

EXECUTION OF JUSTICE:
community read

PCTC/Well Played

March 11, 2024



What is EXECUTION OF JUSTICE about?



Murder
homophobia
transphobia
sexism
racism
violence



community
American history
civil unrest
LGBTQ+ rights



→ **violence & power!!**

**It's about the life and legacy of Harvey Milk,
gay activist and politician, who was murdered at
work by a former colleague in San Francisco
City Hall on November 27, 1978**



Harvey Milk (1930-1978)

businessperson, gay rights activist,
politician

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Milk

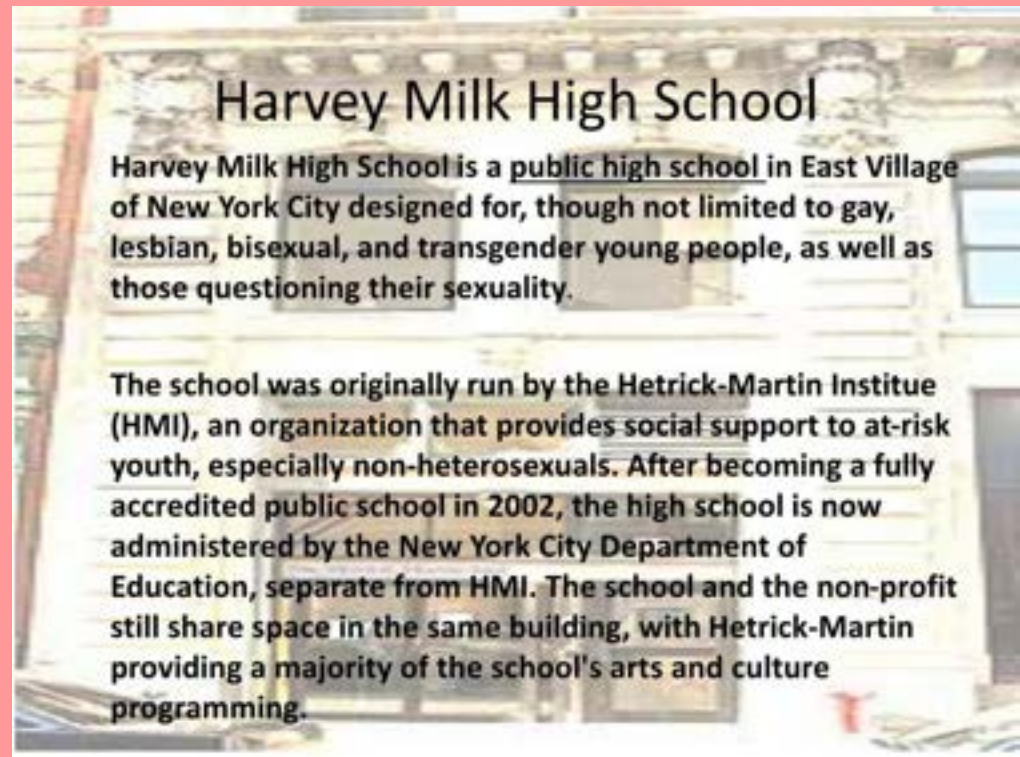


“If a bullet should enter my brain,
let it destroy every closet door”



Harvey Milk (1930-1978)

~ ongoing legacy



<https://www.hmhsnyc.org/>

It's about **injustice**....

It's about **the oppression of LGBTQ+ citizens**...

It's about **community trauma and healing**...

It's about **history**...

It's about **what's happening now**.



EXECUTION OF JUSTICE

explores a murder and trial which
shook an American city in the 1970s



1978 ~The assassination of Mayor George Moscone

In 1978, 32-year old former police officer **Dan White** quit his job as **San Francisco Board supervisor**, citing person stress. In November, went to City Hall and pleaded with Mayor George Moscone to let him come back to the job. Moscone refused.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_White

1978 ~The assassination of Mayor George Moscone

Dan White shot Mayor Moscone 4 times, twice in the head. He left him for dead, and went down the hall, gun in hand.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Moscone

1978 ~The assassination of Harvey Milk

Dan White went to the office of his colleague, Harvey Milk, California's **first openly gay politician**. Milk had been against Dan White's reinstatement as Supervisor. Dan White **shot him 5 times, twice in the head.**



The aftermath

White walked out of City Hall and **was arrested** later that day. At the police station, in front of fellow officers, he confesses to both murders.



Dan White's audio confession after killing Harvey

Milk & George Moscone

Michael Petrellis

10 years ago



The city reacts..

Dianne Feinstein announced the news and took up the position of Acting Mayor. **The city of San Francisco went into shock.**



November 27. 1978

As it happened: news coverage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps8VmNTfK8k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQFG8eyyw1w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHXcq8ACH4s>



1979 ~ the trial

- Dan White went on **trial for murder**. His lawyer defended his actions, citing White's job stress and his "diminished capacity" because of his poor diet – the infamous "**Twinkie**" defense.



1979 ~ the verdict

Instead of being found guilty of murder, Dan White was charged with **voluntary manslaughter**.

A CITY IN AGONY Full story of the City Hall murders

WHITE CHARGED — FACES DEATH

Stocks down 9.70
Page 30
11419, Year No. 145

San Francisco Examiner

Final edition
Complete stocks

Tuesday, November 26, 1978 20c

VERDICT ON DAN WHITE

San Francisco Chronicle

It's Voluntary Manslaughter
— Maximum Penalty 8 Years

Several Jurors Weep in Court



A Bloody Protest at City Hall

City Officials Shocked by The Verdict

Verdict Angers Guys



1979~ the “White Night” riots

Gay activists and their allies took to the streets of San Francisco in protest.



Among the activists were

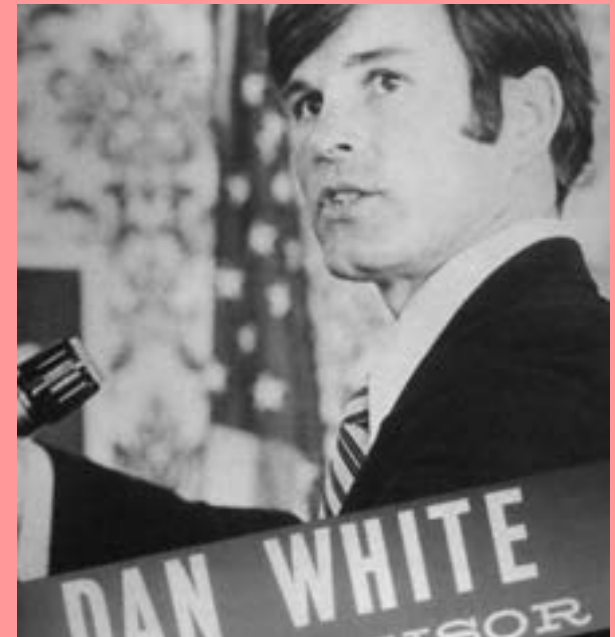
“Sister Boom Boom”

<https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/jack-fertig-aka-sister-boom-boom>



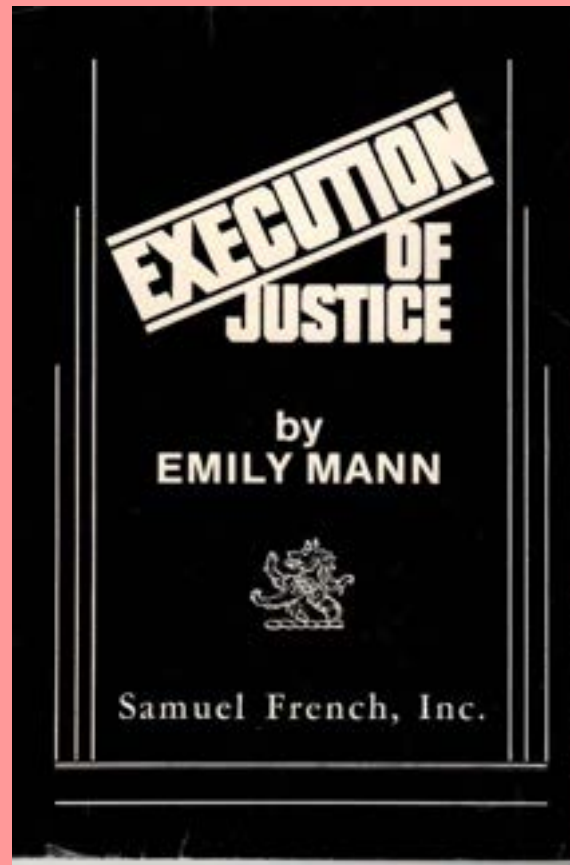
Aftermath

Dan White served 5 years in jail and returned to San Francisco. He **committed suicide in a parked car in 1985.**



EXECUTION OF JUSTICE:

the making of the play



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Execution_of_Justice

EXECUTION OF JUSTICE

In 1984, playwright/director **Emily Mann** was commissioned to write a play about the murders of Moscone and Milk and the trial which had divided a city— and the country.



EXECUTION OF JUSTICE

Known for her plays about real people trying to overcome the wounds of **war, exile, oppression and domestic violence**, Mann struggled to find the best format for the “Dan White” project.



Finding a process

Mann decided to use **material from transcripts and interviews** from people involved in the event



Side by side

On stage, the actors stood **side by side**, playing a range of roles and speaking directly to the audience.



“Theatre of testimony”

This landmark play was a dynamic reinvention of a form of performance called **“theatre of testimony.”**



Performing the testimony of real people on stage...





And allowing “uncalled witnesses” to
have their voices heard...

**A chance to bring in silenced
voices....**

.... create a space of dialogue

.... examine the pain

... heal the wounds????

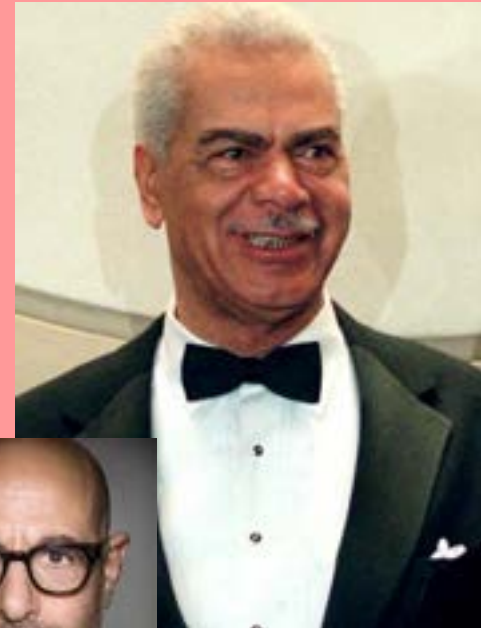


“Execution of Justice is one of the great American plays... An incredibly wrought human drama [on] a pivotal moment in American life ...

Mark Armstrong, American director

EXECUTION OF JUSTICE: production history

The play, originally commissioned by San Francisco's Eureka Theatre, premiered at Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage and went on to Broadway in 1986, with a cast featuring **John Spencer, Wesley Snipes, Stanley Tucci, Mary McDonnell, and Earle Hyman.**



CAST

DAN WHITE John Spencer
MARY ANN WHITE Mary McDonnell
COP Stanley Tucci
SISTER BOOM BOOM, Political Activist Wesley Snipes

CHORUS OF UNCALLED WITNESSES:
JIM DENMAN, White's Jailor Christopher McHale
YOUNG MOTHER Lisabeth Bartlett
MILK'S FRIEND Adam Redfield

GWENN CRAIG, Vice President of Harvey Milk Democratic Club Isabell Monk
CITY SUPERVISOR HARRY BRITT, Milk's Successor Donal Donnelly
JOSEPH FREITAS, D.A. Nicholas Hormann
MOURNER Nicholas Hormann

TRIAL CHARACTERS:
THE COURT Nicholas Kepros
COURT CLERK Lisabeth Bartlett
DOUGLAS SCHMIDT, Defense Attorney Peter Friedman
THOMAS F. NORMAN, Prosecuting Attorney Gerry Bamman
JOANNA LU, TV Reporter Freda Foh Shen
PROSPECTIVE JURORS Josh Clark, Suzy Hunt
JUROR #3/FOREMAN Gary Reineke
BAILIFF Jeremy O. Caplin

WITNESSES FOR THE PEOPLE:
CORONER STEPHENS Donal Donnelly
RUDY NOTHENBERG, Deputy Mayor, Moscone's Friend Earle Hyman
BARBARA TAYLOR, Reporter Marcia Jean Kurtz
OFFICER BYRNE, Department Of Records Isabell Monk
WILLIAM MELIA, Civil Engineer Richard Riehle
CYR COPERTINI, Secretary To The Mayor Suzy Hunt
CARL HENRY CARLSON, Aide To Harvey Milk Nicholas Hormann
RICHARD PABICH, Assistant To Harvey Milk Wesley Snipes

Inspector FRANK FALZON, Homicide Jon DeVries
Inspector EDWARD ERDELATZ Stanley Tucci

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE:

DENISE APCAR, Aide To White Lisabeth Bartlett
Fire Chief SHERRATT Gary Reineke
Fireman FREDIANI Jeremy O. Caplin
Police Officer SULLIVAN Stanley Tucci
City Supervisor LEE DOLSON Richard Riehle
Psychiatrists: DR. JONES Earle Hyman
DR. SOLOMON Marcia Jean Kurtz
DR. BLINDER Donal Donnelly
DR. LUNDE Gary Reineke
DR. DELMAN Jon DeVries

IN REBUTTAL FOR THE PEOPLE:

City Supervisor
CAROL RUTH SILVER Marcia Jean Kurtz
DR. LEVY, Psychiatrist Gary Reineke
RIOT POLICE Jeremy O. Caplin, Josh Clark, Jon DeVries, Richard Riehle, Stanley Tucci
RICHARD HOWARD

ACTION CAMERMAN

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance. For Sullivan—Wesley Snipes; for Barbara Taylor—Elise Warner; for Falzon, Bailiff, Dan White, Frediani, Riot Cop, Denman—Christopher McHale; for Mary Ann White, Cyr Copertini, Juror #1, Gwenn Craig, Officer Byrne, Joanna Lu, Denise Apar, Young Mother—Carloetta Schoch; for Sister Boom Boom, Pabich, Milk's Friend, Douglas Schmidt—Josh Clark; for Dr. Solomon, Carol Ruth Silver—Suzy Hunt; for Freitas, Carlson, Mourner—Gary Reineke; for Denman, Juror #2—Jeremy O. Caplin; for Cop, Erdelatz—Richard Riehle; for Coroner Stevens, Britt, The Court, Melia, Dobson, Riot Cop, Nothenberg, Sherratt, Foreman, Juror #3, Drs. Levy, Blinder, Jones, Lund—Richard Poe.

THE TIME:

1978 to the present

THE PLACE:

San Francisco

THE WORDS COME FROM:

Trial Transcripts, Reportage and Interviews

THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

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EXECUTION OF JUSTICE

Southwark Theatre ~London 2012

<http://www.fine-line-productions.co.uk/portfolio-item/execution-of-justice/>



EMILY MANN

Playwright, Director, Administrator
Theatre change-maker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hs4o9kbIeo&t=41s>



Member – American Theatre Hall of Fame

for a lifetime of achievement in writing, directing, advocacy, mentorship, artistic direction ~ and her belief that **“theatre makes a difference in the national conversation”**



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Mann_\(director\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Mann_(director))

<https://www.amacad.org/person/emily-mann>

<https://pwcenter.org/profile/emily-mann>

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2015/06/26/emily-mann-the-quiet-radical/>

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2021/10/22/emily-mann-to-receive-sdcfs-gordon-davidson-award/>

ANNULLA

STILL LIFE

A DOCUMENTARY
BY EMILY MANN

HAVING
OUR SAY

The Delany Sisters'
First 100 Years

A PLAY BY
EMILY MANN

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY
SARAH L. DELANY AND A. ELIZABETH DELANY

WITH
AMY HILL HEARTH

**GREENSBORO:
A REQUIEM**

WRITTEN BY EMILY MANN, DIRECTED BY KALEY QUINN/DAVE
PRESENTED BY AMERICAN THEATER CO.

JULY 18 - AUG 2

LIVE LIKE THEM. DARE TO STRUGGLE. DARE TO WIN.

AMERICAN
THEATER CO.
EST. 1961 CHICAGO

SEASON 30



MRS PACKARD

EMILY MANN

BROADWAY PLAY PUBLISHING INC.

BLAIR UNDERWOOD NICOLE ARI PARKER DAPHNE WOOD
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
A STREETCAR NAMED
DESIRE

DIRECTED BY EMILY MANN
ADAPTED FROM THE PLAY BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

THE HOUSE OF
BERNARDA
ALBA

By Federico Garcia Lorca
Adapted in English by Emily Mann

Directed By CHARLES MAXBERG
AND KRY ANAZ

Tennessee Williams's
The NIGHT
of the
IGUANA

Directed by Emily Mann

GLORIA:
A LIFE

A PLAY BY
EMILY MANN



THE
CHERRY
ORCHARD

BY
ANTON CHEKHOV
ADAPTED BY
EMILY MANN

Tennessee Williams'
Baby Doll

Adapted for the
stage by
Pierre Laville
and
Emily Mann
Directed by
Emily Mann

THE PIANIST

A Play with Music

Directed and Adapted for the Stage
by Emily Mann

Based on the memoir "The Pianist"
by Wladyslaw Szpilman
Original Score
by Iris Hond

September 26-October 22, 2023

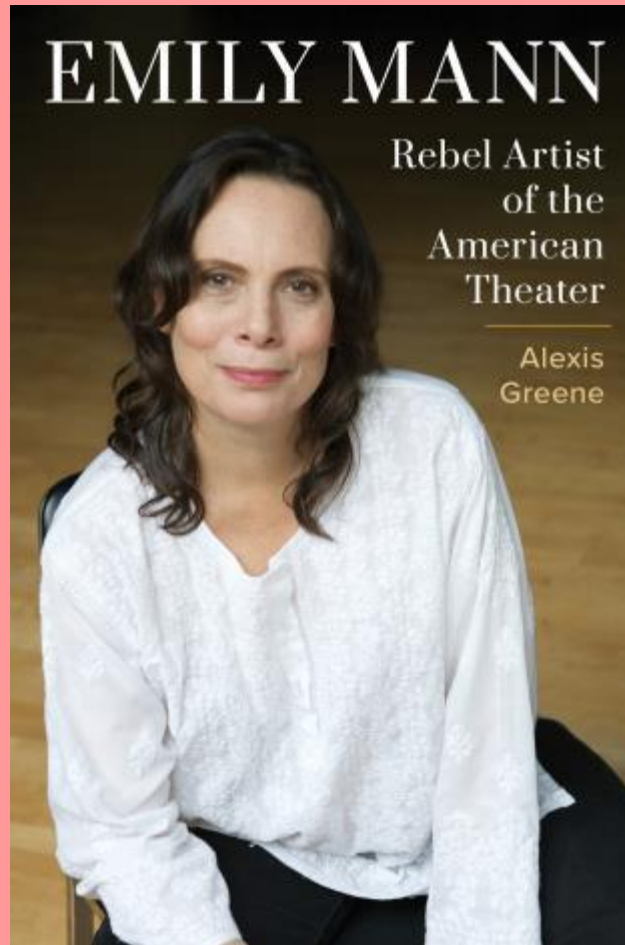
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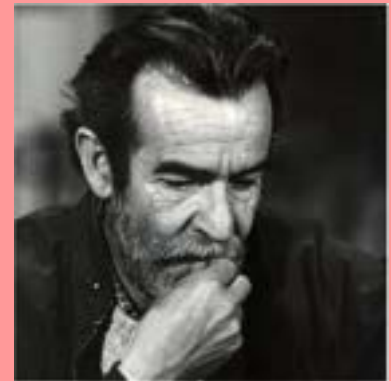
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Hs4o9kbIeo&t=41s>



<https://www.amazon.ca/Emily-Mann-Artist-American-Theater/dp/1493060325>

“More than any other American writer of our time, the body of her work has demonstrated the central importance of theatre to the psychic well-being and sanity of a society.”

Athol Fugard



Thank you for participating in
this event.





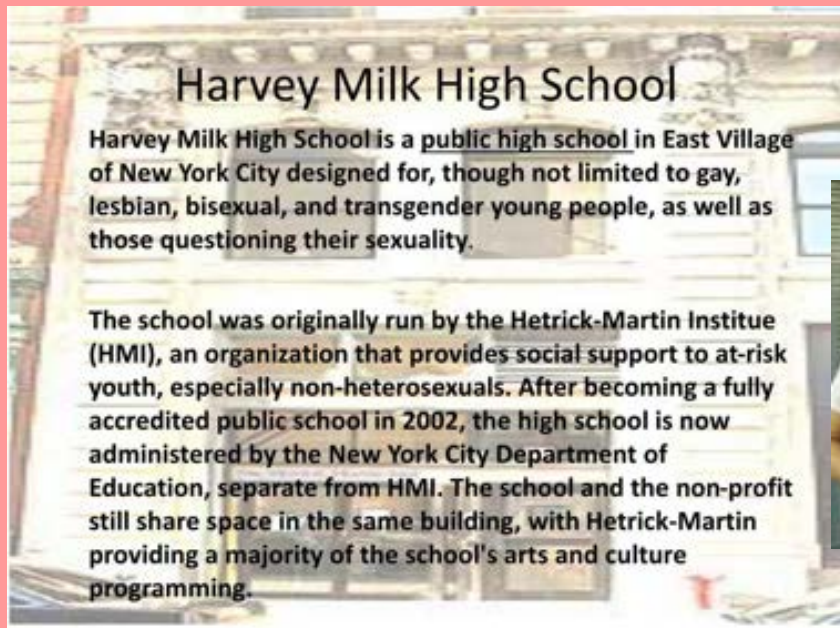
The Playground is committed to international collaboration, and we are delighted to be joined once again by **Playhouse Creatures New York**, and specifically, acclaimed writer and director **Emily Mann**.



Playhouse Creatures Theatre Company (PCTC)



<https://playhousecreatures.org/>



Since 2019, PCTC has provided theatre arts training to students at Manhattan's **Harvey Milk High School**.

In an inclusive, non-binary, non-judgmental environment, PCTC strives to empower the students to be more confident, collaborative, caring, and compassionate. Most importantly, PCTC aims to provide a safe space for the students to express themselves in an open, honest, and constructive way.

PCTC is proud to honour Harvey Milk's legacy



<https://playhousecreatures.org/harvey-milk-highschool-program/>



We are currently developing a **network of local artistic organisations** to deliver inter-connected and improved artistic output to our local community, **uniting South and North Kensington.**

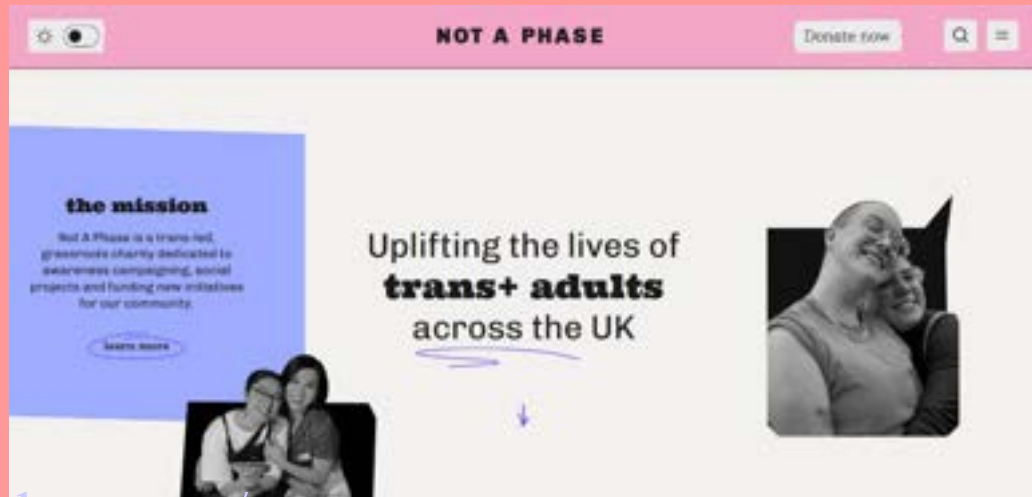




This current season of LGBTQIA+ work is in special partnership with **RBKC, The Saatchi Gallery, The Royal Court, Chelsea Theatre, Well Played** and **Young K&C.**



... And in support of arts & community LGBTQIA+ rights, and such groups as:



<https://notaphase.org/>



<https://www.consortium.lgbt/member-directory/london-trans-pride/>



We want to be **the home for LGBTQIA+ artistic communities in West London** and by joining together we believe we can be.



You are a member of our community now:
please stay in touch with us!

