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CONTACT: Jay Blotcher
Public Impact Media Consultants
845-612-9837
sally@publicimpactpr.com

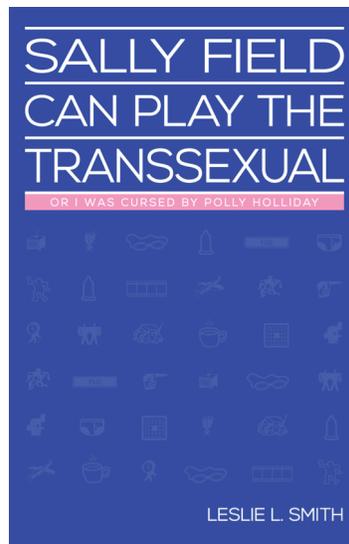
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A serio-comic tale of sex, loss, redemption
and pharmaceuticals in the modern AIDS era.

SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL

Or I Was Cursed by Polly Holliday

by Leslie L. Smith



We proudly announce the publication of **SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL** by Leslie L. Smith. This is the first novel to deal with the current state of the AIDS epidemic among the gay male community, the newest PrEP and PEP treatment options, and the misinformation, moral dilemmas and need for innovations as we approach the fourth decade of American life with HIV/AIDS.

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In this tale of bruising black humor, heartbreaking loss and inspiring insight, David Mathews is a gay male escort with a penchant for keeping the responsibilities of adulthood at arm's length. When his closest friend Robert Jeffers dies from AIDS, David struggles deeply with the mourning process. The loss is complicated by the fact that the successful magazine publisher has left David a small fortune, a high-rise apartment and a luxury beach house. Reeling from the death of his mentor, and equally puzzled by his new inheritance, David is suddenly called home to Arkansas, to visit his dying mother and his estranged family. Unexpectedly, David has a traveling companion: the ghost of Robert Jeffers. He rides shotgun on the trip, intent on supporting his protégé — but also committed to challenging David's careless and narrow worldview on life, love, intimacy and safe sex.

Along this journey, alternately surreal and touching, David meets a gallery of fascinating people. They include a philosophy-spouting Long Island diner waitress, a sexy, young Arkansas artist promoting AIDS education, and a Christian transsexual nurse. All play a role in offering life lessons that propel David into emotional maturity.

An honest and unyielding examination of the challenges of gay male life in America today, **SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL** offers laughs, tears and universal life lessons for anyone searching for a past, present and future.

Author Leslie L. Smith has been an active member of the LGBT community for many years. He sat on the Board of Directors of [The Trevor Project](#), the LGBT youth organization, and served as special events producer for [The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center](#) in New York City. He produced benefit events for ACT UP Treatment and Data Committee, [Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS](#) and [AIDS Walk/Los Angeles](#). Smith's charity event production has raised more than 13 million dollars. Smith was artistic director of Manhattan's Revelation Theater; he directed the Drama Desk-nominated production of "Temporary Help" by David Wiltse, starring Chad Allen, Robert Cuccioli and Margaret Colin.

SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL is a rare literary work that tackles a challenging subject: how the gay male community will move forward, caught between the tragedy of the early years of the epidemic and the new medical advancements that will change the playing field forever. Author Leslie L. Smith addresses these issues with optimism, brutal honesty and a large dose of black comedy. The result is a powerful reading experience for anyone ever affected by the AIDS crisis.

Please consider reviewing **SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL** in April or May in advance of the May 21 publication date. Leslie L. Smith is available for interviews to discuss how his novel was informed by his real-life experiences (Smith became HIV-positive at age 20) and why he feels PrEP and PEP mark a new era in combating HIV/AIDS. Thank you for your interest in **SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL**.

Praise for SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL by Leslie L. Smith:

"Leslie Smith and I share more than a first name. He has such a wonderfully dry sense of humor. He has always been a favorite of mine. But who knew? He can write! This book is *my* era! This book is *my* story of people I know! Or better put... *our* era.... *our* story. You will laugh, you will cry and best of all... you will *think!!!*"

— Leslie Jordan, *Will & Grace, American Horror Story*

"A poignant, incisive and unflinching exploration of a young man's journey toward self-acceptance in the face of loss. Through the story of a bitter Southern dreamer and hustler adrift in New York, Leslie L. Smith writes with candor and compassion of a generation grappling with desire, disease and the hope for social change."

— Robert J. Hughes, author of *Late and Soon*

"Leslie Smith has written a hell of a book. It's a roller coaster of a ride full of sex, sadness, loss and humor. It's a punch in the gut, a wake-up call and a confessional inspiration all in one. You will have a hard time putting this book down!"

— Julie Halston, actress and comedienne

"Leslie L. Smith gives us a wide-ranging novel of sex and spirit, evoking a New York riven by AIDS and torn by a regretful past and uncertain future."

— Stephen Greco, author of *Now and Yesterday*

About the author of SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL:



Leslie L. Smith received his MA in Educational Theater and a BA in Creative Writing, both at New York University.

His 1997 film "[David Searching](#)," starring Anthony Rapp, Camryn Manheim, and Julie Halston, was screened at more than 65 film festivals across the world and also had a British release. "David Searching" now belongs to the permanent collection at the Outfest Legacy Project/UCLA film archive. A New York City theatre producer, Smith is a member of the League of Off-Broadway Theaters and Producers and previously served on the Administration Committee for the Lucille Lortel Awards.

Smith is the editor of "[Leaving The Rest: Gay Men On Alcoholism, Addiction, And Sobriety](#)," available from Magnus/Riverdale Avenue Books. He has written for numerous publications, including *Premiere*, *Movieline*, *Out*, *POZ* and *The Advocate*. The author divides his time between New York City and the Jersey Shore.

SALLY FIELD CAN PLAY THE TRANSSEXUAL by Leslie L. Smith

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