



**TONY EQUALITY PARTY PACK**

## **THE INTRO:**

Read the following 'script' to your group of Tony Equality Partiers! (or use it as a guideline, take the stage, and improvise your own inspiring monologue! You can also split it up and have different people read each section) This will hopefully help you all understand what it is that we are up to, it will give everyone a clear outline of how this simple action really can make a difference, and will hopefully be a lot of fun!

## **THE PROPS:**

You will need:

- greeting cards
- pens
- stamps
- cell phones
- snacks

## **THE SCRIPT:**

### PROLOGUE:

Thank you for joining BroadwayImpact in raising awareness and taking action for marriage equality here in New York State. Tonight we are coming together to learn who our State Senators are so we can contact them directly, NOW!

### ACT I:

**SCENE ONE:** The New York State Legislature is made up of two chambers, The State Assembly and The State Senate. In order for a bill to become a law, it has to be brought up for a vote and passed in both chambers. If this happens, the Governor must agree to sign it, and if he does, it then becomes a law.

**SCENE TWO:** On April 16, 2009, Governor David Paterson introduced a bill that would make New York the sixth state to allow same-sex marriage, and on May 12, 2009, The State Assembly approved that legislation. Legal marriage confers over 1,300 state rights and responsibilities, which current law does not allow same-sex couples to assume.

**SCENE THREE:** The media has put a lot of spin on this issue because it is a hot button topic and makes for a heated debate, making "exciting" news. Reports are continually making marriage equality seem impossible, and the topic of gay marriage is shamefully used as a political wedge around election times. We must realize that, because we have the Governor and

Assembly's support, we are so much closer than we think. Our fate now lies completely with the State Senate.

**SCENE FOUR:** THE GREAT NEWS IS...for the first time EVER, we now have a State Senate Majority Leader, Malcolm Smith, who is a devout supporter of LGBTQ rights and is committed to putting the bill on the agenda once he knows there have been enough votes secured to pass it. THIS IS AMAZING NEWS, and as you can probably begin to see, we have work to do!

**SCENE FIVE:** We all need to remember that our representatives, much like agents in showbiz, work for US! Without our vote, they don't have a job. Therefore, they are waiting to hear from us and how we feel about this issue so they know how they should vote when the bill is heard on the Senate floor. It is imperative that we join together as a community, get actively involved, and make our voices heard all the way to the capital!

**SCENE SIX:** (THE ACTION!) Here we go. Don't be scared, BroadwayImpact is going to make this as simple as possible:

- 1) go to [www.BroadwayImpact.com](http://www.BroadwayImpact.com)
- 2) click on the green bar "CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR STATE SENATOR"
- 3) fill in your street address in LINE 1, fill in the city, state, and zip code
- 4) click "Look Up Zip +4"
- 5) click on the name of the senator that appears on the next screen
- 6) copy his/her information down, enter their phone # into your cell
- 7) use the attached "SAMPLE LETTER" as a guide for your letters and use the following as a guide when calling your senator:

"HI! I'm \_\_\_\_\_, and I live at \_\_ (your address and zip)\_\_. I am a constituent of your district and I would like you to vote YES on the Marriage Equality Bill (S:4401). Thank you."

IT'S THAT EASY! If you want to add your own personal story (and if they are willing to hear it) GO FOR IT. Remember, they are just people, and they are waiting to hear from us!

**SCENE SEVEN:** (THE ACT ONE FINALE!)

We have less than 20 days until the senate session ends for the year, and if we don't get our senators to vote for this in the next 20 days, this bill will die. WE HAVE TO ACT NOW! Keep calling, writing, and emailing, and tell your all your NY State friends and family to do the same, and...

STAY TUNED for Act II !

[www.BroadwayImpact.com](http://www.BroadwayImpact.com)