



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

In this book, we have hand-picked the most sophisticated, unanticipated, absorbing (if not at times crackpot!), original and musing book reviews of "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes: Part One: Millennium Approaches Part Two: Perestroika." Don't say we didn't warn you: these reviews are known to shock with their unconventionality or intimacy. Some may be startled by their biting sincerity; others may be spellbound by their unbridled flights of fantasy. Don't buy this book if: 1. You don't have nerves of steel. 2. You expect to get pregnant in the next five minutes. 3. You've heard it all.

A revised and complete edition of this modern classic, featuring a new foreword from author Tony Kushner.

Leading critics, scholars, and theater practitioners consider the most talked-about play of the 1990s

This study explores the works of two contemporary American gay authors, David Leavitt and Tony Kushner by bringing both writers within the purview of Queer Studies. The book provides an extensive critical examination of selected novels by Leavitt and Kushner's highly praised play Angels in America. The author compares the early modern period in England to modern American gay literature and argues that the struggle against hegemonic norms of sexual construction links the early English dramatist Christopher Marlowe to David Leavitt and Tony Kushner. The book contributes significantly to Gay/Lesbian/Queer Studies and American Studies by offering a thorough discussion of the complex issues of gay male identity and queer identity in contemporary American gay literature.

Surveys the writings of the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama 'Angels in America' and co-author of the Oscar-nominated screenplay for the film 'Munich'. This book guides readers through Kushner's influences and creations to map the importance of his work in postmodern literary and cultural landscapes.

An inspired Christmas gift to the gay community--a gorgeous keepsake rendition of the poignant closing words from Broadway's Tony Award-winning Angels in America. Royalties will be donated to HIV/AIDS organizations. A free-standing 8-panel full-color card.

A remarkable collection of new work by the author of Angels in America.

This sequel to the Pulitzer Prize winning play, picks up the story when, in the final scene of "Millennium approaches", the angel makes a traumatic entry. Prior is fighting for his life, but in the end he lectures his friends about what AIDS has done and how the world will go on.

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

No theatrical work emerged from the AIDS crisis of the 1980s with as much national and global influence as Tony Kushner's two-part *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes—Millennium Approaches* (1991) and *Perestroika* (1992). Prior Walter, a gay man living with AIDS, concludes the cycle with a charge to the audience: "The Great Work Begins." *Angels in America* presents itself as a part of that Great Work, placing the various experiences of its characters at the center of a growing conversation on sexual identity. The period of the play's first workshops to its successful premiers around the world parallel the window of time during which queer theory became a coherent academic discipline. Kushner's play has been critically dissected from a broad range of perspectives, including a queer lens; however, *Angels in America* has yet to be recognized as a work of queer theory itself. This thesis examines *Angels in America* as a work that emerges alongside landmark texts of queer theory as a praxis that embodies its own theories about identity formation under discursive institutional power. The dramatic dialogue of the play allows for the multivocality of Kushner's characters to shape a neo-Platonic dialectic on queer ideology and the construction of the sexual self. The characters' manifold assertions embrace the ambiguity and discord that have marked queer theory and sexuality studies, as well as foreshadowing further developments within the American LGBT civil rights and queer visibility movements.

Dramatizes the effects of AIDS on the United States through the experiences of lawyer Roy Cohn, a Mormon couple, and a young man called Prior Walter

This thesis examines the text of Tony Kushner's monumental play, "Angels in America," and identifies major themes, concepts and characters as they personally resonated with the author, a formerly married, closeted, contemporary American homosexual. After the script of the play is analyzed in considerable detail, a line-by-line comparison to the recorded HBO-Films version of "Angels in America" is discussed with emphasis on the changes, if any, that were introduced by the adaptation from stage to film. It is shown that very little alteration was required to accommodate Kushner's original construct for the television production. Kushner's published theatrical script is then compared, again line-by-line, to the published libretto and a video recording of the world premiere performance of "Angels in America," an opera by Hungarian composer Péter Eötvös and his wife, librettist Mari Mezei. This adaptation requires substantial changes to, and deletions from, the theatrical script. The thesis then examines the impact of the changes and deletions made for the opera to those major themes, concepts and characters that originally attracted the author to this material when presented on the theatrical stage. The author's conclusion is that the opera, while interesting and of considerable artistic value in its

own right, is very different from the original theatrical version. The Eötvös/Mezei opera shifts primary focus onto two characters, Prior Walter and Harper Pitt, and away from their partners, Louis Ironson and Joe Pitt; the roles of Roy Cohn and Belize are substantially reduced, and the role of Hannah is marginalized. The opera does emphasize the fantasy elements of the play, as represented by The Angel, who is given relatively more to sing than most other major characters in the opera; the play's left-leaning, anti-Reagan political content is largely eliminated, as is most of Kushner's campy, brittle, bitchy, Queer humor. Learning to live in contemporary America as an openly gay man in the workplace, the neighborhood and, perhaps most difficult, inside my own head and heart was a lengthy, confusing and sometimes painful process. Kushner's words, especially his ideas and constructs as contained in "Angels in America," were a powerful element in the author's education, burgeoning self-awareness and somewhat belated self-acceptance.

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