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**Local Actors Guild of Saratoga presents**

***The Normal Heart***

**By Larry Kramer**

**Directed by Jonathan Pate**

**(Saratoga Springs, NY)  *The Normal Heart*, is the Third production of the Local Actors Guild of Saratoga’s (LAGS) 2014-2015 season and will run from March 21 and 22 and 28-29, 2015. The Capital Region community theatre in downtown Saratoga Springs is celebrating its 9th season under the leadership of Jeremy Buechner, Artistic Director.**

The Normal Heart tells the story of the onset of the HIV-AIDS crisis in New York City in the early 1980s. It explores the nation's sexual politics as gay activists and their allies in the medical community fight to expose the truth about the epidemic to a city in denial.  Local Actors Guild’s production includes Edmund Metzold as Ned Weeks, who witnesses first-hand a mysterious disease that has begun to claim the lives of many in his gay community and starts to seek answers.  Christopher Maletesta plays Felix Turner, a New York Times reporter who becomes Ned's lover.  Matthew Side plays Bruce Niles, a closeted investment banker who becomes a prominent AIDS activist. Oliver Ord (LAGS *Cabaret*) plays gay activist Tommy Boatwright, Ann Milliken (LAGS *The Best Little..in Texas*) plays physician Dr. Emma Brookner, a survivor of childhood polio who treats several of the earliest victims of HIV-AIDS.  Rounding out the cast are Keith Searles as Ben Weeks, Jeremy (J.J.) Buechner as Mickey Marcus, Matthew LaPierre as Craig/Grady, Nick Himmelwright as Hiram Keebler, and Hank Boland as David/Examining Doctor.

Produced by Joseph Papp and directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, *The Normal Heart* opened Off-Broadway at The Public Theater on April 21, 1985, and ran for 294 performances. The Broadway premiere of *The Normal Heart* began on April 19, 2011, for a limited 12-week engagement at the Golden Theatre. The cast featured Joe Mantello as Ned, Ellen Barkin as Dr. Brookner, John Benjamin Hickey as Felix, Lee Pace as Bruce Niles, and Jim Parsons as Tommy Boatwright. In 2014 HBO Films premiered a full length feature film of *The Normal Heart*, directed by Ryan Murphy, with a star studded cast that included Mark Ruffalo, Matt Bomer, Taylor Kitsch, Joe Mantello, Jim Parsons, and Jonathan Groff.

***The Normal Heart* will be presented at The Saratoga Arts Center at 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs.  Performance dates and times: Saturday at 2pm & 8pm and Sunday at 7:30pm. Tickets: $20 general admission.  Tickets may be reserved on the phone at**[**518-393-3496**](tel:518-393-3496)**.**

***About Local Actors Guild of Saratoga***Local Actors Guild of Saratoga (LAGS) is a nonprofit community theater organization in Saratoga Springs, New York, established in 2006. The 2015-2016 season includes *Company, The Normal Heart, The Diary of Anne Frank, RENT, and a new play festival*.