

A Production By
studio180theatre

In Association With
CROWS
THEATRE

WORLD PREMIERE

A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Written & Performed by Jonathan Wilson
Directed by Mark McGrinder



MARCH 25 – APRIL 20, 2025

Photo of Jonathan Wilson by Kevin Connery



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WELCOME TO

A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Written & Performed by Jonathan Wilson
Directed by Mark McGrinder

PLAYWRIGHT NOTE

When first presenting *A Public Display of Affection* as part of the Studio 180 IN CLASS student program I was asked,

“Is this play based on a true story?”

And the answer is yes. In fact it is based on many true stories. And I haven’t changed any of the names (although I may have skipped a few).

Initially I was focused on writing a more academic take on the Queer history of Toronto in the late 1970s through to the advent of AIDS, but the more I wrote the more I found myself drawn to giving life and voice to long-lost friends.

When we look back at our lives we see different narratives highlighted depending on who we’ve become and that has been the challenge and joy of developing this work. The word that kept coming up during the process was Fragments.

I would remember people and events and then I would remember remembering. A frame inside of a frame.
Some pieces were lost.
Some reclaimed.
And others refashioned with a touch of poetic license.

Fragments suggests something that is broken. Something that needs to be fixed and there was an urge to put all of the pieces back together “correctly” and to solve the puzzle.

That work continues here with you.

Thank you to Studio 180 Theatre and especially to Mark McGrinder who first gave me the opportunity and direction to collaborate on this work over the last few years. The play would not exist without his guidance and care.

Jonathan Wilson

Playwright & Performer of *A Public Display of Affection*

THE COMPANY

CAST

Jonathan Wilson Himself

CREATIVE TEAM

Jonathan Wilson Playwright

Mark McGrinder Director

Denyse Karn Set & Projection Designer

André du Toit Lighting Designer

Lyon Smith Sound Designer

Sandi Becker Stage Manager

Aaheli Mukherjee Production Manager

Katie Saunoris | KSPR Publicist

Ryan Davy Head Technician

Kim Schaedlich House Technician

SPECIAL THANKS

Herbie Barnes, Cameron Davis, Hannah Dickson, Kerry Ann Doherty, Santana Doran, Bobbie Dorka, Chris Earle, David Gonzalez, Joel Greenberg, Laurie Lynd, Bruce MacDonald, Catherine McPherson, Jeff Miller, Moze Mossanen, Yahn Nemorovsky, Kafi Pierre, Rui Pires, Josephine Ridge, Naomi Stokes, Crossroads Theatre, The Disability Collective, The Theatre Centre and the staff of Crow’s Theatre.

PLEASE NOTE

Content Advisory:

Strong language, including homophobic slurs, and discussion of mature and violent themes.

Run Time:

Approximately 80 minutes, no intermission.

Studio 180 Theatre engages professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors’ Equity Association under the terms of the Independent Theatre Agreement.

Stage Employees of Crow’s Theatre are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



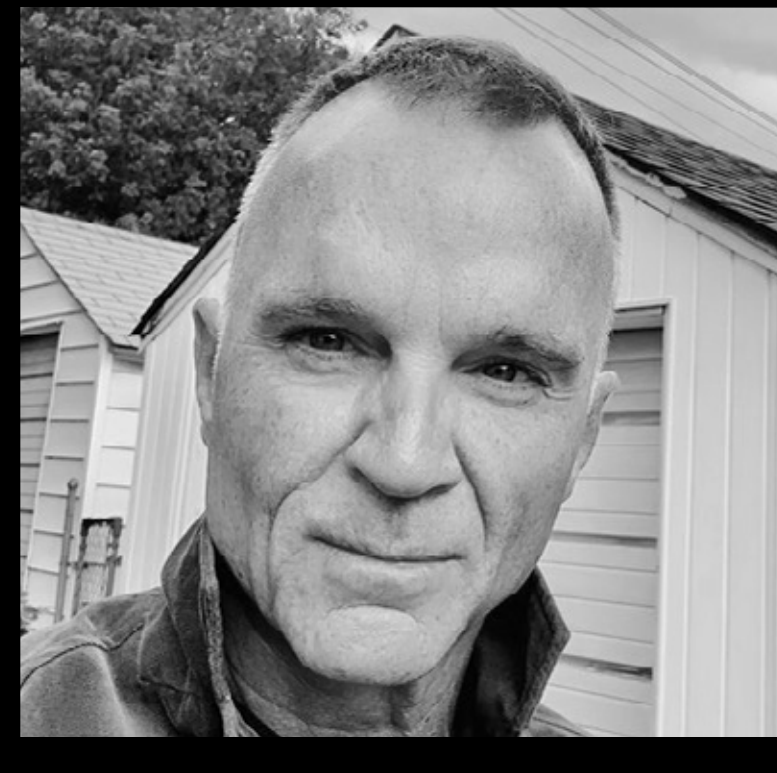
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, at Studio 180 Theatre, acknowledge and are thankful to the original caretakers and knowledge keepers of the traditional territory where we live and work: the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples.

As settlers on this land, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue the traditions of storytelling and artistry alongside these nations and the many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples who reside here.

Studio 180 Theatre has made a donation to **2-Spirited Peoples of the 1st Nations** and we hope you will consider doing the same. Your donation will support 2-Spirit peoples and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit community members who are at risk of, or living with, HIV, hepatitis C, and related co-infections. For more information and to learn how to donate, please click the button below.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



Jonathan Wilson

Playwright/Performer
(he/him)

For Studio 180 Theatre: *My Night With Reg; The Normal Heart; Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish.* **Other Theatre:** Canadian premiere of *The Lion King* (Dora Award – The Princess of Wales Theatre); performances in his own play *My Own Private Oshawa* (Governor General's Award nominee, Dora/Chalmers Nomination – Tarragon Theatre, New Yorker Theatre); writer and performer with The Second City for six shows (Dora Nomination); *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 was also writer in residence at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto where he wrote the play *Kilt* (Dora/New York Drama Desk nominations); which has had productions around the world. Film & TV: *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*.



Mark McGrinder

Director & Artistic Director of Studio 180 Theatre
(he/him)

For Studio 180 Theatre: (as director) *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds*; (as actor) *The Laramie Project, Stuff Happens, Our Class, Parade, Clybourne Park, You Will Remember Me, The Nether & Oslo*. Mark is the Artistic Director of Studio 180 Theatre. He has been a director and/or dramaturg(e) for many of Studio 180's IN DEVELOPMENT projects and, as the program's coordinator, has worked to connect creators with the appropriate collaborators required to bring their visions to the stage. He adapted and directed *Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish* for PANAMANIA, directed *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* and worked as Associate Director for *Blackbird, God of Carnage* and Studio 180's 10th Anniversary reading of *The Laramie Project*. Mark was a member of the acting ensemble at the Shaw Festival for five seasons and he performed in several reviews with The Second City's National touring company. As an artist educator he has worked with high school, college and university students in and beyond the GTA and is continually inspired by the passion and vision of the young artists he has had the good fortune to connect with.



Denyse Karn

Set and Projection Designer
(she/her)

For Studio 180 Theatre: *King Charles III; You Will Remember Me; Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish; NSFW.* **Other theatre:** *Othello, To Kill a Mockingbird* (Stratford Festival); *Intimate Apparel* (The Belfry Theatre); *Art, The Mountaintop* (The Grand Theatre – London); *Oregon* (The Musical Stage Company); *Das Ding* (Theatre Smash/Canadian Stage); *The Watershed* (Crow's Theatre/Porte Parole); *Her2, The Carousel, The Penelopiad, Happy Woman, The List* (Nightwood Theatre); *Twisted, Stop Heart* (Factory Theatre); *The Winter's Tale* (Canadian Stage); *Top Girls* (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre). **Other:** Denyse is a graduate of the TMU and NSCAD University. She has received many Dora Mavor Moore nominations and awards, a Chalmers Award and four Merritt Awards (Nova Scotia Theatre Award) for Outstanding Set, Projection and Costume designs. Denyse is a full member of ADC and IATSE Local ADC659. www.denysekarn.com



André du Toit

Lighting Designer
(he/him)

For Studio 180: as Assistant Lighting Designer: *God of Carnage, Clybourne Park, The Normal Heart.* **Other theatre:** *Fat Ham* (Canadian Stage); *Qalb, Lady M* (Margaret) (1s1 Teatre); *Three Sisters* (Soulpepper); *Universal Child Care* (Quote Unquote Collective, Canadian Stage); *What You Won't Do for Love, Prince Hamlet* (Why Not Theatre); *Here Lies Henry* (Factory Theatre); *Tres Loin* (Bouchardanse); *The Queen in Me* (COC, Gargantua, Nightwood); *Maanomaa, My Borthor* (Canadian Stage); *Italian Mime Suicide* (Bad New Days); *R+J* (Stratford Festival).



Lyon Smith

Sound Designer
(he/him)

For Studio 180 Theatre: *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds, Clybourne Park.* **Other Theatre:** Selected: *The Donnelly Trilogy* (Blyth), *Pipeline* (Soulpepper), *In 7 Days* (The Grand); *Witness for the Prosecution* (Shaw Festival).



Sandi Becker

Stage Manager
(she/her)

For Studio 180: *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds.* **Other Theatre:** *Wights* (Crow's Theatre); *Hurry Hard* (Port Stanley Festival Theatre); *A Poem for Rabiya, Our Fathers, Sons, Lovers and Little Brothers* (Tarragon); *The Waltz* (Factory Theatre); *Maggie* (Charlottetown Festival); *Phantasmagoria 3D, MacBeth: A Tale Told by an Idiot, Requiem for a Gumshoe, Two Weird Tales, Space Opera Zero, The Harrowing of Brimstone McReedy* (Eldritch Theatre); *Simone Half and Half* (Black Theatre Workshop); *This London Life, The Hobbit, Miracle on 34th Street, Dreamgirls* (Grand Theatre); *Every Brilliant Thing* (Festival Players); *The Black Drum* (Deaf Culture Centre/Soulpepper); *Romeo and Juliet/Midsummer Nights Dream, King Lear/ Twelfth Night* (Canadian Stage); *Silence* (Grand Theatre/NAC); seven seasons with Driftwood Theatre Group. **Upcoming Projects:** *Tell Tale Harbour* (Charlottetown Festival/Mirvish).



Aaheli Mukherjee

Production Manager
(she/her)

For Studio 180: Debut. Aaheli is a Toronto-based arts enthusiast masquerading as a Production Manager, Producer and Arts Administrator. Recent professional highlights include: PM for the Paprika Theatre Festival since 2022, PM/TD for Crossroads Theatre (formerly known as Shakespeare in Action) since 2023 and PM for the world premiere of *Earworm* by Nowadays Theatre in association with Crow's Theatre (2024) and *The Caged Bird Sings* by Modern Times Stage Company at the Aga Khan Museum (2024). Her passion and work focus on collaborating with emerging artists, engaging with diverse theatre companies, and cultivating spaces where innovative and accessible art can thrive through decolonial and inclusive practice. She is excited to join Studio180 in their presentation of *A Public Display of Affection* at Crow's Theatre!



Katie Saunoris

Publicist | KSPR
(she/her)

For Studio 180 Theatre: *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds, The Chinese Lady* (with Crow's Theatre). Selected recent & upcoming: *Last Landscape* (Bad New Days); *MONKS* (The Theatre Centre); *Winter Solstice* (Necessary Angel); Buddies in Bad Times 2024/25 season, Capitol Theatre Port Hope 2025 season.

Great theatre lives here.



Megan Follows and Sergio Di Zio in *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds*,
photo by Dahlia Katz.

BMO



At BMO, we're proud to support artists and organizations that have been captivating audiences with exciting, innovative, and entertaining productions.

We're pleased to be the **Season Sponsor** of **Studio 180 Theatre** and **Crow's Theatre**.

ABOUT

studio180theatre



Matt Baram and the company of *Indecent*. Photo: Cylla von Tiedemann

Studio 180 Theatre is a Toronto-based company with a mission to produce theatre that sparks compelling conversations onstage, in the classroom, and in the community. Since 2002, Studio 180 Theatre has evolved from an informal artistic collective into one of Toronto's most respected independent professional theatre companies, expanding to include a new play development program and an extensive IN CLASS workshop program. *Indecent*, *The Chinese Lady*, *The Laramie Project*, *Stuff Happens*, *Our Class*, *Clybourne Park*, *The Normal Heart*, *The Nether*, and *Oslo*, are among the many plays Studio 180 has produced in the past 22 years.

Through our Studio 180 IN CLASS program, we run innovative workshops specifically for youth from grades 4 -12 with a flexible model accommodating all budgets and schedules. 2024/25 marks our 15th year of empowering youth through drama-based workshops and with our team of Artist Educators, we now reach almost 2,000 students annually, across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. Studio 180 IN CLASS sessions promote empathy, encourage self-reflection, provoke critical thinking, nurture ensemble-building and inspire creative expression.

Our Beyond the Stage programming keeps the conversation going, deepening our collective understanding of important issues and connecting to inspiring leaders and organizations actively engaged in making change. We are grateful for our Community Partnerships with service, advocacy, arts and education organizations, with whom we collaborate closely to develop interactive experiences that take you beyond the world of the play and have you talking long after you leave the theatre.

STAY CONNECTED

WIN BIG!

IN STUDIO 180'S 2025 SPRING 50/50 RAFFLE

Your support will help provide **300 subsidized student tickets** to Jonathan Wilson's play *A Public Display of Affection*. When YOU play, STUDENTS win!

Winner takes 50% of the jackpot. Raffle runs online from March 18 to April 20, 2025 (winner's draw on April 21, 2025).

3 tickets for \$10 **40 tickets for \$20** **150 tickets for \$50**

Winner's prize and odds of winning depend on the final jackpot and tickets sold.

Click below for more info and to purchase your tickets today!

"I am part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and I didn't know all of the history related to it, so I was glad that I was able to see a bit of the past through the play."

— Grade 12 Drama student, Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School, after watching a workshop reading of *A Public Display of Affection*.

WHO WE ARE

FOR STUDIO 180

Mark McGrinder Artistic Director
Laurie-Ann Goodwin General Manager
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Jessica Greenberg Director of Youth & Community Engagement
Jenna Harris Marketing & Community Engagement Coordinator
Derrick Chua Consulting Producer

The Community Partner for *A Public Display of Affection* is **AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)**. ACT is an organisation that supports people living with, and at risk for HIV, to achieve their optimal social, sexual, and mental health.

The Lobby Art Exhibit Partner for *A Public Display of Affection* is **The ArQuives**. The ArQuives is the largest independent LGBTQ2+ Archives in the world and since 1973 the only LGBTQ2+ archives in Canada with a national scope.

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HELP US CREATE COMMUNITY THROUGH THEATRE



Rosie Simon and John Ng in *The Chinese Lady*.
Photo by Dahlia Katz

This season, Studio 180 Theatre steps into our 22nd season of producing bold, provocative theatre. Ticket sales only cover 12% of our operating expenses and government grants only cover 7%, so we count on every dollar from individuals like you to fund our artistic, education and outreach programming. Donate today at studio180theatre.com/donate.

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