

PLEASE KEEP ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS TURNED OFF WHEN IN THE THEATRE. THANK YOU.

### Please Note

- Food and drink must not be brought into the theatre
- The use of cameras or recording devices is strictly prohibited
- Smoking is not permitted in the Noel Fine Arts Center
- In the case of an emergency, ushers will assist audience members at each exit

Theatre & Dance Department productions are partially funded by the Student Government Association

The UWSP Department of Theatre & Dance is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Association of Schools of Dance.

### 2011-2012 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

Jim Carpenter Associate Lecturer, Theatre	Pamela Luedtke Lecturer, Dance
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Tim Howard Assistant Professor of Theatre BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator	John Strassburg Dance Program Accompanist
Joan Karlen Professor of Dance Dance Program Coordinator	Bradley Vieth Assistant Professor of Theatre
TJ Loane Scene Shop Manager Associate Lecturer	

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

“The Normal Heart” opened in 1985 at the Public Theatre in New York, and it was an immediate sensation. A powerful indictment of the indifference of the federal and municipal governments to an epidemic that was killing its gay citizens, the play became the longest-running production in the history of the Public.

The play was then produced in Los Angeles and when it came time for the Chicago production I played the role of Ned Weeks. The play was again very successful, running for nine months and moving to a larger downtown theatre. All the local celebrities came, including Oprah Winfrey, who had just lost her producer to AIDS. Every night was a standing ovation and every night there would be three or four people left in the house after the show, too moved to leave. These were people who had lost friends and lovers to the disease. Normally, the ushers ask such stragglers to leave, but here they were instructed to let the remaining patrons cry quietly until they were ready to go. Sometimes I would look at them as I was leaving the theatre and long to speak to them, but I knew that nothing I could say would ease that kind of pain. The production eventually won the Joseph Jefferson Award (Chicago's Tony) for Best Production.

Usually, we recognize landmark moments in our lives only in retrospect but I knew then that I would never be able to top the incredible experience I was having with this play. It was artistically satisfying but more importantly I really felt like we were having a profound impact on the entire community. There were sometimes gasps when the two men in the play kissed but only rarely did people leave. I have to think that many of our audience members came in with no knowledge of who gay people really were and that when they left they were a little more open to people who were different from them (remember, this was long before *Will and Grace*.) Of course, it wasn't my performance that created this massive shockwave but instead a combination of the playwright's powerful message and the spectacular immediacy of experience that only live theatre can provide. I am thankful that I was there for it but I regret that the reason for the entire event was the horrible tragedy that was befalling the gay community.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES** (continued)

I chose to direct this play now for several reasons. Last year was the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the epidemic. The number of people who have died is now in the millions but it is no longer covered extensively in the media and many young people are now once again engaging in unsafe sexual practices. But “The Normal Heart” is not a play about AIDS. It is a play about homophobia, about discrimination and about bullying; there are even references to gay marriage. Sadly, these topics are just as important today as they were when this play was originally produced.

One more thing: Scott McPherson played Tommy Boatwright in that Chicago production of “The Normal Heart.” He was an actor, a playwright and a friend of mine. He wrote a play called “Marvin’s Room” that later became a movie with Meryl Streep and then he died of complications from AIDS. This production is dedicated to him.

~Stephen Trovillion Smith



**Scott McPherson 1959 - 1992**

## **DRAMATURG'S NOTES**

Breathtaking. Pulse-pounding. Explosive. These words have been used countless times to describe Larry Kramer's masterpiece "The Normal Heart". This play digs deep into the core of homophobia and the beginning of the AIDS crisis over 30 years ago. Yet despite its age, the message of "The Normal Heart" still rings true for today's audiences as we continue to fight prejudice and struggle to find a cure for AIDS.

This play hit home when it opened in 1985, especially since it followed events that had happened only four years earlier and the city was still in the midst of the crisis. Larry Kramer used his own life and the founding of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) as the basis for his story. Each character represents someone that Kramer knew, loved, or fought during the early 1980s. This is why this particular piece of theatre is so important: it is not just a work of fiction, but more akin to historical record. While the names have been changed, the events have not. The fear, anger, and love each character experiences were once the emotions of a real person. This is not a show that will leave the audience feeling comfortable. It encourages the audience to open its eyes to what truly happened 30 years ago and how a global fight against AIDS began with the shouts of a few gay men.

No matter what one's political or religious ideologies are, we can all connect to these men by the element that truly fuels this powerful show: love. The love for your friends, family and even for those you have never met. "The Normal Heart" puts love on the line and watches how it evolves as the characters struggle against it until it finally envelopes them. In Larry Kramer's acknowledgements for "The Normal Heart" he ended with, "There are many people who lived this play, who lived these years, and who live no more. I miss them." As the recent Broadway revival proves, those individuals have not been forgotten. This production too will resurrect ghosts of the past and the memories of those still living to enlighten a new generation.

~Lauren Kacere



*In 1981, Larry Kramer was among the founders of the Gay men's Health Crisis (GMHC). This non-profit group provides support for those with HIV/AIDS. The group still exists today.*



**GAY RAGE:** Demonstrators mass outside Health Dept. offices in Manhattan yesterday to protest a city decision to cut in half its estimate number of AIDS-infected New Yorkers. Four were arrested as protest called the city decision a manuever to cut health services to AIDS victim

*In 1987, Kramer formed a more a radical group later called AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP). This group uses demonstrations, protests, and civil disobedience to draw more attention to the AIDS crisis.*



**Homosexuals Arrested at AIDS Drug Protest**

Police officers removing demonstrators from the intersection of Broadway and Wall Street yesterday. Seventeen homosexual-rights protesters were arrested outside Trinity Church during a rally to demand quicker Government approval of drugs that might combat acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Hundreds of protesters stayed behind police lines, but some crossed the barricades and sat in the street to block traffic. They were arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and released.

*In the beginning, one of the primary objectives was to get as many people arrested as possible in order to draw more attention to their cause. In 1987, over 250 people laid down on Wall Street in front of the FDA's office, blocking rush hour traffic, to protest lengthy wait times for experimental drugs as well as their prohibitive costs.*



*Kramer himself has been arrested dozens of times, but his efforts have not been in vain. The medical community admits that because of his activism patients now have more control and access to their medications. To the left you can see ACT UP's key message.*

**To learn more about these organizations or to see how you can help, go to:**

**GMHC's website: [www.ghmc.org](http://www.ghmc.org)      ACT UP's website: [www.actupny.org](http://www.actupny.org)**

**UWSP's Faculty/Staff Gay-Straight Alliance:**

**[www.uwsp.edu/multicultural/lgbt/Pages/facultyStaffAllies.aspx](http://www.uwsp.edu/multicultural/lgbt/Pages/facultyStaffAllies.aspx)**

**PFLAG Stevens Point:**

**[www.facebook.com/pages/Pflag-Stevens-Point/266265616741085?sk=wall](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pflag-Stevens-Point/266265616741085?sk=wall)**

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Department of Theatre & Dance

Presents

# THE NORMAL HEART

by Larry Kramer

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York City

**Director**

Stephen Trovillion Smith\*

**Stage Manager**

Hilary Landowski

**Sound Designer**

Nicole Card

**Costume Designer**

Christy Siebers

**Properties Designer**

Cecelia Hill

**Lighting Designer**

Gary G. Olsen\*

**Dramaturg**

Lauren Kacere

**Scenic Designer**

TJ Searl

\*Denotes Faculty/Staff

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 of the police;  
We must love one another or die.

From "September 1, 1939"  
W.H. AUDEN

# THE NORMAL HEART

Cast (in order of appearance)

*Craig Donnor*.....Alexander Gudding

*Mickey Marcus*.....Luke Bradt

*Ned Weeks*.....Zachary Woods

*David*.....Daniel Rigamer

*Emma Brookner*.....Hanna Gaffney

*Bruce Niles*.....Peter Hargarten

*Felix Turner*.....John Ford-Dunker

*Ben Weeks*.....Justun Hart

*Tommy Boatwright*.....Erik Schneider

*Hiram Keebler*.....Nick Wheeler

*Grady*.....Carl Swanson

*Examining Doctor*.....TJ Searl

**THERE WILL BE A 10-MINUTE INTERMISSION.**



## Production Staff

Assistant Stage Manager.....Hayden Kraus  
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Wesley Haas, Neal Javenkoski  
Properties Technicians.....Elizabeth Zumpano  
Costume Run Crew.....Tatyana Nahirniak, Emily Reeves  
Deck Run Crew.....Alyssa Albers, Bryce Dutton  
Mariusz Kujawski, Kelsey Yudice  
Costume Shop Manager.....Wendy Dolan\*  
Cutter/Draper.....Barbara Cirimo\*  
Scene Shop Manager.....TJ Loane\*  
Costume Shop Assistants.....Molly Adams, Grace Coyne  
Oriana Dentici, Brenda DeWaters, Hanna Gaffney  
Amanda Martin, Daniel Rigamer, Christy Siebers, Shannon Ward  
Vorland Intern Recipients: Emily Billington, Cecelia Hill  
Scene Shop Assistants.....Tom Bebeau, Nicole Card, John Ford-Dunker  
Alex Gudding, Jordan Krsnak, Brandon Mix, Tim Runde  
Ashley Stock, Carl Swanson, Christopher Walls  
Vorland Intern Recipients: Hilary Landowski, Nick Reising  
Scene & Costume Shop.....Theatre & Dance Practicum Students  
Academic Department Associate.....Ruth Daniels\*  
Theatre & Dance Office Student Assistants.....Alison Dwyer, Kailey Field  
Sarah Godlewski, Tori Mittelman, Grace Wales  
Box Office Supervisor.....Chris Seefeldt\*  
House Managers.....Rachel Lenner, Zachary Young  
Public Relations Assistants.....Theatre & Dance Practicum Students

\* Denotes Faculty/Staff

## Acknowledgements

*Scott Frost*  
*Kelly Gaffney*  
*Susan Hohn Hill*  
*Jessy Micek*

## Meet the Company

**Bradt, Luke** (*Mickey Marcus*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre Major from Maplewood, MN.

**Card, Nicole** (*Sound Designer*) Junior BFA Design Technology Major from Appleton, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman Scholarship in Design Technology.

**Ford-Dunker, John** (*Felix Turner*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre Major from Fargo, ND. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Incoming Freshman in Musical Theatre Scholarship.

**Gaffney, Hanna** (*Emma Brookner*) Sophomore BFA Acting Major from Oconomowoc, WI.

**Gudding, Alexander** (*Craig Donner*) Sophomore BFA Acting Major from Fargo, ND.

**Haas, Wesley** (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) Sophomore BFA Design Technology Major from Milwaukee, WI.

**Hargarten, Peter** (*Bruce Niles*) Junior BFA Acting Major from Appleton, WI.

**Hart, Justun** (*Ben Weeks*) Senior BFA Musical Theatre Major from Oshkosh, WI. Recipient of the Roger L. Nelson Musical Theatre Award.

**Hill, Cecelia** (*Properties Designer*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre Major from Mequon, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award In Design Technology and the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship.

**Javenkoski, Neal** (*Assistant Lighting Designer*) Sophomore BFA Acting Major from Middleton, WI.

**Kacere, Lauren** (*Dramaturg*) Senior BFA Acting Major from Johnston, IA. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Acting.

## Meet the Company (continued)

**Kraus, Hayden** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Freshman BFA Design Technology Major from Menasha, WI.

**Landowski, Hilary** (*Stage Manager*) Senior BFA Design Technology Major from Plover, WI. Recipient of the Crosby Scholarship in Technical Theatre in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

**Rigamer, Daniel** (*David*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre Major and Dance Minor from New Orleans, LA.

**Schneider, Erik** (*Tommy Boatwright*) Junior BFA Musical Theatre Major and Dance Minor from Amherst Junction, WI.

**Searl, TJ** (*Scenic Designer/Examining Doctor*) Senior BFA Design Technology Major from Stevens Point, WI.

**Siebers, Christy** (*Costume Designer*) Sophomore BFA Design Technology Major from Whitefish Bay, WI.

**Swanson, Carl** (*Grady*) Sophomore BFA Acting Major from Hawley, MN.

**Wheeler, Nick** (*Hiram Keebler*) Sophomore BFA Musical Theatre Major from Moorhead, MN. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Outstanding Freshman in Musical Theatre Scholarship.

**Woods, Zachary** (*Ned Weeks*) Senior BFA Acting Major from Oconomowoc, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Freshman Academic Scholarship, Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award in Acting, the Festival of the Arts Award and the Arlen & Florence West Scholarship.

**Zumpano, Elizabeth** (*Properties Technician*) Freshman BFA Design Technology Major from Richfield, MN.

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