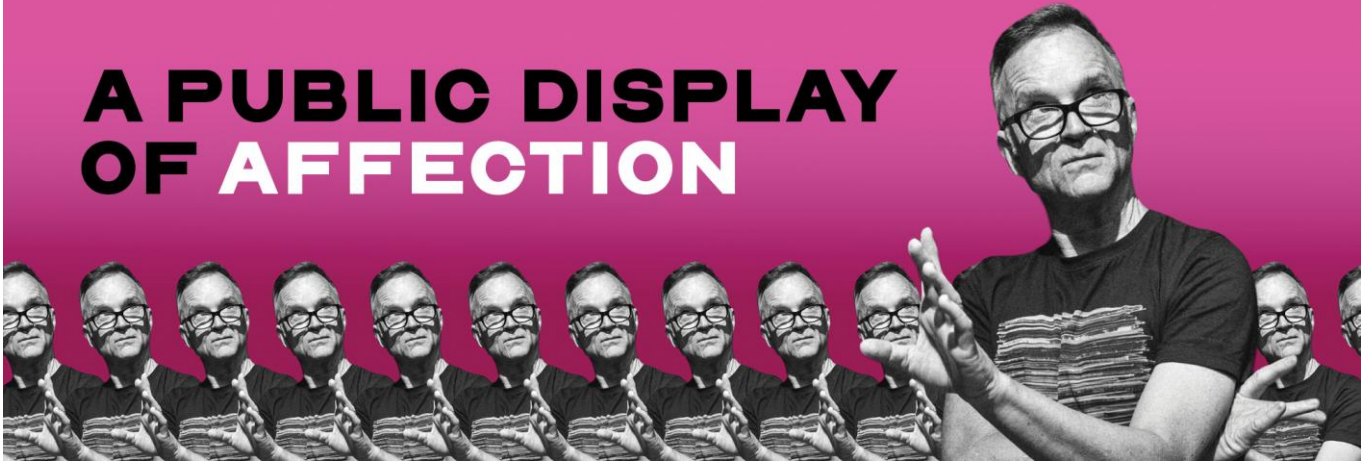


studio180theatre

STUDY GUIDE

2024/25

A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION



Jonathan Wilson

Writer & Performer

Table of Contents

A. Guidelines for Brave Classroom Discussion	2
B. Introduction to Studio 180 Theatre	3
C. Introduction to the Playwright and the Play	4
The Playwright - Jonathan Wilson	4
The Play - A Public Display of Affection	5
D. Attending the Play	6
E. Lobby Exhibit	7
F. Community Partner - AIDS Committee of Toronto	8
G. Background Resources: Forty-Three Years of HIV & AIDS	9
<i>This timeline was initially created to provide a historical context for audiences attending Studio 180 Theatre's 2011 production of The Normal Heart. The timeline was initially drafted and updated since by Rui Pires, ACT Jan. 2025</i>	
H. Glossary of Terms	13
I. Springboard to Current Issues	15
J. Additional Resources	16

© 2025, Studio 180 Theatre

This Studio 180 Study Guide for *A Public Display of Affection* by Jonathan Wilson is copyright © 2025, Studio 180 Theatre, and may be reprinted, reproduced or used only with the prior written permission of Studio 180 Theatre. All requests for reprinting, reproducing or use of this Study Guide should be directed in writing to jessica@studio180theatre.com.

A. Guidelines for Brave Classroom Discussion

Thank you for bringing your class to *A Public Display of Affection*. We hope your students will have the most positive and engaging theatre experience possible. To that end, we have created this **Study Guide** to support your pre-show preparation and post-show follow-up in the classroom.

For the most robust examination of the characters and themes of *A Public Display of Affection*, we recommend booking a [Studio 180 IN CLASS](#) workshop led by our experienced Artist Educators. We use drama-based activities to promote empathy and inspire critical thinking in three immersive sessions, delving into the big questions of the play. Please contact [Jessica Greenberg](#) to learn more or book a workshop.

Studio 180 is known for provocative shows that tackle potentially sensitive, personal, upsetting and controversial topics and *A Public Display of Affection* is no exception as it examines identity, homophobia, violence, sexual abuse, grief and loss, among other topics. As educators we know that we can never guarantee that all participants will feel 100% comfortable; however, we have developed the following guidelines to promote a safer space and help you lead brave and productive pre- and post-show sessions aimed at empowering **all students to feel valued, respected and able to contribute openly and honestly to the discussion.**

- Class members should make a commitment to respecting one another. Invite suggestions from students as to what **respect** means to them. Some of these guidelines may include commitments to confidentiality, avoiding side chatter, and never ridiculing or putting down participants or their ideas.
- Your class may include students from a wide variety of cultural, racial, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. A wide range of gender and sexual identities are likely represented amongst your students. **Teachers and students must resist the urge to place individuals in the spotlight based on their perceived identity, history or point of view.** Students will engage in the conversation as they feel comfortable.
- Family and community, including 2SLGBTQ+ communities are prominent themes in the play. It is important to be mindful of family and community diversity and **avoid generalizations and assumptions** that could isolate or alienate individuals. Frequent reminders that there will often be as many different perspectives as there are people in the room and that there are many ways to make a family, are useful and help reinforce the value of a multiplicity of ideas and points of view.
- It is the moderator's role to establish a space of respect and inclusion, and they must take special care to **ensure that students holding a majority opinion do not vilify those "on the other side" who hold a minority view.** The moderator should also pose questions to the class to help keep the conversation on track.
- The point of a classroom discussion about *A Public Display of Affection* should not be to reach a class consensus. The goal should be to **establish a forum for a free and respectful exchange of ideas.**

B. Introduction to Studio 180 Theatre

Inspired by the belief that people can engage more fully in the world through the experience of live performance, Studio 180 Theatre engages, provokes and entertains audiences by producing dynamic live theatre and innovative Beyond the Stage experiences that delve into social and political issues, asking big questions and inspiring conversations about our world, our communities and ourselves. 2024/25 is our 22nd season of producing theatre in Toronto.

Our inaugural production of *The Laramie Project* played to sold-out houses at Artword Theatre in Toronto in 2003. Its success led to a 2004 remount at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, which earned two Dora Award nominations. Since then, Studio 180 has continued to stage acclaimed productions of plays that tackle difficult issues and generate powerful audience and community responses.

As an independent theatre company, we are a nomadic group of artists. We create and produce our work in various spaces and venues across Toronto and we frequently partner with other companies in order to stage our plays. Our partnerships have included collaborations with Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Canadian Stage, Coal Mine Theatre, The Musical Stage Company, The Theatre Centre, The Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, Mirvish Productions, fu-GEN Asian Canadian Theatre Company. *A Public Display of Affection* marks our second collaboration with Crow's Theatre.

In addition to our producing partners, we have a proud history of collaborating with community and advocacy organizations to raise funds and awareness around issues, causes and communities. Through special events, art exhibits in our theatre lobbies, pre- and post-show conversations, and panel discussions, we work together with artists, community leaders and subject matter experts to bring conversations ignited by our plays [Beyond the Stage](#). Community partners have included Supporting Our Youth, Givat Haviva, Palestine House, Democrats Abroad, The 519, AIDS ACTION NOW!, Toronto People With AIDS Foundation, HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario, Peace Now, The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, CATIE, Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention, the Cities Centre at U of T, Feminist Art Collective, Shameless Magazine, Next Gen Men, Bad Subject, 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations the Dotsa Bitove Wellness Academy, Ashkenaz Festival and the Chinese Canadian National Council. This season we are proud to be collaborating once again with Community Partner AIDS Committee of Toronto.

Outreach to high school audiences has always been a crucial component of our work. In 2010 we launched [Studio 180 IN CLASS](#), an innovative workshop model that fosters productive dialogue, encourages critical thinking, and promotes empathy by exploring the uniquely humanizing capacity of live theatre. Over the years, our Studio 180 IN CLASS program has grown to reach nearly 2,000 students across the GTA each year. We are proud education partners of the Toronto District School Board and cherish our ongoing collaboration with the Peel District School Board.

We love plays that ask big questions about our communities and our world, and we have introduced Toronto audiences to a significant number of socially relevant plays from international stages. In 2015, inspired by our eagerness to investigate more locally rooted questions, we launched [Studio 180 IN DEVELOPMENT](#). Working with both established and emerging playwrights and creators, we provide financial and artistic resources to a broad range of issue-based works at various stages of development. We then invite student and public audiences to hear the work and contribute to the development process. Learn more about Studio 180 Theatre, our current season, and 20-year+ history at www.studio180theatre.com.

C. Introduction to the Playwright and the Play

The Playwright - Jonathan Wilson



Jonathan Wilson is an award-winning Toronto-based actor and playwright. He first collaborated with Studio 180 in 2011 when he starred as Ned Weeks in *The Normal Heart*. Since then, he has performed with Studio 180 in *My Night with Reg* and *Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish*. Other acting roles include the Canadian premiere of *The Lion King* (Dora Award - The Princess of Wales Theatre), *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Sudbury Theatre Centre); *The Clockmaker* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Possible Worlds*, *The Duchess* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *Not To Be Repeated*, *Medici Slot Machine* (Tarragon Extra Space); *Cinderella* (The Elgin Theatre); *This Could Be Love* (The Poor Alex); and *Annie Get Your Gun* (Massey Hall). Jonathan wrote and performed in *My Own Private Oshawa* (Governor General's Award nominee, Dora/Chalmers Nomination - Tarragon Theatre, New Yorker Theatre), and was a writer and performer with The Second City for six shows (Dora Nomination). He was writer in residence at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto where he wrote the play *Kilt* (Dora/New York Drama Desk nominations), which has had over 20 productions around the world. TV and film credits include *Not To Be Repeated* (CTV/The Comedy Network), *My Own Private Oshawa* (Gemini Nomination - CTV), *Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye* (Pax Network/CTV), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CityTV), *This Is Wonderland* (CBC), *Life With Derek* (Family) and *Monk* (USA Network), as well as hundreds of voices for animated series including *Skatoony*, *Iggy Arbuckle* (Gemini Nomination), *Pearlie* and *Little Bear*.

Photo by Sam Moffat

The Play - *A Public Display of Affection*

A Public Display of Affection invites audiences on a journey through playwright/performer Jonathan Wilson's youth and some of Toronto's Queer histories. In a deeply personal and virtuosic solo performance, Wilson mixes comedy, history and poignant reflection in equal measure, to excavate the lives, loves, and landmarks of his youth; looking back on his time as a high school drop-out in Toronto in the late 70s and early 80s and the challenges met (as well as the community formed) in the face of persecution, ostracization and the onset of the AIDS pandemic.

Studio 180 is proud to be producing this World Premiere after six years of creation through our Studio 180 IN DEVELOPMENT program. Since 2018/19, Wilson and Studio 180 Artistic Director Mark McGrinder have collaborated to develop *A Public Display of Affection* and bring it to its fully realized production in association with Crow's Theatre. At various stages of development, the play has enjoyed multiple public readings and numerous readings for high school students, in connection with the Studio 180 IN CLASS program. These crucial interactions with youth audiences inspired Wilson in profound and unexpected ways, the result being a beautiful intergenerational conversation. **This conversation is an essential and very special part of this play, and we could not be more excited to be continuing this relationship with so many schools whose partnership we deeply cherish.**

When COVID-19 lockdowns shuttered theatres for two years, Jonathan and Mark collaborated with filmmaker Moze Mossanen to adapt *A Public Display of Affection* into a film, with support from the Canada Council for the Arts. The film's premiere marked Studio 180's triumphant return to live events in the Spring of 2022, at Toronto's Paradise Cinema.

And now three years later... here we are! The world premiere of *A Public Display of Affection* in association with Crow's Theatre. We can't wait for you to join us!

CONTENT ADVISORY: This play includes very strong language including homophobic slurs; themes of death, loss, sexuality, homophobia, transphobia; mentions of sex work and sex trafficking, and violence including sexual abuse, police violence, and violence against children. Absolutely no violence, sexuality or nudity is depicted on stage.

Recommended for grades 9-12.

We are very happy to discuss the play's content and suitability for your students. Please contact Director of Youth and Community Engagement, Jessica Greenberg at jessica@studio180theatre.com or 416-669-5377 with your questions or to request a reading copy of the script.

D. Attending the Play

Prior to the performance, please ensure that your students are well prepared. The better prepared they are, the more they will gain from the experience. The following guidelines should help you and your students get the most out of attending *A Public Display of Affection*:

- **Please arrive early.** When travelling in the city, whether by school bus or TTC, it is always best to leave extra time in case of traffic or transit delays. **Weekday matinées begin promptly at 2:00PM.** To avoid disruption, **LATECOMERS may not be admitted.**
- **All photography and recording of the performance is strictly prohibited.**
- Please impress upon your students the importance of **turning off all cell phones** and electronic devices. If students understand *why* it is important to refrain from using electronics, they will be more likely to adhere to this etiquette. **Remind students that they will be seeing people performing live** in a very intimate space and, as a rule, if you can see and hear the actors, the actors can see and hear you. Even text messaging - with its distracting, glowing light - is extremely disruptive in the theatre. **Please be courteous.**
- **Outside food and beverages are not permitted in the theatre.** Spills are messy and noisy snacks and bottles can be disruptive for performers and patrons alike. Please ensure that students have the opportunity to eat lunch prior to attending the performance. There are affordable food options in the immediate vicinity if students wish to arrive early and purchase lunch before the show.
- **We encourage student responses and feedback.** After all Wednesday matinées of *A Public Display of Affection*, there is a talkback session with cast members. If students are aware of the post-show talkback, they will be better prepared to formulate questions during the performance - and they will remember to remain in their seats following the curtain call! After the show, kindly take the time to complete the student and teacher surveys that will be provided to you. Your feedback is extremely valuable to us!

Community Resources & Support

In addition to your school's guidance department, it will be helpful to remind students of the following resources available to them:

Kids Help Phone:

kidshelphone.ca
1-800-668-6868
Text: 686868

LGBT Youthline:

youthline.ca
647-694-4275
askus@youthline.ca

The 519

the519.org
519 Church St., Toronto
info@the519.org

E. Lobby Exhibit - *The View from Vaseline Tower*

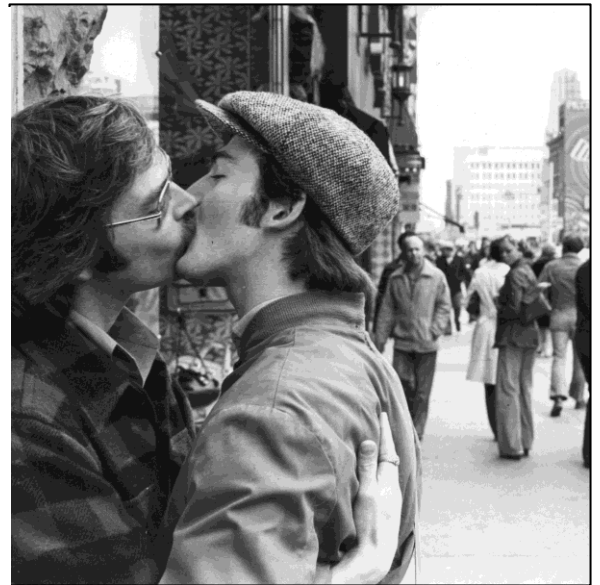
Arrive early at the theatre and check out *The View from Vaseline Tower* - a photography exhibit co-presented by the ArQuives and housed in the theatre lobby. A visual companion to *A Public Display of Affection*, the images of iconic people and places provide a terrific pre-show context for youth about to enter the world of late 1970s Toronto.

Description of exhibition

The View from Vaseline Tower - Memories of Toronto's Queer Village features photographs documenting Toronto's Queer community in the 1970s and 1980s, offering a glimpse at the changing landscape of the village, and moments of queer joy. Curated by The ArQuives and presented in partnership with Studio 180 Theatre's *A Public Display of Affection* in association with Crow's Theatre.

Curated by Santana Doran, Yahn Nemirovsky, and Hannah Dickson for The ArQuives.

Photograph of Ed Jackson (L) and Mervin Walker (R), published in *The Body Politic* no. 18 (May-June 1975) front cover. This photograph is part of The ArQuives collection.



The ArQuives was established to aid in the recovery and preservation of LGBTQ2+ histories. Its mandate is to: acquire, preserve, organize, and give public access to information and materials in any medium, by and about LGBTQ2+ people, primarily produced in or concerning Canada.

The ArQuives holds one of the largest LGBTQ2+ collections in the world. The library, archival, and artifact collections are open to researchers, and they activate the collection through programming and exhibitions.

F. Community Partner - AIDS Committee of Toronto

Studio 180 Theatre is proud to collaborate with Community Partner AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT). Our previous partnership in connection with our 2011 production and 2012 remount of *The Normal Heart* at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre was meaningful and enriching and we are grateful to ACT for their continued expertise, support and guidance. We encourage you to learn more about this important organization, their history, and their ongoing work.



ACT works to reduce new HIV infections in Toronto and promotes the independence, dignity, health and well-being of people living with HIV and AIDS and those at increased risk of HIV.

Founded in 1983 by a group of community volunteers, today ACT is a leader in efforts to end AIDS in Toronto. Through HIV and sexual health education, prevention and outreach, we are working towards a city with zero new HIV infections, zero HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.

G. Background Resource: Timeline

Forty-Three Years of HIV & AIDS

This timeline was initially created to provide a historical context for audiences attending Studio 180 Theatre's 2011 production of The Normal Heart. The timeline was initially drafted and updated since by Rui Pires, ACT Jan. 2025.

1969: During a routine raid of Greenwich Village's **Stonewall** Inn by the New York City Police Department, a riot breaks out and demonstrations continue as New York's 2SLGBTQ+ community declare enough is enough. "Stonewall" signals a new era of freedom and forever symbolizes the birth of the **Gay Liberation** movement.

1980: In **Toronto's Mayoral election**, gay rights emerge as a major issue, with Mayoral incumbent John Sewell endorsing openly gay alderman candidate George Hislop. The defeat of both Hislop and Sewell reflects the city's anti-gay climate and provides a police mandate to attack Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ community.

1981: During Toronto's **Bathhouse Raids**, a record number of gay men are arrested and outed. Thousands take to the streets to protest the police action, and - as with Stonewall - Toronto's gay rights movement is ignited. Many of the movement's leaders will soon become key HIV/AIDS activists.

1982: In **March**, the first Canadian AIDS case is officially reported. On **July 27**, GRID is renamed **AIDS ("Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome")**. Fourteen nations report AIDS cases.

1983: Fifty-one AIDS cases are reported in Canada. The United States reports 3,000 cases and over 1,000 deaths due to AIDS-related illnesses.

At the Pasteur Institute in France, a team of scientists led by **Dr. Luc Montagnier isolates the virus that may cause AIDS**. They name it lymphadenopathy-associated virus ("LAV"). **It is later renamed HIV.**

1984: The **first needle exchange program** is established in Amsterdam to help stop the spread of infection among injection drug users.

In the US, AIDS **rates have doubled** within the year and over 6,000 cases are reported. About 150 cases are reported in Canada.

1985: The **HIV antibody test** is made available in Canada. **The Hassle Free Clinic immediately starts offering anonymous testing**, even though anonymous testing contravenes Ontario law.

ACT creates the first **sexually explicit/gay-specific HIV prevention literature** in Canada.

Rock Hudson (actor) publicly announces that he is living with AIDS.

Despite the HIV test, the **Canadian Red Cross does not halt the distribution of HIV-positive blood products** until 1987, resulting in a class action lawsuit from the hemophilia community. Red Cross officials in other countries are sent to prison for doing the same.

1986: 38,000 AIDS cases have been reported globally from 85 countries. The CDC reports **significant racial disparities in rates of infection**, recognizing that Black and Hispanic Americans are developing the disease at three times the rate of Caucasian Americans.

Dr. Jonathan Mann founds **UNAIDS**.

1987: The first anti-viral drug - **AZT (zidovudine)** - is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") and becomes available for people living with HIV and AIDS ("PHAs") in America. There is limited access to AZT for Canadian PHAs, and over the next several years in Canada PHAs will regularly **fight for access to experimental treatments** already available outside of Canada.

The **AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power ("ACT UP")** - is founded.

In **April**, President Reagan delivers **his first major speech on AIDS**.

In **October**, hundreds of thousands of people march on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. ACT UP's now iconic **"Silence = Death"** logo gains visibility. The inaugural display of **the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt** happens on the National Mall. It covers a space larger than a football field and includes 1,920 panels. Half a million people visited the Quilt that weekend.



Princess Diana opens Britain's first specialist unit for patients with AIDS. Pictures of Princess Diana holding the hand of a patient in an AIDS ward are broadcast around the world at a time when many are afraid to touch anyone with HIV.

1988: **AIDS Action Now! ("AAN!")** forms in Toronto as a result of continuing frustration with government inaction and access to treatments - 1,790 AIDS-related deaths have been reported in Canada.

1989: Several ethno-cultural AIDS service organizations are established in Toronto, including the **Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention ("Black CAP")** and the **Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention ("ASAAP")**.

Canada's **first needle exchange program** is established in Vancouver.

AAN! and ACT UP members take over the opening ceremonies at the fifth International AIDS Conference in Montreal in June. AAN! Chair, Tim McCaskell, officially opens the conference pointing out that **Prime Minister**

Brian Mulroney was about to make his very first public speech about AIDS, after five years in office as Prime Minister.

1991: Developing from an AAN! initiative, the **Community AIDS Treatment Information Exchange ("CATIE")** is established.

Magic Johnston (professional basketball player) announces his positive HIV status, challenging the popular notion that HIV is gay disease, but sidestepping the issue of homophobia and the need for gay-specific AIDS programs. The **Red Ribbon** is seen for the first time at the Tony Awards Telecast on the suit of actor Jeremy Irons



1992: January, Ontario legalizes **anonymous HIV testing**.

1993: In the US, the CDC, FDA and National Institutes of Health ("NIH") declare a joint statement that **condoms are "highly effective for prevention of HIV infection."** The female condom is approved in the U.S., but the CDC refuses to test the device in an anal sex context sighting the fact that sodomy is illegal in several states.

The US imposes an HIV **Travel and Immigration Ban with HIV status as a factor** in determining permission to enter the United States. In response, Elizabeth Taylor (actor) announces the **International AIDS Conference is moved from the US to Amsterdam. No further conferences are held in the US until the ban is lifted.**



Canada's Indigenous peoples emerge as significant populations in the Canadian AIDS epidemic. Before 1993, 1.2% of reported AIDS cases were among Indigenous people, this increased to 13.4% in 2003. (In the 2001 Census Indigenous people make up only 3.3% of the Canadian population.)

1994: AAN! pressures Ontario to establish the **Trillium Drug Program**, a program making HIV drugs available to hundreds in Ontario without having to give up their job and go on disability benefits. (This applies to all conditions with high medicine costs.)

1995: AIDS is **the leading cause of death for Americans ages 25 to 44.**

By the mid-1990s **women in Canada begin making up almost 25% of new HIV-positive test results.** Health Canada revises the definition of AIDS to include female opportunistic infections (invasive cervical cancer and some forms of bacterial infections in the respiratory system).

1996: **Dr. David Ho** pioneers a multidrug approach - leading to what is now called **HAART (Highly Active AIDS Retroviral Therapy).** The treatment immediately curtails the death toll and HIV becomes a chronic illness. Time

Magazine believes the treatment might lead to a cure and names Dr David Ho “Man of the Year.”

1998: The Supreme Court of Canada reaches a decision (**R. v. Cuerrier**) **criminalizing the act of not disclosing HIV status**. The court provides inadequate guidelines, resulting in inconsistent enforcement.

2003: **Insite**, North America’s first legal supervised injection site, opens in Vancouver, Canada. U.S. President George W. Bush launches the **United States President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** to address the global HIV epidemic. Over \$110 billion is spent on HIV treatment and other initiatives resulting in an estimated **25 million lives saved by the end of 2023 - primarily in Africa**.



2007: The community-based **Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure** is formed and lobby the Ontario Attorney General who eventually creates guidelines for criminal charges around disclosure.

2010: **Treatment as Prevention (TasP)** research demonstrates that early start of HAART reduces HIV transmission. TasP has become the topmost effective HIV prevention tool for people who are sexually active.

2014: UNAIDS launches the **90-90-90 targets**: by 2020, 90% of PHAs diagnosed, 90% of PHAs on HAART, and 90% with viral suppression.

2016 **Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** is recommended by the UN as a comprehensive HIV prevention technique for people at risk for HIV.

2017: The **U=U Campaign** (Undetectable=Untransmittable) launches promoting low viral load will not transmit HIV sexually.

2021: Long-acting **injectable HIV treatments** become available.

2024: The introduction and approval of **long-acting injectable PrEP** is available in Canada.

2025: Jan 20, US President Donald J. Trump **freezes funding for PEPFAR**. The **Stephen Lewis Foundation** points out, “**hundreds of thousands of people will not receive their anti-retroviral treatment** which keeps AIDS at bay and stops further transmissions of HIV.”

-
- Image of Elizabeth Taylor: Source [Nancy Pelosi](#) from San Francisco, CA
 - Image of the AIDS quilt, red ribbon, Silence=Death and PEPFAR logo in public domain.

H. Glossary of Terms

A Public Display of Affection is intended for youth and adult audiences alike but is *not* a Theatre for Young Audiences play. Some historical and cultural references may be unfamiliar to folks who were not hanging out on the streets of Toronto in the early 1980s. Here's a cheat sheet together with some suggestions for further investigation!

ghetto

The geographic centre for 2SLGBTQ+ life in Toronto is located around Church & Wellesley Streets - a neighbourhood formerly referred to by community members as "the ghetto." The term is derived from early 20th century Europe and sections of cities designated for Jewish residents. In the 1970s and 1980s the term was also used in America to describe urban areas that were predominantly poor and Black. The term is frequently used to describe any group of people existing in isolation from the broader community - typically with negative connotations. Because of the term's racist and classist underpinnings, it is problematic, and in the play, Jonathan points out how the Church & Wellesley neighbourhood became known as the "village" instead. Additionally, he points to the location shift a block east from Yonge Street to Church Street.

**Discuss the words "ghetto" and "village", their connotations, and why some community members might have a preference for one over the other.*

Leslieville

A chic neighbourhood in Toronto's downtown East Side - home to young families and upwardly mobile professionals, and notable for its trendy shops and restaurants. Leslieville is a good example of gentrification in Toronto.

**Learn about gentrification - what it means and how it impacts various Toronto communities. Can you find references to gentrification within the play? What do you think Jonathan feels about neighbourhood gentrification?*

the 519

Toronto's 2SLGBTQ+ community hub offering programs, services since the 1970s. Check out all [the 519](#) has to offer!

Jessica Fletcher

Angela Lansbury plays the iconic mystery writer character in the 1980s crime drama *Murder, She Wrote*.

poppers

A popular recreational drug of the 1970s and 80s gay party scene.

Barbara Streisand

Legendary actress, singer and gay icon.

bathhouse

A public meeting place with amenities such as saunas and hot tubs, bathhouses were popular meeting spots for gay men in the 1970s when homophobia was rampant, and it was dangerous for 2SLGBTQ folks to be open about their sexuality. The historic Toronto

bathhouse raids of 1981 wherein hundreds of gay men were arrested and outed, represented the largest single arrest in the city, up to that time. It also triggered a mass protest that sparked Toronto's gay rights movement (like New York's Stonewall Riots).

Kensington Market

One of Toronto's most fun and unique downtown neighbourhoods boasting vintage shops, restaurants, bars and a wide range of food and grocery stores and markets.

Courage My Love

Iconic vintage store in Kensington market - a Toronto landmark still operating today, with clothing, beads, accessories, costumes and home décor. You should check it out!

Sutton Place

A chic, upscale hotel.

Emanuel Jacques

Emanuel Jacques was a 12 year-old Portuguese immigrant who worked as a shoe-shine boy in the Yonge & Dundas area of Toronto. He was brutally sexually assaulted and murdered in 1977 when he was lured to a body rub parlour. The horrific crime attracted significant media attention, sparking calls to clean up Yonge Street. It also sparked a wave of homophobia as the media speculated on the sexual identities of the killers.

Cherry Beach

Currently a popular summer destination in Toronto's south-east end at Lake Ontario. A place where police would routinely dump people after arresting them in the night for sex work.

Hanlan's Point

Toronto Island's clothing optional beach - a Queer landmark and a popular Toronto summer destination to this day.

I. Springboard to Current Issues

As we reflect on Jonathan's story and learn about Canada's 2SLGBTQ+ histories, we recognize how far we've come and we celebrate the elders, community leaders and activists who broke down barriers and fought for justice. We also recognize a trending backlash wherein governments are clawing back rights and enacting harmful legislation to curtail 2SLGBTQ+ rights. The following links to current news articles may spark a class conversation or inspire further research into some of these issues:

a) In January 2025, the Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board voted to ban all **Pride flags** in their schools:

[CTV - Pride flag banned from being displayed inside Catholic schools in Peel region](#)

b) In 2023, Saskatchewan passed the controversial Bill 137 known as the "**Parents' Bill of Rights**" which, among other things, legislates that all children under age 16 must receive parental consent to use a different gender-related name or pronoun in school:

[CBC Article - Saskatchewan government passes Parents' Bill of Rights](#)

c) In August 2020, **New Brunswick** passed Policy 713, increasing school safety and inclusivity for 2SLGBTQ+ students and granting students under 16 the right to use gender-specific names and pronouns without parental consent or notification. By Spring 2023 the province's Conservative government revised the policy, requiring parental consent for name and pronoun changes for students. With the fall 2024 election of Liberal Premier Susan Holt, those changes were reversed so that New Brunswick students now have the right to use their chosen names and pronouns without parental consent.

[GLOBAL NEWS - New Brunswick government reverses changes to school gender identity policy](#)

d) This CBC article details one example of **President Donald Trump's** efforts to roll back equality rights for 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC people, and his goal to legally redefine "gender."

[CBC Article - Trump White House declares a person's gender can't be changed](#)

J. Additional Resources

EGALE CANADA

For tons of classroom resources about 2SLGBTQI+ history and current advocacy, check out [Egale Canada](#).

- Egale's **five-minute video** is a clear and fun introduction to some of **Toronto's historic Queer rights landmarks** - it makes a fabulous companion to the play and may spark inspiration for further research.

Video: [WHERE IT HAPPENS](#)

- Another **five-minute video** from Egale is an introductory resource about **Two Spirit** people.

Video: [TWO SPIRITS, ONE VOICE](#)

- Egale's Fashion Hacking package provides fun, creative, empowering and ecologically sustainable activities for high school GSAs!

Activity Package: [FASHION HACKING](#)

LGBT YOUTHLINE

Another fabulous resource is the [LGBT Youthline](#) website. In addition to providing direct counseling services for youth, this organization offers a multitude of resources for students, educators and everyone!

- Download the [2SLGBTQ+ Organizing in Schools](#) guide to help you build or strengthen these spaces in your own community.

TRANSHUB

An expansive online resource created by Australia's AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON) - here you can find a broad range of excellent **resources, videos and activities** to empower and inform both Trans and Cisgender youth.

- Transhub's [Trans Vitality Toolkit](#) is rich with resources and activities to help understand and celebrate Trans identities, histories and activism. A fun place to start is the [Trans Culture Gallery](#) - to dispel myths and celebrate the significant contributions of diverse Trans icons.