MOMENT: ANGELS IN AMERICA

JEDADIAH SCHULTZ. I've lived in Wyoming my whole life. The family has been in Wyoming well … for generations. Now when it came time to go to college, my parents can't — couldn't afford to send me to college. I wanted to study theater. And I knew that if I was going to go to college I was going to have to get on a scholarship — and so uh they have this competition each year, this Wyoming state high-school competition. And I knew that if I didn't take first place in uh duets that I wasn't gonna get a scholarship. So I went to the theater department of the university looking for good scenes and I asked one of the professors, I was like, "I need — I need a killer scene," and he was like, "Here you go, this is it." And it was from *Angels in America.*

So I read it and I knew that I could win best scene if I did a good enough job.

And when the time came I told my mom and dad so that they would come to the competition. Now you have to understand, my parents go to everything — every ballgame, every hockey game — everything I've ever done.

And they brought me into their room and told me that if I did that scene, that they would not come to see me in the competition. Because they believed that it is wrong — that homosexuality is wrong. They felt that strongly about it that they didn't want to come see their son do probably the most important thing he'd done to that point in his life. And I didn't know what to do.

I had never, ever gone against my parents' wishes. So I was kind of worried about it. But I decided to do it.

And all I can remember about the competition is that when we were done, me and my scene partner, we came up to each other and we shook hands and there was a standing ovation.

Oh, man it was amazing! And we took first place and we won. And that's how come I can afford to be here at the University, because of that scene. It was one of the best moments of my life. And my parents weren't there. And to this day, that was the one thing that my parents didn't see me do.

And thinking back on it, I think, why did I do it? Why did I oppose my parents? 'Cause I'm not gay. So why did I do it? And I guess the only honest answer I can give is that well, *(He chuckles.)* I wanted to win. It was such a good scene; it was like the best scene!

Do you know Mr. Kushner? Maybe you can tell him.

MOMENT: JOURNAL ENTRIES

NARRATOR. Company member Greg Pierotti.

GREG PIEROTTI. We arrived today in the Denver Airport and drove to Laramie — The moment we crossed the Wyoming border I swear I saw a herd of buffalo. Also, I thought it was strange that the Wyoming sign said:

THE COMPANY. WYOMING — LIKE NO PLACE ON EARTH.

GREG PIEROTTI. Instead of WYOMING — LIKE NO PLACE ELSE ON EARTH.

NARRATOR. Company member Leigh Fondakowski.

LEIGH FONDAKOWSKI. I stopped at a local inn for a bite to eat. And my waitress said to me:

WAITRESS. "Hi, my name is Debbie. I was born in 1954 and Debbie Reynolds was big then, so yes, there are a lot of us around, but I promise that I won't slap you if you leave your elbows on the table."

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. Today the company tried to explain to me to no avail what chicken fried steak was.

WAITRESS. "Now, are you from Wyoming? Or are you just passing through?"

LEIGH FONDAKOWSKI. "We're just passing through."

NARRATOR. Company member Barbara Pitts.

BARBARA PITTS. We arrived in Laramie tonight. Just past the "Welcome to Laramie" sign — "Population 26,687" — the first thing to greet us was Walmart. In the dark, we could be on any