

the Audrey Herman

Spotlighters

theatre

817 Saint Paul Street ~ Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

Our Mission:

To provide the Baltimore community with exceptional, creative, diverse and affordable theatrical productions, which stimulate and entertain both audience and artist.

Spotlighters strives to increase and enhance the community's appreciation for and participation in the experience that is live theatre.

410-752-1225 ~ www.spotlighters.org

MEDIA RELEASE

for Immediate Release

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Angels in America - Perestroika

July 20 through August 12, 2007

*From New York to Antarctica to San Francisco - to heaven and hell,
Angels in America: Perestroika concludes Tony Kushner's great America epic
about AIDS, racism, religion, politics, life & death, . . . and Hope!*

Baltimore (July 2007) - Spotlighters Theatre presents Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: Perestroika*, winner of the 1994 Tony Award for Best Play and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

While *Perestroika* is part two of *Angels in America*, it stands alone by looking into the relationships of the characters from *Millennium Approaches*. *Perestroika* allows the audience the opportunity to see into the very soul of some characters, and even the most vile and despised, can find some comfort and redemption.

Perestroika is the story of two troubled couples, one gay, one straight: gay Louis and Prior and Mormon Joe and Harper. Through their lives and connections, friends and family, a tapestry is woven with threads of love, hatred, fear, self-loathing, despair, hallucination and vision. When discussing *Perestroika*, Kushner has said, "The question I am trying to ask is how board is a community's embrace? How wide does it reach?"

In *Perestroika* we see community being rebuilt; forging bonds between unlikely and seemingly unconnected characters (Hannah and Prior, Prior and Harper). Even Roy, the play's most difficult character is not abandoned in death, his death links him to the very communities that he abandoned.

Perestroika deals with many societal issues - AIDS, racism, religion, politics, life & death, . . . and Hope. And it finds hope within unlikely individuals.

Playwright: Tony Kushner (born: July 16, 1956) is an award-winning American playwright most famous for his play *Angels in America*, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. He was born to a Jewish family in Manhattan, but his parents, William Kushner and Sylvia (Deutscher) Kushner, both classically trained musicians, moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana, the seat of Calcasieu Parish, shortly after his birth. Kushner moved to New York in 1974 to begin his undergraduate college education at Columbia University, where he completed a B.A. in English literature in 1978. He studied directing at New York University's Graduate School, from which he was graduated in 1984.

His other plays include *Hydrotaphia, Slavs!: Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness, A Bright Room Called Day, Homebody/Kabul*, and the book for the musical *Caroline, or Change*. His new translation of Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* was performed at the Delacorte Theater in the summer of 2006 starring Meryl Streep and directed by George C. Wolfe. He has also adapted S. Ansky's play *The Dybbuk*.

Director: Alexander D Carney (Director) holds an MFA in Directing from Mary Baldwin College, an M.Litt. in Elizabethan and Renaissance Literature in Performance from Mary Baldwin College and an BA in Theater from SUNY/Empire State College. This is Alex's first show at Spotlighters Originally from New York City, he appeared off-Broadway with Geraldine Page and F. Murray Abraham in ***The Madwoman of Chailot***. He worked on the Broadway productions of ***Showboat***, ***Smokey Joe's Cafe***, and Disney's ***Beauty and the Beast***. Among the shows he has directed is the first staging in 400 years of the First Quarto of ***The Chronicle History of Henry V***, by William Shakespeare. In the fall of 2007, he will begin work on a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction in Speech and Theater at University of Maryland/College Park. He is currently the Drama Teacher at Patterson High School in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a member of Actors Equity Association and IATSE Local #1.

Cast and Crew: ***Angels in America: Perestroika*** brings a new group of actors to SPOTLIGHTERS stage, as well as a few veterans. In the role of the Angel is **Nancy Flores**, making her debut at SPOTLIGHTERS and bring her dance and theatre experience to create a most breath-taking Angel. As the unwilling prophet, Prior Walter, **Shaun Gould** is also making his debut at SPOTLIGHTERS. In the role of Louis Ironson, Prior's ex-lover, is **Chris Homberg**, who was recently seen at SPOTLIGHTERS as Giuseppe Zangara in ***Assassins***. **Robert Scott Hitcho** takes on the role of Joe Pitt, married Mormon Republican lawyer and Louis' new love interest. This is Robert's debut also at SPOTLIGHTERS. He most recently was seen in ***Picasso at the Lapin Agile*** at Chesapeake Arts Center. In the role of Harper Pitt, Joe's Valium addicted hallucinating wife, is **Karina Ferry**, who is no stranger to the SPOTLIGHTERS stage, having appeared in ***Rocky Horror Show*** (twice) as well as ***Songs for a New World*** and ***The Mineola Twins***. As Joe's mother, Hannah Pitt, and a plethora of supporting characters, **Rebecca Ludwig** makes her debut in this intimate space. Rebecca has worked as Musical Director and appeared in numerous performances, she is a Music Teacher with Baltimore City School System. **Troy Hopper** brings a genuine caring to Belize, as the compassionate care give, and moral center of ***Angels***. It has been three years since Troy last appeared on SPOTLIGHTERS stage, but he has been busy in other theatre's in the Baltimore area. As the vile power-hungry bigoted Roy Cohn, **Frank Vince** makes his debut at SPOTLIGHTERS.

The Technical Design Team of ***ANGELS IN AMERICA*** boasts well-known and regarded individuals from the Baltimore region. **Galen Lande** (Lighting Designer) returns to Spotlighters after designing the lighting for ***Hope's Arbor***, ***Angels in America-Millennium***, ***The Mineola Twins*** and ***The Nerd*** (Spotlighters). Galen is the resident designer for Toby's Dinner Theater.

Sound Design is by **Fred Nelson**, who was last seen on stage at SPOTLIGHTERS in the title role of ***The Nerd***. Fred is a freelance television editor for several national networks and corporate clients, with more than 25 years of audio and video production/design experience, and dozens of regional and national industry awards for his work. He is also the announcer for the TV series Now Playing with Gary Collins. As a actor, Fred has performed in more than 100 television and theatre roles on both sides of the world

Costumes are designed by **Nan Willis**, who received a BA in Theatre and Dance from Arizona State University and has costumed and performed in shows in Phoenix, Chicago and Northern California. Her design credits include ***Camelot***, ***Hay Fever***, ***Sweeny Todd***, ***Raven*** and RoTM's new works festival, ***Variations of Justice***.

Michael Tan has taken on the daunting task of creating original music and arrangements for the show. Michael was last seen on the SPOTLIGHTERS stage in ***The Odd Couple***, and will be appearing in SPOTLIGHTERS next production, the Baltimore Playwrights Festival, ***Rudy Doo***. Michael is most known for his musical direction around Baltimore. He was musical director for ***Sunday in the Park with George*** last season and ***Falsettos***, both at Fells Point Corner Theatre. He will be music directing ***Great American Trailer Park Musical*** this October at SPOTLIGHTERS.

FUZZ Roark, Executive Director of SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre, assumed the role of Producer for this show over the summer, and has since taken on the roles of Technical Director, and Set Design & Construction.

A **Talk Back Session** is scheduled with cast and creative team of *Perestroika* on Sunday, August 5 following the 2pm matinee. This is an opportunity for audience members to ask questions regarding the production, the performance, the process and the characters. Audio Description for the Visually Impaired is available upon request. Please contact the theatre two weeks in advance so that arrangement may be made to provide the service. (There is no additional fee for this service).

The Saturday, August 4, 2007 performance of *Perestroika* will be a benefit performance for **PFLAG of Columbia/Howard County**. \$5 from each ticket purchased that evening will be donated to the organization.

Ticket Info: Tickets may be purchased online at www.spotlighters.org - TICKETS or 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, Reservations are strongly recommended. Cash and Credit Cards are accepted at the Box Office.

FACT SHEET (Use for Calendar Listings and PSAs)

WHAT: The Audrey Herman SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre presents
ANGELS IN AMERICA - PERESTROIKA, written by Tony Kushner.
*From New York to Antarctica to San Francisco - to heaven and hell,
Angels in America: Perestroika concludes Tony Kushner's great
America epic about AIDS, racism, religion, politics, life & death,
. . . and Hope!*

WHO: Written by: Tony Kushner
Directed by Alexander D. Carney

CAST: Cast (in alphabetical order):

Karina Ferry	Harper Pitt
Nancy Flores	The Angel
Shaun Gould	Prior Walter
Robert Scott Hitcho	Joe Pitt
Chris Homberg	Louis Ironson
Troy Hopper	Belize
Rebecca Ludwig	Hannah Pitt
Frank Vince	Roy Cohn

CREW:

Director	Alexander D. Carney
Stage Manager	Amanda Lewis
Original Score/Arrangements	Michael Tan
Lighting Designer	Galen Lande
Sound Designer	Fred Nelson
Costume Design	Nan Willis
Set Design	FUZZ Roark
Assistant Stage Manager	Joelle Talley
Running Crew	Kevin Bennett

DATES, TIMES & PRICES:

Show Times: Opens: Friday, July 20, 2007 at 8PM
Closes: Sunday August 12, 2007 at 2PM
Friday and Saturday at 8PM
Sunday at 2PM
Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 8PM

Tickets: Tickets \$20 for all shows

Discounts: Students (Under age 18 or with valid ID): \$17.00
Seniors: \$17.00
Baltimore Theatre Alliance Members (with ID): \$17.00

How: Purchase online at www.spotlighters.org - TICKETS
By phone: 410-752-1225
For Groups of 15 or more, call FUZZ at 410-752-1225

SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in Calendar Listings)

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

DESCRIPTION: Lite fare reception following performance

WHEN: Friday July 20, 2007; Approximately 10PM; following performance

WHERE: SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre Lobby

817 Saint Paul Street

Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

PRICES: Reception is included in Opening Night ticket purchase

HOW: Purchase online at www.spotlighters.org - TICKETS

By phone: 410-752-1225

For Groups of 15 or more, call FUZZ at 410-752-1225

WHAT: **Benefit Performance of ANGELS IN AMERICA - Perestroika for PFLAG of Columbia/Howard County**

DESCRIPTION: \$5 from each ticket will be donated to PFLAG of Columbia/Howard County

WHEN: Saturday, August 4, 2007; 8pm performance

WHERE: SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre

817 Saint Paul Street

Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

PRICES: \$20 for adults, \$17 for students, seniors and BTA members

HOW: Purchase online at www.spotlighters.org - TICKETS

By phone: 410-752-1225

For Groups of 15 or more, call FUZZ at 410-752-1225

WHAT: **Talk Back Session with Cast and Creative Team**

DESCRIPTION: Question and Answer Discussion with the cast and creative team regarding the performance, the play, and the theatre.

WHEN: Sunday August 5, 2007;

Approximately 4PM; following performance

WHERE: SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre - On Stage

817 Saint Paul Street

Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

PRICES: Talk Back is included in ticket purchase

HOW: Purchase online at www.spotlighters.org - TICKETS

By phone: 410-752-1225

For Groups of 15 or more, call FUZZ at 410-752-1225