Leading Voices Lecture:

Tony Kushner
In February 2014, the MSU College of Arts and Letters’ Leading Voices lecture series collaborated with the Wharton Center for Performing Arts’ World View lectures to present Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner.

In addition, the College hosted:
• a screening, the week before the lecture, of Steven Spielberg’s film *Lincoln*, for which Kushner wrote the Oscar-nominated screenplay; and,
• an in-person question-and-answer session with Kushner and CAL theatre students in Fairchild Theatre the day after the lecture.

CAL’s Leading Voices lecture series was created to provide the opportunity for established as well as up-and-coming voices in the arts and humanities to be heard by—and to interact with—faculty, students and the mid-Michigan community.

“Tony Kushner was on our short list of theatre professionals we hoped to have visit MSU,” says Department of Theater Chair Kirk Domer. “His experience, industry insights, and in-depth understanding of the real-world business of theatre, playwriting and screenwriting are of value to students and faculty alike.”

Of Kushner, the New York Times wrote: “Some playwrights want to change the world. Some want to revolutionize theater. Tony Kushner is that rarity of rarities: a writer who has the promise to do both.”

Tony Kushner is best-known for his Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*. Kushner says that he enjoys “tackling the most difficult subjects in contemporary history and confronting his audience with funny, agonizing and startling truths.”

Wharton Center’s World View lecture presentation was generously supported by the MSU Office of the President with additional support from the event’s other MSU sponsors who truly helped make the evening a night to remember, including:
• The College of Human Medicine
• The College of Natural Science
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