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OUR MISSION

Providing quality traditional and cutting edge theatre to the Baltimore Community while providing opportunities for new artists to develop and refine their skills.

MEDIA RELEASE

for Immediate Release

CONTACT: FUZZ Roark, Executive Director
410-752-1225 FUZZ@spotlighters.org

Award-Winning Artists from Baltimore and New York Come Together for Modern Masterpiece

ANGELS IN AMERICA: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES

October 13-November 12, 2006

Baltimore (September 20, 2006) – A superlative team of artists from Baltimore and New York City have joined forces to bring Charm City a surprising new vision of ANGELS IN AMERICA, Tony Kushner's landmark diptych which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. The first play in the series, MILLENNIUM APPROACHES, will open October 13th, 2006; the same artists will return to Baltimore to stage PERESTROIKA in June 2007. Tickets are \$20 for adults with discounts for Seniors, Students, and Baltimore Theatre Alliance members.

With startlingly prescient discussions of modern religion, sexuality, politics, AIDS, and even terrorism, Kushner's funny and fantastical masterwork is a powerful statement about the world we live in and our collective future. Directed by **Gabriel Shanks**, artistic director of the award-winning MadShag Performance Group, and featuring the contributions of scenic designer **Allen Cutler** (Broadway transfer of *Enchanted April*) and composer/sound designer **Chris Meade** (Obie and Tony Award winner *Bridge and Tunnel*, which moved to Broadway last season), ANGELS IN AMERICA: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES is a stunning glimpse into our own humanity.

"Think of this play as more than a drama: a communal myth, a story told to a community by its own people...in this case, the community of Baltimore" says director Shanks. This concept is at the core of this all-new production, an idea that infuses the production elements (projections that travel the subways of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx as the play moves) and the extraordinary cast, chosen from Baltimore's best. They include **Terry J. Long** (Roy Cohn), a veteran actor/director whose recent production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* swept the Baltimore theatre awards before its national tour; television performer **Towanda Underdue** (Angel); **Patrick Kilpatrick** (Joe Pitt) who received the Greater Baltimore Theatre Outstanding Actor Award for his performance in Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and **Shannon Maddox** (Harper Pitt), a Baltimore regular who recently received rave reviews in New York for her performances in *Fall of the House of Usher* (BackStage Best of the Year) and *Barely There*, a world premiere at Richard Foreman's Ontological Theater. The ensemble is completed by **David Gregory** (*Dreamgirls*, Maryland Arts Festival) as Belize, **Richard Goldberg** (*Passion*, Fells Point Corner Theatre) as Louis, **Suzanne Knapik** (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern...*, Globe Theatre, L.A.) as Hannah, and **Don Mullins** (*Ragtime*, MAF) as Prior Walter.

The creative team features nationally-recognized talents, many of whom will make their Baltimore debuts. Director **Gabriel Shanks**, the recipient of the Theatre Project Honor for Outstanding Vision in the Theatre, is the Co-Director of The Drama League of New York, one of the nation's premiere arts advocacy organizations. Recent New York credits include *The Madness of Lady Bright* (Peculiar Works Project, Off Stage Festival), *Edward II* (Bank Street Theatre), *Southern Gothic Novel* (national tour), *Stealing Pears* (commission, Don Quixote Festival), and *Fall of the House of Usher*, which was named one of the best New York productions of the year by Backstage Magazine. A decade ago, Mr. Shanks directed the

Baltimore area premiere of Brad Fraser's *Poor Superman* at AXIS Theatre, which *City Paper* named one of the five best plays of the year.

Set designer **Allen Cutler** has designed for many of the nation's most acclaimed theatre companies, including La Jolla Playhouse, the Berkshire Theatre Festival, San Diego Repertory, and George Street Playhouse, among many others. Currently the Resident Propmaster of Hartford Stage Company, he has worked on the Broadway transfer of *Enchanted April* and the Off-Broadway hit *Down The Garden Paths*. Composer **Chris Meade** was the original sound designer of the Obie- and Tony-winning *Bridge and Tunnel*, and has designed for dozens of companies including Second Stage and MadShag, where he is a Designer-in-Residence. New Baltimore resident **Jody Ratti** is the lighting designer, whose work has previously been seen in Philadelphia and New York.

Tony Kushner received the Pulitzer Prize, two Tony Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, an Evening Standard Award, two Olivier Award nominations, the New York Critics Circle Award, the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, and the LAMBDA Liberty Award for *ANGELS IN AMERICA*. He won an Emmy Award for his screenplay miniseries adaptation for HBO, which became the most honored television program of its kind since *Roots*. Recently, Mr. Kushner was nominated for an Academy Award for the screenplay of *Munich*, which also received an Oscar nomination for Best Film. His other plays include *A Bright Room Called Day*, *Slavs!*, *Homebody/Kabul*, and adaptations of *The Illusion* and *Mother Courage and her Children*. Mr. Kushner also wrote the libretto of the Tony-nominated musical *Caroline, Or Change*, which was based in part on his childhood experiences in Louisiana.

Like the ancient Greek dramas that inspire both the play and this particular production, *ANGELS IN AMERICA: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES* is ripe with meaning for everyone, an entertaining comic and dramatic journey to our own humanity. The cast and design team are available for interviews and press discussions.

Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office one hour prior to each performance. Tickets may be placed on Will Call by phoning the theatre at 410-752-1225, or from the website: www.spotlighters.org. Will Call Reservations are strongly recommended. Cash and Credit Cards (Mastercard, Visa, and Discover) are accepted at the Box Office.

Tickets may be purchased by credit card on line at www.missiontix.com.

For more information about the theatre and this production, visit www.spotlighters.org.

FACT SHEET (Use for Calendar Listings and PSAs)

WHAT: The Audrey Herman SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre and MadShag Performance Group, NYC present
ANGELS IN AMERICA: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES

WHERE: The Audrey Herman SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre
817 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

CAST:
Richard Goldberg as Louis Ironson
David Gregory as Belize (and Mr. Lies)
Patrick Kilpatrick as Joe Pitt (and Prior II)
Suzanne Knapik as Hannah Pitt (and Ethel Rosenberg, Henry)
Terry J. Long as Roy Cohn (and Prior I)
Shannon Maddox as Harper Pitt
Don Mullins as Prior Walter (and Man in Leather)
Towanda Underdue as The Angel (and Martin, Ella, Emily)

CREW:

Director	Gabriel Shanks
Stage Manager	Shannon Hunt
Dramaturg/ASM	Andrew Syropoulos
Set Design	Allen Cutler
Costume Design	Shannon Maddox
Lighting Design	Jody Ratti
Original Score	Chris Meade and Pete Fonda
Sound Design	Chris Meade and Robbie Heacock

DATES and TIMES:

Press Opening:	Friday, October 13, 2006 @ 8:00pm
Closes:	Sunday, November 12, 2006 @ 2:00pm
Show Times:	Friday and Saturday at 8PM Sunday at 2PM

PRICES:

General Admission: \$20 for all shows
Students: \$17.00
Seniors: \$17.00
Baltimore Theatre Alliance Members (with ID): \$17.00
Partners Discount: \$15.00
For Groups of 15 or more, call 410-752-1225

HOW: WILL CALL Reservations

By phone:	410-752-1225 (Mailbox Option #3)
Online:	www.spotlighters.org/boxoffice.htm
PURCHASE Online:	www.missiontix.com

SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in Calendar Listings)

WHAT: **Opening Night Reception for ANGELS IN AMERICA with Director, Cast and Crew.**

DESCRIPTION: Lite fare reception following performance

WHEN: Friday, October 13, 2006; Approximately 11PM, following performance

WHERE: SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre Lobby
817 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

PRICES: Reception is included in Opening Night ticket purchase

HOW: WILL CALL Reservations: By phone: 410-752-1225 (Mailbox Option #3)
Online: www.spotlighters.org/boxoffice.htm
PURCHASE Online: www.missiontix.com

WHAT: **Panel Discussion: AIDS in Baltimore – What Happens Next?**

DESCRIPTION: Experts from Chase-Brexton Health Services, Planned Parenthood and the University of Maryland Institute of Human Virology will offer a lively, open discussion of treatments, concerns, and developments in the fight against AIDS. Special attention will be given to the future of the epidemic, and its local impact on Baltimore and its environs. Moderated by Andrew Syropoulos, dramaturg for ANGELS IN AMERICA.

WHEN: Sunday, October 29th, 2006; Approximately 5PM, following performance

WHERE: SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre - On Stage
817 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

PRICES: Panel Discussion is free and open to the public.

HOW: WILL CALL Reservations: By phone: 410-752-1225 (Mailbox Option #3)
Online: www.spotlighters.org/boxoffice.htm

WHAT: **Talk Back Discussion with Cast and Crew**

DESCRIPTION: Audiences can hear the backstage stories and learn about the creative process of ANGELS IN AMERICA: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES in this insightful question-and-answer session.

WHEN: Thursday, October 20th, 2006, immediately following 8PM performance

WHERE: SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre - On Stage
817 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

PRICES: Talk Back Discussion is free to patrons of the evening's performance.

HOW: WILL CALL Reservations: By phone: 410-752-1225 (Mailbox Option #3)
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