Betrayed Hopes, Wounded Bodies:

Whose Reality Matters in David H. Hwang’s M. Butterfly and Tony Kushner’s Angels in America?

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Abstract

In this essay, I analyze the importance of fingere (to makeup, to fictionalize) over esse (to be) in conjunction with these dramatic works, as well as with aspects pertaining to the socio-political public health. Because both plays discuss homosexuality as a social category still not publicly accepted, I conclude my essay with a reflection upon Larry Kramer’s speech The Tragedy of Today’s Gay, addressed in 2004, five days before the reelection of President George W. Bush.