



WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
THEATRE PRESENTS:

**THE
NORMAL
HEART**
BY LARRY KRAMER

DIRECTED BY BROOK DAVIS

**OCTOBER 29-30 & NOVEMBER 4-6
7:30 PM**

**OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 7
2:00 PM**

TEDFORD STAGE AT SCALES FINE ARTS CENTER



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have a wonderful job because I get to read and teach bunches of plays. Very often the plays I gravitate toward are masterfully constructed, skillfully stylized, and thematically complex.

While I love those plays, I admire *The Normal Heart* for different reasons. The play is frenzied, messy, loud, afraid, and belligerent. Its heart is on its sleeve while it simultaneously yells at its audience and then cries with them minutes later. When it opened Off-Broadway in 1985, *The New York Times* wrote, "The playwright starts off angry, soon gets furious and then skyrockets into sheer rage."

As you watch this play, you might begin making connections between what Larry and his friends experienced during the early months of HIV/AIDS and the onset of COVID-19. I know I have. Remember when we asked those questions . . . How do you catch it? How contagious is it? Can we get it from our pets? How willing am I to change the way I live my life to keep myself and the people around me safe? When will it end?

Yet there are big differences. In 1981, when the first cases of AIDS were being named in the US, the fear and panic in the gay community were met with a deafening silence and disregard from many in the government, some in the medical community, and folks sitting at home in their living rooms watching tv reports about "gay cancer". Stigma, discrimination, and hate language were commonplace on a national stage. People were dying very painful deaths while the world turned a blind eye. Ned Weeks, Larry Kramer's character in our play, describes it: "We're living through war, but where they're living its peacetime, and we're all in the same country."

No wonder Larry Kramer's play screams at us. Written in the middle of the panic, mostly autobiographical, *The Normal Heart* documents his personal journey discovering the disease and opening his apartment to a group of politically active friends who called themselves The Gay Men's Health Crisis. He began his lifetime of AIDS advocacy; yelling, making people very angry, grieving, and caring so deeply.

The disease is still with us but, thank God, HIV is no longer the death sentence it once was. I wish I could say the same angry farewell to all the hate and stigma that surrounded this disease and resulted in the deaths of so many. I am sure, were he here, Larry would rage at us to get out of these theatre seats and go continue the massive work that still needs to be done.

Larry Kramer died in May 2020 at the age of 84. He was working on a play about the gay community and COVID-19. I'll bet it was angry, loud, and wonderfully messy.

POST-PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION

Following the performance on Friday, November 5, 2021, there will be a discussion about issues raised in the production. Guest speakers are Dr. Allison Matthews, Executive Director, COMPASS Initiative; Dean Jonathan Walton, Dean of WFU Divinity School; and Dr. AJ Mazaris, Director, LGBTQ+ Center.

Wake Forest University Theatre presents

THE NORMAL HEART

by Larry Kramer

October 29-31 & November 4-7, 2021

Director
Brook Davis

Scenic & Lighting Designer
Rob Eastman-Mullins

Costume Designer
Alice Burton Barsony

Sound Designer
Lydia Evans*^s ('23)

Dramaturgs
Chris Cates* ('22) & Abigail Franke* ('22)

Properties
Sarah Cadena* ('24)

Assistant Director
Jordana Keller*^s ('24)

Stage Manager
Fuyuan Zheng* ('22)

CAST

CRAIG DONNER/GRADY.....	Will Rothschild
MICKEY MARCUS.....	R.J. Pratt*
NED WEEKS.....	Chris Cates*
DAVID/DOCTOR.....	Vir Gupta*
DR. EMMA BROOKNER.....	Abigail Franke*
BRUCE NILES.....	Michael Votto*
FELIX TURNER.....	Kirk Love
BEN WEEKS.....	Xander Friedel*
TOMMY BOATWRIGHT.....	Evan Souza* ^s
HIRAM KEEBLER.....	Yaser Salamah* ^s

*Anthony Aston Players member

^sPresidential Scholar in Theatre

SETTING

The action of this play takes place between July 1981 and May 1984 in New York City.

The Normal Heart is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of
Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Original New York Production by New York Shakespeare Festival
Produced by Joseph Papp

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The windiest militant trash
Important Persons shout
Is not so crude as our wish:
What mad Nijinsky wrote
About Diaghilev
Is true of the normal heart;
For the error bred in the bone
Of each woman and each man
Craves what it cannot have,
Not universal love
But to be loved alone.

All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the-street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.

-W.H. Auden

from "September 1, 1939" Copyright © 1940 by W.H. Auden

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DEDICATION

This past spring, the Department of Theatre and Dance lost a dear colleague, friend, and teacher, Robert Simpson, who died of cancer. Some time ago, we watched as Robert took care of his beloved partner Michael, who eventually died of AIDS. One of Robert's colleagues wrote, "It was a long hard battle and Robert was his rock. I don't think he ever stopped grieving." This show is dedicated to the loving memory of Robert and his Michael.

INFORMATION

In consideration of everyone in the theatre, especially the cast who have rehearsed for weeks, please observe the following:

- ♦ Audience members must wear a mask while inside the building including the entire performance.
- ♦ Turn off and put away your cell phone or any device that might ring, buzz, or light up.
- ♦ If you are anticipating the need to be contacted during the performance, leave your name and seat location with the box office staff and the box office number with the person who may need you; the box office number is 336-758-5295.
- ♦ Laptops are not allowed; pens and paper are great alternatives for taking notes.
- ♦ Copyright laws prohibit recording in any format of any performance. Flash photography can be especially hazardous to performers and a distraction to the rest of the audience.
- ♦ Eating and drinking (other than water) are never allowed inside the theatre.

Thanks, and enjoy the show!

The show runs approximately 2 hours & 30 minutes with a 10-minute intermission. It contains explicit language that may be offensive to some audience members and is intended for mature audiences only.

JAMES DODDING SCHOLARSHIP FOR THEATRE

Mr. Dodding, professor emeritus of theatre, died in March 2018 at his home in Garstang, England. You may be one of the fortunate ones who had the opportunity to learn about the craft of theatre, and the joy of living, by working or performing in one of his masterful productions. From Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas, to Shakespeare, to the WFU Passion Play, and any number of other first-rate memorable shows, Jim Dodding was a force for good and for good theatre at Wake Forest University.

Now it is time for us to remember this remarkable man and rise to a challenge that helps create a lasting legacy for this beloved professor.

We are asking for your help by joining us in supporting the James Dodding Scholarship for Theatre that has been established in his honor. Already a group of Mr. Dodding's former students and friends have raised \$61,000 to date towards an endowed scholarship celebrating his life and ensuring his name remains a part of Wake Forest Theatre for generations to come. In order to complete the endowment, we need to reach \$100,000 in funding. Of course, we want to exceed this minimum so that the scholarship generates the highest possible funding. We hope you will support this effort to honor a remarkable scholar, actor and teacher and to ensure his legacy for generations of talented Theatre students to come.

It's easy to give! You visit <https://forms.secure.wfu.edu/giving> for giving instructions. Please be sure to indicate that your gift is for the Dodding Scholarship. In addition, please contact Beth McAlhany for assistance and to share your stories about Professor Dodding and his impact on you -- Beth would love to hear from you.

We appreciate your consideration of support for this tribute and the impact it will have on generations of Wake Forest thespians to come.

--Steve (MA '87, P '15, P '18) and Sue Nedvidek ('87, P '15, P '18)

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

The Normal Heart is the setting of one story out of countless others. This is an incredibly important story to highlight and a good reminder of how this epidemic started. However, we want you to be aware of some important takeaways on other communities who were and continue to be impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Women & HIV/AIDS

In 2018, there were 37,968 new HIV diagnoses in the US and of those, 19% (7,190) were women.

Of the almost 1.2 million people living with HIV in the US at the time, 261,800 were women

Most of the new HIV diagnoses among women in the US are attributed to heterosexual contact (at 85%).

Intimate Partner Violence exposes women to higher risks for HIV due to women who have been exposed to IPV being more likely to engage in risky behaviors or be forced to have sex without condoms or medicines to prevent or treat HIV and/or STDs.

In 2015, Black women made up only 14% of the US female population but more than 61% of new HIV diagnoses while latina/hispanic women made up 15% of new HIV diagnoses.

Globally, women account for more than half of the population of people living with HIV, with women ages 10-24 years old being twice as likely to acquire HIV than their same-aged male peers.

Patriarchal standards and ideals of negative attitudes towards sex outside of marriage and restricted social autonomy of women and young girls reduces thier ability to access sexual health and HIV treatment, prevention, and care services.

There has been a significant amount of work done to reduce the transmission of HIV from mother-to-child through birth, but much more work continues to be needed in reducing the gender inequity and violence that women and young girls at risk of HIV face.

DRAMATURG'S NOTE (continued)

Trans Community & HIV/AIDS

As of 2019, nearly 1 million people in the US identified as transgender and HIV prevalence was 14.1% for transgender women, 3.2% for transgender men, & 9.2% for transgender people overall while the prevalence for US adults overall was 0.5%.

Insensitivity to transgender issues by health care workers and providers can act as a barrier for transgender people with HIV who need to seek out treatment and care services.

Sex work is often a viable form of income available to transgender people due to social exclusion, economic vulnerability, and a lack of employment opportunities. HIV prevalence is up to 9 times higher for transgender sex workers compared to their cisgender counterparts.

As of 2014, only 39% of countries had specific programs that targeted their transgender populations in their national HIV strategy campaigns.

A report released by the CDC in April of 2021 showed that 42% of the transgender women surveyed in 7 major US cities had tested positive for HIV with 65% of Indigenous participants, 62% of Black participants, and 35% of Latinx/Hispanic participants testing positive.

April 18th is National Transgender HIV Testing Day.

DRAMATURG'S NOTE (continued)

Black & Brown Communities & HIV/AIDS

By 1988, Black Americans were the majority of the new diagnoses of people with HIV/AIDS.

The transition of AIDS being the white gay male disease of GRID into the Black community was quick due to the lack of access to health care, insurance, transportation, and segregation. The disease continued to rampage the community as there was no high representation of Black doctors and Black people were not being involved in the research to help develop drugs.

Stigma, discrimination, homophobia, and racism continue to place Black, Indigenous, and People of Color at higher risks for HIV as these systemic oppressions prevent folks from seeking routine HIV testing, preventative care, & treatment.

Currently, 1 in 2 Black same gender loving men are estimated to acquire AIDS in their lifetime.

In 2018, Black people accounted for 13% of the US population but 42% (16,002) of the 37,968 new HIV diagnoses in the US. Asian people accounted for 6% of the US population and 2% of the HIV diagnoses.

In 2019, of the 36,801 new HIV diagnoses in the US, 29% (10,494) were among Latinx people.

Among all women, Black women account for the largest portion of new HIV diagnoses at 14 times the rate among white women and 5 times the rate among Latinx women.

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DRAMATURG'S NOTE (continued)

Going Forward

We now have access to PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis) medications which are up to 99% effective with daily use for men and women. Ready, Set, PrEP is a patient assistance program that helps to provide PrEP medications at no cost for folks who test negative for HIV, have a valid prescription, and don't have prescription drug insurance.

You cannot die from HIV, rather death may extend from complications with AIDS.

If you reach an undetectable viral load you will not pass HIV along to partners.

36.3 million people across the globe have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic.

37 million people are now currently living with HIV in the world. Over 1.2 million are in the US. 300,000 live in the South. 10,000 live in North Carolina.

The U=U movement is doing the work of making sure people understand that Undetectable equals Untransmittable.

People living with HIV are still being criminalized. 35 states have laws that continue to criminalize HIV exposure; potentially exposing someone to HIV or an STD can result in charges of reckless endangerment and/or attempted murder.

North Carolina decriminalized HIV in 2018 due to the work done by the U=U movement; if a person living with HIV is virally suppressed for over six months then they do not have to disclose their status.

HIV and Cancer research borrow from each other because they both deal with the immune system. Cancer research benefits from HIV research and vice versa. HIV researchers are responsible for developing the Covid-19 vaccine. The knowledge we have gained through HIV research is relevant and pertinent for all members of society.

Having started in 1988, World AIDS Day annually falls on December 1st. Be a comrade for folks still living with HIV by reminding the public and government that HIV has not gone away as we still need money for research, increased awareness to combat stigma and discrimination, and education of HIV/AIDS history in our classrooms to remember the plague that has been allowed to continue for the past 40 years.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Theatre.....	Jonathan Christman
Technical Director.....	Thomas Williams
Assistant Sound Designer.....	Patrick Cheon
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Jillian Liu
Production Sound Engineer.....	Jeff Sherwood
Head Electrician.....	Kevin Frazier
Assistant Head Electrician.....	Chris Cates*
Electricians.....	Rachel Lin, Michael Votto*, Nicole Liu*, Zachary Atala [§] Nehemya Gugsu, Adarian Sneed ^{§*} , Evan Souza*
Scenic Artists.....	Cameron Michles ^{§*} , Girnar Anand*, Yaser Salamah ^{§*} , THE 150 Class Celina Seo, Riley Shanaghan Abigail Franke*, Students of the THE 150 Class
Scenic Painters.....	Sophie Thomas ^{§*} , Bailey Hardegree, Kirk Love Zac Anderson ^{§*} , Nicole Namath, Vir Gupta*, Mary Ann Bailey Evan Souza*, Cameron Michles ^{§*} , Fuyuan Zheng, THE 150 Class
Scene Shop Assistants.....	Evan Daane*, Dara Pokelwaldt, Sarah Cadena* Devonte Sobamowo, Tommy Taylor
Carpenters.....	Drew Skilton, Abigail Franke*
Painters.....	Isabella Biricik, Zac Anderson ^{§*} , Sophie Thomas ^{§*} Sean Jones ^{§*} , Cameron Michles ^{§*} , MaryAnna Bailey [§]
Stage Crew.....	Jake Eskstein, Rashad Raad Christian Aguilar-Perez, Pamela Biniam
Costume Shop Manager.....	Alice Burton Barsony
Assistant Costume Shop Manager, Draper, & Wardrobe Manager.....	Clare Parker
Stitchers.....	Ashanta Akins-Collier, Tatiana Bicalho Isabelle Merrifield, Emily Patten, Hannah Riley
Wardrobe Assistants.....	Clare Parker, Reese Fan
Light Board Operator.....	Sarah Cadena
Sound Board Operator.....	Christopher Quiroz ^{§*}
Photographers.....	Ken Bennett, Bill Ray III
Audience Services Coordinator.....	Leslie Spencer
Social Media Managers.....	Zac Anderson ^{§*} , Chris Cates*, Lainey Drake ^{§*}
House Managers.....	Devin Collins, Hope Peterson ('17, MS '18), Adarian Sneed ^{§*}
Box Office Staff.....	Zac Anderson ^{§*} , Carol Arkalji, Jen Carroll Lainey Drake ^{§*} , Sean Jones ^{§*} , Isabelle Moore Kate Sloan, Adarian Sneed ^{§*}
Ushers.....	Anthony Aston Players, WFU Dance Company APO service fraternity, Theatre & Dance students

*Anthony Aston Players member

[§]Presidential Scholar in Theatre

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Nikki Elston
Dr. Allison Mathews
Dr. A.J. Mazaris
Dean Jonathan Walton

The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem
Couture Eyewear at Coliseum Drive
Tanya Lewis & Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Shay Collins & Novant Health
Interdisciplinary Arts Center

Tammy Burke
Lara Ianni
Leslie Spencer
Donna Votto



INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS CENTER

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

2021-2022 Season

October 22, 2021

BENEFACTORS

Barton & Brenda Baldwin[‡]
Estate of John Arthur Collins III
J.K. Curry & Dan Bradley
Caroline Sandlin Fullerton
Joel Leander & Perry Patterson
Sioban Nicole McNamara[‡]
Margaret Henry Moore
Ben Sutton
Dr. James & Patricia Toole[‡]
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Claire & John Friedenberg[‡]
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Jordan II[‡]
Denise Koch[‡]
James & Angela McNamara
Allison McWilliams[‡]
Steve[‡] & Sue[‡] Nedvidek
Harold & Josie Tedford
Mary Wayne-Thomas
Edwin & Emily Wilson[‡]

Estate of Robert Parker Wilson

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Michele Gillespie & Kevin Pittard[‡]

Jill Carraway[‡] & Debora Horning
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Jane Bess Wooten[‡]

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Bill[‡] & Marty[‡] Lamb
Nina Lucas
Sam Roy
Shirley Midyette

Anne Davenport
Janice Gendrich
Elizabeth Rief[‡] & Shawn Hooper
Tom Lewis[‡]
Mary Lee Porterfield[‡]
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Lawrence & Sandra Webb

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Iaona Farthing
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Gerald Taylor

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Donna Votto

FRIENDS

Paul & Linda Edwards Early[‡]
Denise Pazda

Rebecca Gill
Shannon Pleasant

Shan Woolard

[‡] Wake Forest alumni



Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Dance Concert

Directed by Nina Lucas

November 18-20 at 7:30 PM

November 21 at 2:00 PM

Harold C. Tedford Stage

Tickets: \$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens, \$7 students

336.758.5295 theatre.wfu.edu

John Proctor is the Villain

by Kimberly Belflower

directed by Sharon Andrews

February 4-5 & 10-12 at 7:30 PM

February 6 & 13 at 2:00 PM

Harold C. Tedford Stage

Tickets:
\$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens,
\$7 students

336.758.5295 theatre.wfu.edu

