Join us for a stimulating conversation with preeminent playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner, of whom the New York Times has written, “Some playwrights want to change the world. Some want to revolutionize theatre. Tony Kushner is that rarity of rarities: a writer who has the promise to do both.” Tackling many of the most challenging issues of our time—including AIDS in Angels in America, Afghanistan’s long-tortured relationship with the West in Homebody/Kabul, German fascism and Reaganism in A Bright Room Called Day and racism and the civil rights movement in Caroline, or Change—he is invariably political but never polemical. Instead Kushner rejects ideology in favor of what he calls “a dialectically shaped truth,” which must be “outrageously funny” and “absolutely agonizing,” and must “move us forward.” He gives voice to characters who have been rendered powerless by the forces of circumstances—a drag queen dying of AIDS, an uneducated Southern maid, contemporary Afghans—and his attempt to see all sides of their predicament has a sly subversiveness. He forces the audience to identify with those who are marginalized—a humanizing act of the imagination. A provocative discussion moderated by Dinah Lenney, professor of writing at USC, will explore Kushner’s life, career, challenges and inspirations.

The USC Libraries have selected the following resources to help you learn more about Tony Kushner and the art of theatre.

**Films**

*Munich* (2006)
Director by Steven Spielberg
Leavey Library: LV Y D V D 1 4 4 3

*Lincoln* (2013)
Director by Steven Spielberg
Leavey Library: LV Y D V D 7 4 0 8

**Selected Books**

By Tony Kushner
Doheny Memorial Library: PS 3 5 6 1 . U 7 7 8 A 8 5 2 0 0 3
Leavey Library: PS 3 5 6 1 . U 7 7 8 A 8 5 2 0 0 3

By Tony Kushner
Doheny Memorial Library: P N 1 9 9 7 . 2 . L 5 5 3 2 0 1 2
Death & Taxes: Hydrioptaphia & Other Plays (2000)
By Tony Kushner
Doheny Memorial Library: PS3561.U778D4 2000

The Theatre of Tony Kushner: Living Past Hope (2001)
By James Fisher
Doheny Memorial Library: PS3561.U778Z64 2001

Tony Kushner (2005)
By Harold Bloom
Leavey Library: PS3561.U778Z89 2005

American Theatre: History, Context, Form (2011)
By Theresa Saxon
Doheny Memorial Library: PN2221.S29 2011

Recommended Databases

The following databases are a good place to begin your focused search for scholarly articles, newspaper and magazine articles, conference proceedings and book chapters related to theater. Access them through the homepage at www.usc.edu/libraries.

American Drama
This collection includes plays by American dramatists that chronicle the history and culture of America through its dramatic writing.

Play Index
Providing access to over 30,000 plays, this index is a comprehensive resource for finding plays in a variety of genres, styles and subject matter.

International Index to the Performing Arts (Full Text)
This database provides access to over 260 international periodicals covering a broad spectrum of the arts and entertainment industry, including drama, theatre, stagecraft, musical theatre, film, television, performance art and more.