This multi-media resource list, compiled by Rebecca Federman of the New York Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Wrestling With Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner" that premieres on December 12 at 9 PM on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Tony Kushner, whose epochal Angels in America won a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, has emerged as one of the country's leading playwrights — and one of its fiercest moral critics. In the new award-winning film "Wrestling With Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner", Oscar-winning director Freida Lee Mock ("Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision," P.O.V. 1996) followed Kushner for three tumultuous years, from Sept. 11, 2001 to the 2004 presidential election, to delve into the passions that keep him reaching for the great American play. Actors Marcia Gay Harden, Meryl Streep, Tonya Pinkins and Emma Thompson, directors Mike Nichols and George C. Wolfe, and writer/artist Maurice Sendak are seen collaborating with Kushner on such landmark works as Angels in America, Caroline, or Change, and Homebody/Kabul.

Kushner, Tony. Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes: Millennium Approaches/Perestroika. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2003. In two full-length plays—Millennium Approaches and Perestroika—Kushner tells the story of a handful of people trying to make sense of the world. Prior is a man living with AIDS whose lover Louis has left him and become involved with Joe, an ex-Mormon and political conservative whose wife, Harper, is slowly having a nervous breakdown. These stories are contrasted with that of Roy Cohn and his attempts to remain in the closet while trying to find some sort of personal salvation in his beliefs.

Kushner, Tony. A Bright Room Called Day. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 1994. About the dying days of Weimar Germany among a group of left-wing activists who slowly realize they are losing to the Nazis.


Kushner, Tony. Homebody/Kabul. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 2005. The play centers around the disappearance of an eccentric British woman (the Homebody) and the search for her by her husband and daughter. In their quest for the truth and closure, the lines between real and unreal, the political and the personal are intentionally blurred and are fully ambiguous.


ADULT NONFICTION


Delve Deeper into "Wrestling With Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner"
A film by Freida Lee Mock


ADULT FICTION


Lowenthal, Michael. The Same Embrace. New York: Dutton, 1993. Twins Jacob and Jonathan come from the same family and world, but take different paths in life, and their close relationship as children begins to unravel.


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


Levithan, David. Wide Awake. New York: Random House Children's Books, 2006. Jimmy and Duncan take to the streets to support a gay-Jewish presidential candidate, while also exploring their relationship with politics in America.


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES


“Shalom, Ya'll.” A film by Brian Bain, Shalom Ya'll Films LLC, 2002. (60 min.) Bain, a Jewish documentary filmmaker from New Orleans explores his own Southern-Jewish heritage and finds a rich history of Judaism in the South. www.brandeis.edu/jewishfilm/Catalogue/films/shalomyall.htm