Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

Redrawing the Boundaries : Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Tony

Kushner's play: *Angels in America*

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Art in English.

Ву

Shiva Lal Acharya

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

November, 2006

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Science

LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis titled "Redrawing the Boundaries: Gender, Sexualities and

HIV/AIDS in Tony Kushners Play Angels in America submitted	l to the Central
Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Shiva Lal Acha	arya, has been
approved by the undersigned members of the research committee	e.
Members of the Research Committee:	
-	
	Internal Examiner
Professor Dr.	Abhi Narayan Subedi
	External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Professor Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma

Date:

Acknowledgements

I express my sincere thanks to my supervisor Professor Dr. Abhi Narayan Subedi, lecturer at Central department of English, Tribhuvan University, for help in writing my thesis. His help in correcting and offering different criticism to my thesis is adequate in completing. He is the one I like to thank once more; without his guidance and encouragement, it would have been difficult to finish my thesis on time.

I am very much thankful to Dr. Sanjeev Upretti, Lecturer at Central

Department of English, Tribhuvan University for providing very core concept,
guidelines, valuable suggestions and related materials. The very concept of thesis and
the thesis itself would be impossible without his co-operation and contribution.

I am also indebted to Dr. Shiva Rijal, lecturer at the Central Department of English who gave me valuable ideas concerning my thesis doing frequent meetings with him at the University.

Thanks are due to John Duthel, Direction Des Affaires Publiques, who provided me the precious full scholarship to attend First International Conference on LGBT Human Right 2006 hosted at Montréal, Canada that become very fruitful to write this research paper, and to Srijan Chettri, Puspa Acharya and Sridhar Gautam, respected teachers at the Central Department of English for helping me with techniques and other suggestions in writing my thesis.

Last but not the least I cannot forget my senior brother of our faculty- Madhav Kafle and my best friend Binay Adhikari, who always push me to write and contribute in my every needs. Finally, I am very thanks full to my friend Aarati Adhikari for her warm inspiring and contribution.

Abstract

Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* deal iii major social problems of contemporary America of 1980s, encountered in the domains of Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS. The American society never accepted the possibility of different sexuality and gender identities of a person. The newly found infection is taken as a infection of the homosexuals acquired as a result of their sinful sexual activities. Tony Kushner - a social activist and a gay man himself. By bringing various examples and scientific facts, has proved that a person can have different sexuality and gender identities. This research paper has redrawn the contemporary monolithic boundaries of Gender, sexuality and HIV/AIDS on the basis of Pulitzer Prize winning play *Angels in America*.

Table of content

Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Chapter I: Introduction	1-15
What are His Subjects	3
Kushner's Theatrical concept	8
Epic Theatre	10
Theatre as a Social Force: Kushners' Rationale	13
Chapter II: Redrawing the Boundaries: Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS	16-33
Chapter III: Reading Against Canon.	34-46
Possibilities of Different Sexualities and Gender Identities	39
Chapter IV: Conclusion	47-49
Bibliography	50-51