a shave. Andre decides that he wants to call his mom.



Vera is following Pauline trying to get her to leave Casey House, but Pauline won't listen and says that she's being cruel, but Vera tells her that it's policy. Vera threatens to call the police as Pauline has trespassed on private property. Pauline finally agrees to leave but she gives Vera paper from her purse for Thomas and promises to not come back until Thomas calls her.

Andre is sleeping and Marjorie is sitting by the bed reading. Thomas enters the room with a newspaper and loudly reads it out to tell her that Casey House is in the news again. Vera enters and tries to give Thomas the papers from Pauline. Thomas tells her to burn them and continues to read the paper just as Andre cries out in pain. Vera tells Marjorie to go get the doctor, but Marjorie freaks out and Thomas and Vera tell her to calm down and leave the room, but she continues to spiral as Andre goes still. Thomas speaks with Diana while Marjorie sits with Andre. Thomas talks about Andre's sudden infection and Thomas seeing people crying and feeling numb to it all. He talks about watching Andre being brought in to live at the House on the same day they announced Diana was coming and seeing the ambulance pull up. Thomas opens the paper that Pauline left him and reads it and as he does, Pauline appears on the stage and they greet each other.

It's October 23rd, 1991, and Pauline and Thomas are together at a church. Thomas calls her letter fake apologetic garbage. Thomas tells her that he's hurt that she left him when he got sick, but what hurt the most was that she wouldn't touch him. Pauline confesses that the acceleration of the number of funerals she went to started to freak her out especially when she would end up at the funerals of the people who she talked to the week before. She says, through tears, she flinched when he hugged her because she was scared because if he could get sick then she could as well, and she apologizes for being a jerk. Thomas asks what she's doing with her hair because it's in a perm and they both laugh. He tells her he really missed her.




Marjorie is sitting by Andre's bed, and Vera enters the room and asks her how long she plans to stay. Marjorie asks her why she reported her to their supervisor Ruth. Vera asks her when her friend died and asks her why she chooses to be in a place where she'll continue to lose people that she's close to. Vera suggests that she go home and promises to let her know any news about Andre. Andre starts to move, and Vera talks to him, as he slowly comes to consciousness. Andre is in pain and tells her of his and Marjorie's efforts to get his items out of his apartment. Vera grabs a doctor for him. Thomas tells Diana that after he said goodbye to Pauline when he walked back to his room Andre said "hi" and gave him a wave. Thomas said that the sound of hope returned to Casey House.



It's October 24th and it's the day before Diana is supposed to arrive at Casey House which Thomas nicknames "Princess Eve". Marjorie enters and sees that Andre is awake and gives him a big hug. The two men talk about the next day's visit with the women and tell them that they want them with them when they meet the princess. Marjorie tells Andre that she thinks he should call his mother. Pauline and Thomas practice what they're going to say to Diana, and she tells Thomas that she thinks that he should have his own room, and he tells her to stop. Beside the phone, Marjorie and Andre discuss what he should say to his mom before Vera asks to speak with Marjorie. Vera confronts Marjorie about going to Andre's apartment and tells her that they need to have a meeting with Ruth.

Thomas decides to leave when Pauline tells him to move in with her and insults Casey House. He declines and they argue, and Thomas loses his footing. But when he reaches out for help, Pauline pulls away from him and he trips and falls to the ground. She calls for help and Vera comes; Thomas tells her that she's only at Casey House because she wants to feel better about herself. Marjorie tells Andre that she's gotten an official warning from Ruth and Vera while Andre reveals that he's already called his mom, but the number was out of service. Marjorie said she wishes that she had been there when he found out because then he wouldn't be alone, but Andre says that he is alone because he's only known her for a week and questions the reasons behind why she's helping him.

The scene changes to Vera is at the nursing station and Pauline attempting to go to talk to Thomas. Vera stops her, and she questions her why he's still even in the House. Vera exclaims that she's just doing her job. Pauline tells her she wants to file a complaint as Marjorie enters and agrees. Vera questions Marjorie why she wants to volunteer at the house, and she deflects until Vera tells a story about Thomas' last roommate Jacob who had gotten admitted to Casey House twice. On his first time in, he was charismatic and funny, and he was doing better so he got discharged and was living alone. But a while later she showed up at his apartment and he was on the ground and was brought back to the House. On his second admission he was unhappy and resentful because he hated the fact that he was given hope that there was any escape. She explains that Casey House's job is to help them die comfortably. Pauline asks Vera if Thomas hates her, and she tells her that she needs to help him die. Marjorie re-enters and tells Vera to go to Thomas. ~~_____~~

Thomas is talking to himself, worried that they're not prepared for the royal visit, while Andre is trying to help by talking with him. Vera and Marjorie enter and offer to help tidy the room for him, and Marjorie takes Andre into the common room. Thomas tells Vera to grab Pauline and when she enters, Thomas greets Pauline as Princess Diana. Thomas goes to his bed and talks to Pauline like she is the Princess. Thomas asks Vera to go look for his sister and the two siblings are left in the room. Thomas raises his hand to touch Pauline, and there's a pause before Pauline crosses the room and grabs his hand. 

The play enters a world of semi-consciousness and Thomas is explaining to Pauline and Diana how much he admires her. The three of them talk about her different dresses with Diana and Pauline answering over top of each others line. Thomas is in extreme pain and asks to hold her hand and Diana responds that she is holding his hand. At that moment, Thomas looks up and sees Pauline and they are glad to see each other, and quotes *Steel/ Magnolias*, before Thomas decides to close his eyes. He asks her to keep holding his hand and she promises to hold it forever. He talks about Diana's long wedding train leaving a mark that she was there as he drifts off to sleep.

It's finally October 25th, and Marjorie and Andre are looking out at the crowd that is gathered outside to see Diana. Marjorie tells him that she talked to Micheal in her head last night and tells him he told her that people don't need a friend, they need someone to help them out. She apologizes to Andre and tells him that it's her last week. Andre asks her if she could be there during the visit, and she accepts. Andre is in his room and Thomas is in bed. Diana enters and Vera introduces the people in the room to her. Diana crosses to Thomas and grabs his hand and asks about him. Pauline tells him how excited he was to meet her, and how funny he is, before getting stuck and getting overcome with sadness. Diana grabs Pauline's hand as well to comfort her. Andre tells her about Thomas' perfect ice breaker question and asks her what she's going as for Halloween.

It's night and Pauline is sitting by Thomas' bed reading, Andre is writing in the journal Marjorie gave him, and Vera and Marjorie are at the nurse's station. Thomas sits up and Diana walks by him on her way to leave. He asks her if she's leaving, and she tells him that he can come with her. He goes back and forth about joining her and tells her that this is not what he expected at the end of his life, saying that to live is to breathe in and to exhale is to give. Give over and give to others and the world. Thomas takes a final breath and gives over to death. As his spirit walks through everyone, he quotes *Steel Magnolias* a final time and says that his carriage is here, and his train of hospital bedsheet is flowing in the wind.

END OF PLAY

***sundowning** is a symptom commonly associated with dementia when a person is extremely stressed and experience hallucinations, which may interfere with them getting enough sleep

****cruising** is a word that started in the 1960s in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community when being 2SLGBTQIA+ was illegal. It is defined by walking and driving around certain places to anonymously find other gay people without running into police or people who would want to hurt or arrest them.

Setting



The play takes place in Casey House in Toronto, Ontario in October 1991.



1. Casey House before the renovation

Image Description: A large heritage building brick house with lots of windows is centred amongst the taller apartment buildings of Toronto with a railing connecting a ramp to the front door.



2. Casey House after the renovation in 2017

Image Description: The same brick building updated is on the right side, and an additional building on the centre and right. The newer part of the build has glass paneling, as well as stone and brick additions.

Casey House is a real place in Toronto that provides care for people with HIV/AIDS. Led by June Callwood and a team of volunteers, it opened in 1988 and was the first treatment facility for people with HIV/AIDS in Canada. The team at Casey House aimed to create a place where people with AIDS could be treated with compassion, love, and be able to die on their own terms.

The House was named after June Callwood's son who was killed at the age of 20, because after experiencing the loss of a child, June wanted to create a space where the young men with HIV/AIDS could be able to die comfortably and with love.

Characters



Thomas: Funny, witty, and compassionate. Thomas is a deeply sensitive person who has a layer of humour protecting him. He has AIDS and has lived the longest in Casey House. He is a giant fan of Diana, and pop culture.

Vera: Vera works as a nurse at Casey House. She has worked there for quite some time and is very good at her job. She has seen a lot of loss in and is no nonsense when it comes to those she cares for.

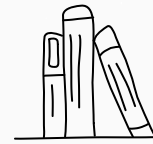
Andre: Hopeful, grumpy, daring. He is the newest arrival at Casey House and is Thomas' roommate. He uses a wheelchair.

Marjorie: Rebellious and caring. Marjorie is a volunteer at Casey House who will go against the rules if it means helping a friend.

Pauline: Thomas' sister. She has lost a lot of people close to her and is afraid to lose anyone else.

Diana: Princess of Wales. Charismatic and known as "the people's princess" for her activism, charity work, and charisma and connection to the public. She was married to Prince Charles the III from 1981 to 1996.

Connections to BC Curriculum:



Drama 9–12



Big Ideas

- Collaborative drama experiences can build community and nurture relationships with others
- Drama offers dynamic ways to share/express identity and a sense of belonging.
- Individual and collective expression are founded on history, culture, and community
- Drama is a way of sharing and understanding tradition, perspectives, cultures, and worldviews

Curriculum Competencies

- Describe, interpret and evaluate how performers and playwrights use dramatic structure, elements, and techniques to create and communicate ideas (9)
- Reflect on dramatic works and make connections with personal experiences (10,11,12)
- Reflect on dramatic experiences and how they relate to a specific place, time, and context (10, 11, 12)
- Evaluate the social, cultural, historical, environmental, and personal contexts of dramatic works (11,12)

Literary Studies 10–12



Big Ideas

- The exploration of text and story deepens our understanding of diverse, complex ideas about identity, others, and the world.
- Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.
- Texts are socially, culturally, geographically, and historically constructed

Curriculum Competencies

- Think critically, creatively, and reflectively to explore ideas within, between, and beyond texts (10,11,12)
- Understand the influence of land/place in First People's and other Canadian texts

Connections to BC Curriculum:

Literary Studies 10–12

Curriculum Competencies

- Recognize and understand how different forms, formats, structures, and features of texts enhance and shape meaning and impact (10,11)
- Recognize and understand personal, social, and cultural contexts, values, and perspectives in texts, including culture, gender, sexual orientation, and socio-economic factors (10,11,12)
- Respond to text in personal, creative, and critical ways (12)

Handwritten note: *Handwritten text, possibly a quote or reflection, written in cursive.*

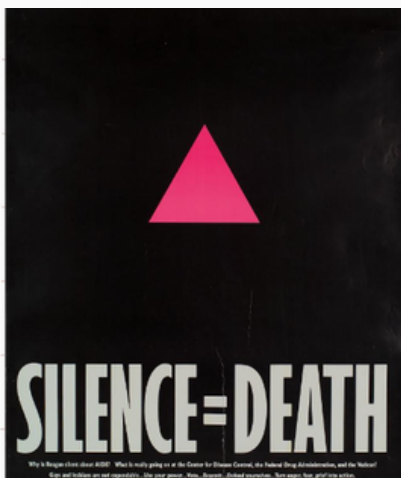
Social Studies 10 & Social Justice 12

Big Ideas

- Historical and contemporary injustices challenge the narrative and identity of Canada as an inclusive, multicultural society
- Social justice issues are interconnected
- Social justice initiatives can transform individuals and systems

Curriculum Competencies

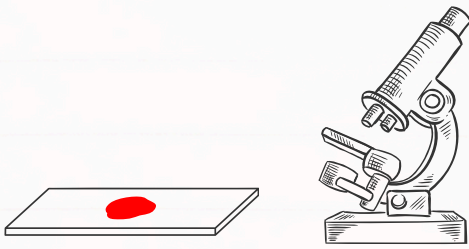
- Perspective: Explain and infer different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, or events:
 - by considering prevailing norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs (10)
 - and distinguish between worldviews of the past or present (12)
- Significance: Assess the significance of people, places, events, or developments, and compare varying perspectives on their significance at times and places, and from group to group (10,12)



The Silence=Death Project, known for its iconic political poster, which displays a pink triangle, known for its association with the persecution of queer people in Nazi Germany.

It is the work of a six-person collective in New York City created during the AIDs crisis. The artists involved were Avram Finkelstein, Brian Howard, Oliver Johnston, Charles Krelloff, Chris Lione, and Jorge Socárras

Context: Historical Timeline



1982

The disease is renamed *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)*. During this time it is realized that the infection can be sexually transmitted and the first cases in blood transfusion recipients are reported.

Canada reports it's first case of AIDS in March, 1982.



A headline from 1983, adding to the stigma and existing homophobia in Vancouver.

1985

The Canadian Red Cross begins testing all blood products for HIV.

1981

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) begins reporting unusual clusters of pneumocystis pneumonia and Kaposi's Sarcoma, specifically in young gay men.

The disease is initially called *Gay-Related Immune Deficiency (GRID)* as it was assumed to only affect gay men. Cases will be reported in injection drug users by the end of this year.



1983

It is discovered women can be infected with AIDS through heterosexual sex (a discovery opposite to the public perception that AIDS is a "gay" disease).

AIDS Vancouver, one of the first AIDS service organizations in Canada, is founded by gay men and physicians beginning to see the early impacts of AIDS in Vancouver.

The World Health Organization (WHO) begins global surveillance of AIDS.

A New York physician, Joseph Sonnabend, is threatened with eviction for treating patients with AIDS resulting in the first AIDS discrimination lawsuit to be filed.





The 3rd annual Vancouver AIDS Candlelight Memorial, 1987.



1987

AZT, the first anti-retroviral drug is approved by the FDA.

Diana, Princess of Wales is photographed touching a person living with AIDS. A media frenzy ensues.

Bill 34 is introduced in the parliament of British Columbia, which would grant the government power to quarantine and isolate individuals infected with HIV/AIDS. This action creates a huge uproar from local HIV/AIDS activists.

ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) is formed in March, 1987.

The WHO develops the first global strategy on AIDS

1989

On September 14, 1989, seven ACT UP members infiltrated the New York Stock Exchange and chained themselves to the VIP balcony to protest the high price of the only approved AIDS drug, AZT.

1986

The first commercial blood test for HIV is licensed by the United States FDA.

It is discovered HIV can be passed from parent to child through breast-feeding.

The Canadian AIDS Society is established.



AIDS Vancouver volunteers smiling at a picnic in 1988.

1988

The WHO announces that December 1st will be the first World AIDS Day.

June Callwood opens the Casey House. At this time, the average life expectancy for a person with AIDS was nine months,

Casey's House's goal was to create a place of medical excellence in HIV/AIDS treatment and, most importantly, a place of love and compassion





ACT UP Vancouver, 1990.

1990

In July, the U.S. Congress enacts the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This act will prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including people living with HIV/AIDS.

ACT UP protests at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), demanding more HIV treatments and the expansion of clinical trials to include more women and people of color.



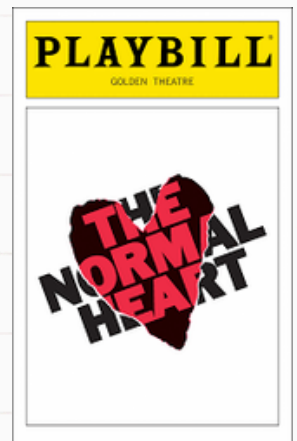
1991

Casey & Diana begins...

Context: HIV/AIDS in Theatre

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the immune system through targeting white blood cells, and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) is the latest stage of the infection. It is only spread through bodily fluids like blood, sexual fluids, and breast milk. It is not spread through touch or spit. It was first found in humans in 1959, but it developed into an epidemic in the 1980's. Though anyone could get it, in its early years it was labeled as a "Gay-Related Immune Deficiency" as it spread quickly in the queer community.

During the HIV/AIDS epidemic the theatre community was greatly affected as the arts are known as a typically safe space for 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Many acclaimed plays and musicals were created at the time, to bring empathy, awareness, and catharsis to the people. Select notable plays include *Angels in America Part 1+2*, *The Falsettos Trilogy*, *The Normal Heart*, and *Rent*.



Context: Princess Diana

"Let's not wait to be prompted. Let us go out today, tomorrow and the days that follow and let us demonstrate our humanity."

- Diana, Princess of Wales ,
accepting the Humanitarian of the
Year award in New York in
December 1995



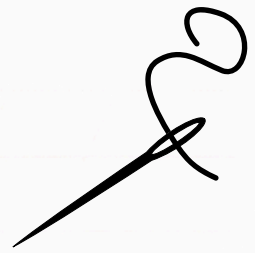
Princess Diana on her wedding day,
on July 29, 1981

Image Description: *Princess Diana is crouching in the centre in her big wedding dress and an extremely long veil. She is standing in front of a striped, red wall with a black curtain in the centre*

Diana Frances Spencer was born on July 1, 1961, in England. She was already part of the British nobility by birth and grew up on an estate her parent rented on Queen Elizabeth II's land. She studied in both England and Switzerland and then worked as a kindergarten assistant at the Young England school. She became engaged to Prince Charles in winter 1981 and they married that same year on July 29th. Diana gave birth to Prince William in 1982 and Prince Harry in 1984. She became known "the people's princess" or "Princess Di" for her activism, charity work, and charisma and connection to the public.

Diana supported the arts, children's issues, people with HIV/AIDS and tried to ensure her children understood people outside of royalty. However, Diana was dealing with issues in her own life and reports of her husband's infidelity in their marriage were confirmed. Diana and Charles separated in 1992 and divorced in 1996. Even after their divorce, Diana continued to do charity work, but tragically her and her partner, Dodi Fayed, were killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997. Diana was a beloved figure and has left an enduring legacy behind her. Her funeral is estimated to have had 2.5 billion people watching worldwide, making it one of the biggest televised events in history.

Context: The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt



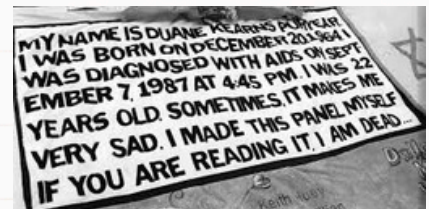
The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a 54-ton community memorial arts project dedicated to the people who have lost their lives to AIDS. This community quilt features over 50,000 three by six feet panels, which are equal to the approximate size of a human grave, and spans approximately 1,300,000 sq ft.

The Quilt was conceived by long time activist, Cleve Jones, in 1985. While organizing an annual candlelight vigil, dedicated to the assassination of gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, Jones learned that over 1,000 San Franciscans had lost their lives to AIDS. He then asked his fellow marchers to write on placards the names of loved ones who had lost their lives. After the march, Jones and others taped the placards on the walls of the San Francisco Federal Building. All the signs taped to the building looked like a massive patchwork quilt which would inspire the massive memorial project yet to come.



The project officially started in 1987 in San Francisco by Cleve Jones, Mike Smith, and volunteers Joseph Durant, Jack Caster, Gert McMullin, Ron Cordova, Larkin Mayo, Steve Kirchner, and Gary Yuschalk. This small group of strangers gathered in a San Francisco storefront with the goal of documenting the lost lives they feared history would forget. They wanted to create a physical memorial for those who had died of AIDS to help people understand the devastating impact of this disease, including extreme social stigma. At this time, people who died of AIDS did not receive funerals due to this social stigma, ostracization, and the outright refusal by funeral homes and cemeteries to handle the remains of the deceased. Without any memorial services, gravesites, or celebrations of life, the Quilt became the only opportunity many survivors had to celebrate and remember their loved ones' lives. Jones created the first panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, in memory of his friend, Martin Feldman.

The public response to the Quilt was immediate, demonstrating the isolation and need for remembrance survivors felt. Generous donors began to rapidly fund supplies, while volunteers worked tirelessly sewing and putting the panels together.



On October 11, 1987, the Quilt was displayed for the first time in Washington, D.C. during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The initial Quilt covered an area larger than a football field and was comprised of 1,920 panels. 48 volunteers unfolded the Quilt at sunrise, while celebrities, politicians, families, loved ones, and friends read aloud the names of the 1,920 people memorialized in the Quilt. The unveiling drew a crowd of half a million visitors that weekend.



The overwhelming response of the Quilt led to a four-month, inaugural tour of the Quilt, tripling the size of the Quilt to 6000 panels. In 1989, the Quilt went on tour again, this time travelling to Canada, where several cities hosted displays, memorializing hundreds of Canadians who lost their lives to AIDS. These panels remained in Canada, to begin the Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt has become an iconic image of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and remains in San Francisco under the stewardship of the National AIDS Memorial. The Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt remains under the care of the Canadian AIDS Society. To learn more or explore the digital archives, click on the links below to learn more.

AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT (<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/quilt>)

QUILT ARCHIVES (<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

CANADIAN AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT (<https://quilt.ca/>)

QUILT ARCHIVES (<https://quilt.ca/the-quilts/>)



NAMES Project : AIDS Quilt,
Vancouver, 1999



NAMES Project : AIDS Quilt,
Vancouver, 1999

Context: St. Paul's and the Battle for Public Health in British Columbia



When discussing or researching the AIDS crisis, the first things that pop up are usually focused on the United States and its handling of the epidemic. However, British Columbia and Vancouver have an untold history that changed the fight against AIDS, beginning in the West End after the decriminalization of homosexuality in 1969.

The West End emerged as a space of acceptance and has been described as a “golden age” for gay men; however this would fade as tales of a deadly disease sweeping through the United States began to spread across Vancouver. Nothing was known about HIV/AIDS at the time, including transmission details, making it a terrifying time.

In 1983, AIDS Vancouver, Canada's first AIDS service, was founded and began providing support to those with HIV/AIDS. St. Paul's hospital in Vancouver was at the centre of this crisis response. While other hospitals would turn away suspected AIDS patients, St. Paul's welcomed them. They set up in-hospital education programs for staff, and a unit dedicated to palliative care, while volunteers set up an AIDS hotline, that offered counselling and legal advice.



St. Paul's Hospital, 2015



The AIDS Ward at St. Paul's Hospital, 1987.

The social stigma carried on. Fear of the disease added to the existing homophobia and violence against queer Vancouverites spiked in the 1980s. Little Sisters, the West End's gay bookstore, was bombed twice within two months. Paul Craik, as part of the AIDS Activist History Project, recalls, "...walking down the street one time and Numbers was emptying out because there had been a bomb threat." Bill 34, a provincial piece of legislation that would forcibly quarantine those with AIDS, was proposed by the British Columbia Vander Zalm government, which met immediate pushback from activists and was never passed. Instead, the City of Vancouver created a momentous new policy that would discipline any public employee who discriminated against anyone with AIDS.



Two photos from demonstrations on the proposed Bill 34. Vancouver, 1987.

As the battle against ostracization raged on, the battle for public health continued at St. Paul's. In 1996, a major victory was achieved when a research team at St. Paul's developed a treatment known as "triple therapy" which would suppress viral replication. This research was headed by Dr. Julio S.G Montaner, which he described as a turning "an imminent death sentence into a chronic, manageable disease." This research played a key role in developing and implementing the modern standard of care for HIV disease.

Now, Vancouver has one of the lowest rates of infection in Canada and the Ribbon Community (formerly known as AIDS Vancouver) continues its mission of providing services, programming, and education for HIV-positive and HIV-negative people.



Dr. Julio Montaner, holding a diagram illustrating how the new AIDS drug works.

Pre-show Discussion Questions



1. What pieces of media (TV, film, theatre) are you familiar with and features and/or is created by 2SLGBTQIA+ artists? What kinds of stories are they telling and what genre are they in?
2. What do you know about HIV/AIDS? What do you know about the history of HIV/AIDS?
3. Have you heard of Casey House before? Why or why not do you think you learned about it before?
 - a. What do you know about Princess Diana and her connection to Casey House?
4. What do you know about Princess Diana? Why do you think she is still considered such a iconic public figure?



POST SHOW RESOURCES

In the following pages, you will find resources that may be helpful AFTER attending the show

SILENCE=DEATH

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BLOOD ON ITS HANDS



ONE AIDS DEATH EVERY HALF HOUR

RAKE CANCER SEEN IN 41 HOMOSEXUALS



New Pneumonia Linked To Gay Lifestyle

Atlanta, GA - According to the U.S. Public Health Service's Center for Disease Control, five sexually active gay men, two of whom died, were treated between October 1980 and May 1981 for pneumonia caused by the *Pneumocystis carni* parasite. The center reported: "The fact that these patients were all

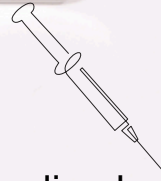
outbreak Occurs Among Me

A Pneumonia That Strikes Gay Males

A mysterious outbreak of a sometimes fatal pneumonia among gay men has occurred in San and several other major

A.I.D.S.: WE NEED RESEARCH, NOT HYSTERIA!

Post-show Discussion Questions



1. Can you name another piece of media that uses a fictionalized version of a real person from history? What genre is it in?
 - a. Why might they use real people?
2. Did you learn anything about HIV/AIDS?
 - a. Did you have any misconceptions about HIV/AIDS before the show that you no longer have?
3. What are your perceptions towards people who are dealing with more complex health issues? Have you considered what it might feel like to deal with feeling “different” than other people?
4. In the show Thomas adores Princess Diana, is there any celebrity you would want to meet?
5. This show deals with the concept of found family (people that aren't related to you by blood but care for you deeply) as the people at Casey House have been isolated by their family and friends after their diagnosis.
 - a. Do you have people that you consider a part of your found family?
 - b. Thinking about the targeting of personal identities, why do you think this play was written/produced at this specific time and place?
6. What do you think the message of the show is? What is your takeaway?
 - a. Is there anything you didn't understand about the show?



Activity #1: Write a Letter to a Famous Figure

Suggested for English and Social Studies classes

Goal: Improve students writing and research skills through intuitive writing. Students will focus on exploring vulnerability & growing their perception of the humans that have lived on the Earth before and their impact.

Casey and Diana takes place in the week before Princess Diana visits Casey House in October 1991. In the play, Thomas, his sister and many of the other men at the house are big fans of Diana. These characters get a chance to meet their idol, so in this activity students will get a chance to imagine what students could say to famous figures.

Instructions



Part 1: Research

1. Students should work individually to research their famous figure
- a. **English class:** Have them pick an author artist, celebrity
- b. **Socials:** Have them pick an important figure in history (ex. Malala, Angela Davis, Marie Curie)



Part 2: Writing

1. Have the students write a letter to their figure!
- a. It must include:
 - i. A short **personal introduction** talking about themselves and their connection to the person they chose
 - ii. At least **4 things about what they like or dislike** about the figure they choose
 - iii. At least **1 quote** from the figure that you resonate or disagree with and why
 - iv. At least **1 appeal each to ethos, pathos, and logos**
 - v. **Minimum 1 question you have for your figure**
- b. Here is an example of a letter to a public figure!



1. **Ethos: Ethical argument**

- a. "I like you because you support charity causes and that's what good people do"

2. **Pathos: Emotional argument**

- a. "I don't like you because you're mean to those around you"

3. **Logos: Logical argument backed up by facts and sources**

- a. "According to Nick Green's website <https://www.writingbynickgreen.com>, Nick Green is a Dora Mavor Moore award winning playwright"

Part 3: Reflection



1. Reflect on the following:

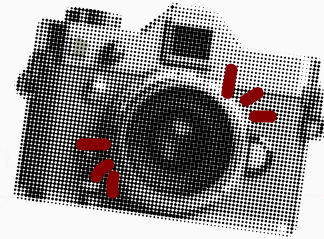
- a. Did you find out any new information about your famous figure?
- b. Did you find out anything new about yourself?
- c. Has this given you a larger understanding of people and their connection to community?



But you will never
see... my friends
but you will see
them in the same
place. You will see
them in the same
place. You will see
them in the same
place.

Activity #2: In a Snap(shot)!

Tableau explorations...



Suggested for Drama classes

Goal: *Improve students character building, quick thinking, and characterization skills. This activity can be done in small groups or in front of a class.*

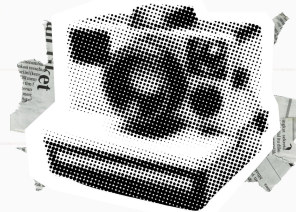
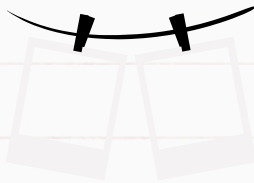


Princess Diana at Casey House on October 25th, 1991

Image Description: *A man with AIDS dressed in a crisp white shirt and black pants and Princess Diana sit closely and are holding each others' hands in a handshake*

Casey and Diana is a fictional play that is based on true events. Though the characters are all made up, this play is based on Princess Diana's 1991 visit to Casey House in Toronto. The visit was a big news article at the time and stirred up discussion of people who had HIV/AIDS, and the stigma surrounding it. In this exercise, like Nick Green, students will have the opportunity to explore different characters, and their unique characteristics based off real photos and events.

Instructions



Part 1: Activity

- Before starting the activity compile a bunch of different images (e.g. the images included below)
 - a. Choose appropriately themed photos, (a suggestion is to refrain from including photos of people before/during an imminent tragedy) and have them taken throughout different parts of history and pop culture!

1. Explain tableaux:

a. Tableaus come from the French word ***tableau vivant*** which means living photo. A theatrical tableau is a demonstration on a scene in which someone does without moving or talking.



2. Split the class into groups of 3-5 and give each group a different photo.

3. Have the groups come up with 5 tableaux based on the picture! One of the tableaux must be their portrayal of the photo but it can be in any order! The actors can portray human, animals, and inanimate objects if they choose to.

a. However, the tableaux must include:

i. **One** of the tableaux must be **their interpretation of the exact photo they were given**

ii. At least **one character entrance**

iii. A story: **beginning, middle, and end**

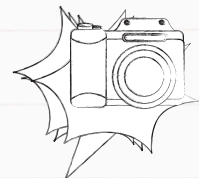
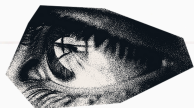
4. Present the tableaux to the class and when the teacher/class wants the group to change their tableau, have everyone snap their fingers!

5. **Challenge 1:** Have the students improvise a scene with dialogue surrounding the photo they were given and have them make sure they hit the tableau images they created!

6. **Challenge 2:** Have the groups research the images they used and have them find out the time, place, and importance of that moment!

7. Give each group a different image and repeat the exercise!

Part 2: Reflection



1. At the end, let the groups reflect on what they learned.

a. How different was your tableau scene from the circumstances that you researched?

b. How did you find embodying the physical characteristics of a real person?

c. What did you find challenging about this exercise?

Activity #2: Photos

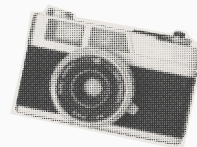


Image description: A black and white photo where 11 young men are sitting and eating lunch on a metal beam, and in the foreground is an aerial view of New York City



Image description: Aubrey Plaza and Micheal Cera are sitting together at a booth at a restaurant, behind them are 6 girls posing for a photo with them



Image description: An old black and white photo, 4 men and 1 woman watch a man sign papers



Image description: In the foreground three men are holding and operating the Bert and Ernie puppets from Sesame Street



Image description: A black and white photo. A man is playing the guitar for tips on the sidewalk and a small girl has her hands in the air triumphantly in



Image description: An old black and white photo. A man in the foreground is holding a camera faced towards a man and woman embracing

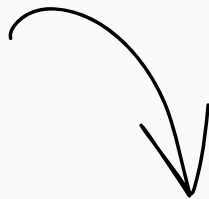


Image description: The four members of the Beatles Walk across Abbey Road on a white painted sidewalk



Image description: Debbie Harry in a white dress stands in front of a black and white striped backdrop and 5 men dressed in suits. Above in red it reads "Parallel lines [line break] Blondie"

Resources:



Ribbon Community

Ribbon Community was proudly founded as AIDS Vancouver in 1983. Today, this HIV-specific organization supports and empowers communities in overcoming the impacts of HIV and HIV stigma. For up-to-date and stigma-free information about HIV in 2025, opportunities to connect with people living with HIV, programs and services for people living with HIV, and ways to prevent HIV, check out their contact info below.

Phone: (604) 893-2201

Website: <https://www.ribboncommunity.org/>

Youth in BC Crisis Line

YouthInBC.com and its chat services are operated by the Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC which provides help and hope to individuals organizations and communities. They provide immediate access to barrier-free, non-judgemental, confidential support and follow-up through 24/7 phone lines and online services and education and training programs that promote mental wellness and equip schools, organizations and communities to assist people at risk of suicide.

The chat is available between 12pm and 1am in BC and Yukon for people under 25 years old.

Website: <https://www.youthinbc.com/>

QMUNITY

QMUNITY is a BC resource centre for Queer, Trans, and Two Spirit people. They offer counselling services, as well as support groups, referrals and workshops. Their work is for people of varying ages ranging from children to seniors/older adults.

Website: <https://qmunity.ca/>

John Ruedy Clinic at St. Paul's Hospital

The John Ruedy Clinic at St. Paul's Hospital is a primary care clinic for people living with HIV/AIDS in BC. They are partnered with British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (another great resource), and offers resources and services like testing, prevention drugs, support group and more to people. Their hours are 8:30AM- 8:00PM Monday-Thursday and 8:30AM- 4PM on Fridays.

- Drop-in hours 8:30AM- 6:30PM Monday-Thursday, and 8:30AM- 3:30PM on Fridays.

Website: <https://jrc.providencehealthcare.org/>

BC Bereavement Helpline



The BC Bereavement helpline is committed to facilitating the provision of care and support to the bereaved, caregivers and service providers and to increase public understanding of grief as a life process through education, support, advocacy, networking and dissemination of information.

Phone number: 604-738-9950 or toll free 1-877-779-2223

Website: <https://bcbh.ca/grief-support/>

The Trevor Project

Founded in 1998 by the creators of the Academy Award®-winning short film TREVOR, The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 25.

Trevor LifeLine: 1-866-488-7386

Website: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now/>

DISTRESS HELPLINES



If you are in a crisis, distress, or having thoughts of suicide, help is available. If there is an urgent safety concern, please call 9-1-1 or go to the emergency room at your nearest hospital.

9-8-8 National Suicide Crisis Helpline

Anywhere in BC 1-800-SUICIDE: 1-800-784-2433

Mental Health Support Line: 310-6789

Vancouver Coastal Regional Distress Line: 604-872-3311

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