



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

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ONE ARCHIVES FOUNDATION TO DEBUT HISTORIC PERFORMANCE OF *THE NORMAL HEART* WITH ALL-STAR CAST

Virtual Reading to Take Place on May 8, 2021

Tickets Available on April 8, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (April 1, 2021) — ONE Archives Foundation, in collaboration with Invisible Histories Project, announced today a historic virtual reading of Larry Kramer's largely autobiographical play **THE NORMAL HEART**. Directed by Emmy Award-winning director **Paris Barclay**, this new presentation will be the first time the Tony Award-winning play features a cast that is predominately BIPOC and LGBTQ. **THE NORMAL HEART** will take place on Saturday, **May 8, at 5:00pm PT. Tickets will be available on April 8.**

The virtual reading features an all-star cast:

Sterling K. Brown (*This Is Us, Black Panther*); **Laverne Cox** (*Orange Is The New Black, Promising Young Woman*); **Jeremy Pope** (*Hollywood, Choir Boy*); **Vincent Rodriguez III** (*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend, Insatiable*); **Guillermo Díaz** (*Scandal, Weeds*); **Jake Borelli** (*Grey's*

Anatomy, The Thing About Harry); **Ryan O’Connell** (*Special, Will & Grace*); **Daniel Newman** (*Walking Dead, Homeland*); **Jay Hayden** (*Station 19, The House Bunny*); and **Danielle Savre** (*Station 19, Heroes*).

The virtual reading will include a special introduction by **Martin Sheen**.

“When I was approached by ONE Archives Foundation to direct a virtual reading of THE NORMAL HEART, I knew it was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up. I lived in New York through the 1980s, saw the original production with Brad Davis, and have never forgotten the experience. And through today’s lens, the story of a marginalized people pushed to activism by the onslaught of an epidemic clearly was worth telling again. We’ve assembled an extraordinary cast that makes this particular reading even more timely. And we hope more powerful,” said **Paris Barclay**, Director.

THE NORMAL HEART focuses on the rise of the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York City in the early 1980s. After cofounding the Gay Men’s Health Crisis in 1982, Larry Kramer founded ACT UP in 1987. Produced and taught all over the world, THE NORMAL HEART was selected as one of the 100 Greatest Plays of the Twentieth Century by the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain. It was the longest-running play in the history of The Public Theater. It was also made into an Emmy award winning film for HBO by Ryan Murphy.

This performance of THE NORMAL HEART is **an important reminder** that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is not over, with 38 million people living with HIV globally in 2019. Its ongoing impact disproportionately affects the Black community. As of 2018, 42% of new HIV cases have occurred within the Black community, which only makes up 13% of the US population. According to the CDC in 2019, Southern states account for an estimated 51% of new HIV cases annually, even though only 38% of the US population lives in the Southern region.

“While many believe that HIV/AIDS is no longer a contemporary issue, living with HIV is still a daily reality, especially within the Black community and communities of color. That’s what makes this virtual reading of THE NORMAL HEART especially important; it strives to inform, educate, and empower the public while sharing the history of HIV/AIDS activism—activism that is still necessary today,” said **Jennifer C. Gregg**, Executive Director of ONE Archives Foundation.

“The South is home to the largest percentage of LGBTQ people in the US. One-third of all LGBTQ people live here. The South is also home to the largest number of new HIV cases annually. This virtual reading of THE NORMAL HEART reflects a continuing narrative of advocacy, organizing, and the importance of community activism—particularly in an environment with insufficient government resources,” said **Maigen Sullivan**, Director of Research & Development, Invisible Histories Project.

Tickets go on sale to the public on April 8, 2021 at onearchives.org/normalheart. Ticket prices range from \$10 - \$100. Sponsorships are also available. To sponsor the event, please contact Jennifer C. Gregg, Executive Director of ONE Archives Foundation at jgregg@onearchives.org.

Funds raised from this event will support **ONE Archives Foundation’s** LGBTQ education initiatives, including K-12 lesson plans on HIV/AIDS, teacher trainings, youth engagement, and ONE Archives Foundation’s exhibitions, such as [Metanoia Online](#), which aims to center HIV

history around Black women's experience and contributions to AIDS Activism.

Funds raised will also support **Invisible Histories Project's** legacy of HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ activists through archiving, inclusion training, exhibitions, and programs that keep Southern LGBTQ history alive.

Sponsors of the event include Jeff Soref and Paul Lombardi, The Murray/Reese Foundation, Calamus Foundation, AIDS Alabama, Harry Gittelson and Albert Silva, Scott Davenport and Brad Dodson, Schmitt-Young Group at Morgan Stanley, Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis, Tomlinson Holman and Fritz Koeing, Amy A. Ross, David Farneth and David Gilbert, Jennifer C. Gregg and Cj Mitchell, Danny Fisk, Grand Stevens Group, LLC, Chiedu Egbuniwe, and May Hong HaDuong. A special thank you to Neal Baer, MD for his support of this virtual reading.

Learn more about this virtual reading of the **THE NORMAL HEART** here: onearchives.org/normalheart.

THE NORMAL HEART is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. <http://www.concordtheatricals.com/>. Thanks also to Larry Kramer's husband, David Webster, and the Estate of Larry Kramer.

About ONE Archives Foundation

Founded in 1952, ONE Archives Foundation is the oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States, and is dedicated to telling the accurate stories and history of all LGBTQ people and their culture. As an independent nonprofit, ONE Archives Foundation promotes ONE Archives at the USC Libraries — the largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world — and provides innovative educational initiatives, public exhibitions, and community programs.

The curatorial and educational choices made by ONE Archives Foundation are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ history and representation through highlighting the intersectional and authentic narratives of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), women, gender-nonconforming and transgender people, people of various abilities, youth, and elders across all socio-economic classes.

Learn more, donate and become a member at onearchives.org, and connect with ONE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @onearchives.

About Invisible Histories Project

The Invisible Histories Project (IHP) is dedicated to making LGBTQ Southern history accessible to the community. IHP is a community archiving and public history project that works to connect LGBTQ individuals and organizations with institutions like universities, museums, and libraries in order to ensure that the rich and diverse LGBTQ history of the South is preserved for future generations.

IHP's collection area consists of Alabama, Mississippi, the Florida panhandle, and Georgia, including the Atlanta metropolitan area. IHP curates in-person and online public exhibits, travels across the US speaking on Southern LGBTQ history, provides training and education to individuals and organizations, assists LGBTQ nonprofits in preserving their organizational history, and hosts multiple graduate and undergraduate internships each year. To learn more, visit invisiblehistory.org and with IHP on Facebook, Instagram @invisiblehistoriesproject, and Twitter @ihpsouth.

PRESS IMAGES



PARIS BARCLAY
Director and Narrator



STERLING K. BROWN
Role: Ned Weeks



JAKE BORELLI
Role: Tommy Boatwright



LAVERNE COX
Role: Dr. Emma Brookner



GUILLERMO DÍAZ
Role: Ben Weeks



JAY HAYDEN
Role: David / Hiram Keebler



DANIEL NEWMAN
Role: Mickey Marcus



RYAN O'CONNELL
Role: Craig Donner / Grady



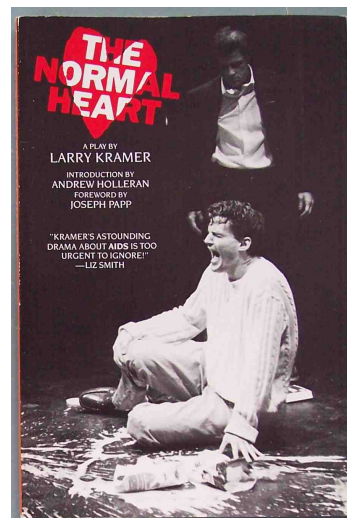
JEREMY POPE
Role: Felix Turner



VINCENT RODRIGUEZ III
Role: Bruce Niles



DANIELLE SAVRE
Role: Examining Doctor



THE NORMAL HEART
Book Cover

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