



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE PULITZER AND TONY AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT TONY KUSHNER**

*Fiercely political, deeply personal, incredibly intelligent, funny, poignant, hopeful, and immensely spiritual, Kushner's work is a bright shining light."*

—David Courier, Sundance 2006

**San Diego, CA...** San Diego Public Library and the Mo`olelo Performing Arts Company invite you to a film screening of *Wrestling with Angels* by Oscar-winning director Freida Lee Mock. The film, part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Point of View (P.O.V.) documentary season, follows Kushner for three tumultuous years, from September 11, 2001 to the 2004 presidential election, to delve into the passions that keep him reaching for the great American play. The screening takes place at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 28, in the auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. This event is free and open to the public.

*Wrestling with Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner* is a feature documentary film about the Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning playwright Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*, *Caroline or Change*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *Munich*). It tells the story of a relentlessly creative spirit at work and of how Kushner, raised in the Deep South, would become an outspoken activist, a compassionate spokesperson for outsiders, and one of America's most important playwrights. At its core the film explores the mystery of creativity, its sources and Kushner's compelling plays that are set against the moral and political concerns of our times. While it focuses on Kushner as an artist and activist, the film also captures the poignant story of a father and son relationship. Finally, it is the inspiring tale of how a passionately committed person can make a difference for social justice. The film features acclaimed theater and movie actors in unforgettable, entertaining scenes from Kushner's work.

The film is structured around three acts that encapsulate the broad themes of Kushner's work. Act I - *As a Citizen of the World* displays Kushner's concern with global issues. Act II – *Mama, I'm a Homosexual Mama* dramatizes Kushner's concern with national issues focusing on the AIDS crisis and gay rights through his personal story of "coming out;" through insight into the creative arc of his celebrated epic play *Angels in America*; and with his candid and humorous talk about Gay Pride at JP Morgan Chase. Act III - *Collective Action to Overcome Injustice* reveals the influence of Kushner's Jewish heritage in his passionate concern for social justice, expressed in deeply personal terms. Moving scenes from his play on Jewish immigration, *Why Should It Be Easy When It Can Be Hard*; from the children's holocaust opera *Brundibar*; and from the musical *Caroline, or Change* -- all express Kushner's belief in collective action to overcome injustice, especially as it concerns women and children.

At heart *Wrestling with Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner* explores Tony Kushner's relentless struggle to find creative expression for deep and fundamental truths, and through the power and intimacy of live theater, vivid characters and rich dialogue, to provide a national dialogue on some of our most pressing concerns -- war, race, class, the AIDS pandemic, gay and lesbian rights, genocide and our global responsibility in the Middle East. This film is a testament to the power of an artist and activist to provoke and inspire the best in all of us.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 34 branches, find links to numerous reference resources, or search for books, media and documents held in the Library's collection at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org)

*Since 1988, PBS' "POV" series has brought the best of independent point-of-view documentaries to a national audience, featuring the work of America's most innovative documentary filmmakers to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues.*

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