



ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

CONTACT:

Jennifer Gregg, jgregg@ONEArchives.org
Executive Director, ONE Archives Foundation



**NEW CLIPS FROM THE NORMAL HEART FEATURING
STERLING K. BROWN, LAVERNE COX & JEREMY POPE
NOW AVAILABLE**

Tickets on Sale for Historic Reading to Take Place This Saturday, May 8

Exclusive Merchandise of Groundbreaking Play Now Available

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (May 4, 2021) — ONE Archives Foundation announced today a **sneak peak** of the upcoming virtual reading of Larry Kramer's play **THE NORMAL HEART**. Clips from the historic performance featuring Sterling K. Brown, Laverne Cox and Jeremy Pope are now available to share with your readers:

Clip #1 Featuring Sterling K. Brown and Laverne Cox: <https://youtu.be/D-9qpao21-s>

Clip # 2 Featuring Sterling K. Brown and Jeremy Pope: <https://youtu.be/EbuqrSOEqME>

Download both clips [here](#).

ONE Archives Foundation also announced **all-new** THE NORMAL HEART **merchandise**, featuring an original logo by Los Angeles-based artist and curator Rubén Esparza. The full

collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, mugs, totes, and water bottles are now on sale and can be viewed [here](#).

The one-time streaming of THE NORMAL HEART will take place on **Saturday, May 8, at 5:00pm PT**. Directed by Emmy Award-winning director **Paris Barclay**, this to-be-historic presentation will be the first time the Tony Award-winning play features a cast that is predominately BIPOC and LGBTQ. Tickets are currently on sale [here](#).

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**.

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.

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, Office of HIV Prevention and Care- Alabama Department of Public Health, Pivotal Ventures LLC, The Murray/Reese Foundation, The Calamus Foundation, Inc., AIDS Alabama, Harry Gittelsohn and Albert Silva, Scott Davenport and Brad Dodson, Christopher and Paris Barclay, 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, Left Hand Soap Company, PhRMA, The 6:52 Project Foundation, Theratechnologies, Chiedu Egbuniwe, May Hong HaDuong, and ABC7. 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**.

THE NORMAL HEART is presented by arrangement with [Concord Theatricals](#) on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. 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



**THE NORMAL HEART
ACTORS AND DIRECTOR**



LAVERNE COX
Role: Dr. Emma Brookner



STERLING K. BROWN
Role: Ned Weeks



JEREMY POPE
Role: Felix Turner



Image credits:

1. Logo designed by Rubén Esparza for ONE Archives Foundation.
2. Photos courtesy of the actors.
3. Photo courtesy of Laverne Cox.
4. Photo courtesy of Sterling K. Brown.
5. Photo courtesy of Jeremy Pope.
6. Promotional image for ONE Archives Foundation.
7. Promotional image for ONE Archives Foundation.
8. Promotional image for ONE Archives Foundation.
9. Promotional image for ONE Archives Foundation.
10. Promotional image for ONE Archives Foundation.
11. Promotional image for ONE Archives Foundation.

Download all press images (with image credits): <https://airtable.com/shrwAhFA4dZwnteEF>