

# 1984.....



**WAR IS PEACE  
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY  
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH**

**THE ARMIDALE PLAYHOUSE  
OCTOBER 2022**



# Armidale Drama and Musical Society

Presents

A new adaptation by  
Michael Gene Sullivan of

# 1984

by George Orwell

Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell (Copyright, 1949) by permission of  
Bill Hamilton as the Literary Executor of the Estate of the Late  
Sonia Brownell Orwell, adapted by Michael Gene Sullivan.

By arrangement with A.M.Heath and CO.LTD. London  
Director - Warren Bartik



## President's Message

On behalf of the ADMS welcome to our 5th production for 2022 an adaptation of George Orwell's famous novel "1984". If you had said to me a few years ago we would be staging 5 productions with still another one to come in the near future, I would have laughed.

However, with our new venue the Armidale Playhouse it has allowed us a lot more scope and opportunity to provide members with the opportunity to "tread the boards" and to you, our audience, to access a wider variety of performances across the whole spectrum of theatre.

The themes and story of "1984" is perhaps never more relevant to us now as we live in a world of much upheaval and turmoil at the moment. This is thought provoking and disturbing theatre brought to you by our talented cast lead by our director Warren Bartik.

Hold on to your seats it could be a bumpy ride!!!

**Neil Horton**  
President  
ADMS



## Warren Bartik - Director

Warren has undertaken a variety of production roles including writing, directing, and producing since moving to Armidale in 1994. In 2012 Warren was a member of Opera New England as the business manager and stage manager of its very successful opera productions from 2013 to 2017. For the ADMS, Warren directed "Tommy" the musical 2016, "Proof" the play 2017, and "Singin in the Rain" 2019. He has also undertaken the role of stage manager for the recent ADMS productions of "A Bunch of Amateurs" 2018 and "Mamma Mia" 2021.



## Director's Note

George Orwell's novel "1984" has always held a fascination for me since first studying it in high school many years ago. The thoughts and ideas it contained I found gripping and vaguely terrifying and I have read it many times since. The power of the novel's relevance some 73 years after its publication is evident in the way so much of its language has become part of our everyday lexicon with expressions like big brother is watching, alternate facts, fake news, double speak, thoughtcrime, and controlling the present by controlling the past. But more than language is its representation of the price of dehumanisation when mass media regulation, government surveillance, and totalitarian

control allow autocrats to manipulate and control people and their thoughts, ideas and lives. Orwell's novel has been described as a demoralizing post-World War II dystopian vision of global totalitarianism. It highlights why we should resist mass control and oppression lest the world succumb to omnipresent power that no-one can oppose or stop without fear of gaol, disappearance, or death. We are all too well aware of the inhumanities and brutalities that are threatened and enacted in our current day and age upon countries, populations, and religious, cultural, sexual, and ethnic groups in the name of nationalism.

Orwell's novel ends with an appendix the publisher wanted to ditch, but Orwell would not allow this suggesting its importance to him. This appendix is an essay on *'The Principles of Newspeak'* and describes how standard English (Oldspeak) could be perverted and streamlined so as to render independent thought and speech totally impossible. The essay finishes with the date of 2050 and thus the last word of the novel. The appendix makes reference to Winston Smith even though O'Brian said he would be obliterated from history. It also references the American Declaration of Independence, together with Shakespeare, Byron, Dickens to name a few, and that these originals writings would also be destroyed. So while the novel is a warning for the human race, I think Orwell remained hopeful that humanity could rise above oppression and thus these names be preserved and not removed - at least by 2050.

In the play as in the novel, Winston Smith is no hero. There is nothing particularly special about him, he is the everyman exemplified by his surname. However his desire to love and be loved by someone (Julia) becomes the single most important thing for him to hold onto despite the attempt to cleanse him as a 'clear, clean glass'. This simple message of life and love, the importance of family and friends, is something we should all take stock of.

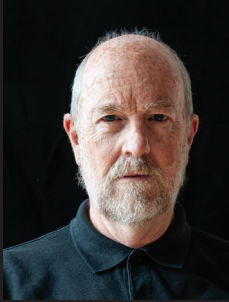
My thanks to the cast who have so embraced this production. It has been a pleasure to see how they have developed and crafted their characters to present to you on stage. A special mention for Rebecca Tafra who so willingly stepped into roles during rehearsal to allow me to step out as the director. Thank you also to the production team with special mention of Pat Bradley for his mechanical and technical wizardry that combined with Steve Sharpe's lighting design you will experience at this performance.

Lastly, thank you to you the audience for supporting the ADMS and the production of drama at our wonderful Armidale Playhouse. I hope you find this piece of theatre thought provoking and it causes you to pause and reflect.

**Warren Bartik**

Director

## 1984 CAST



### David Young

Party Member 4/Kid 1/Charrington/Parsons/O'Brian:

Since playing Marie Antoinette's sister in an Operetta in 6th grade David has been involved in Drama and Musicals most of his life in various towns where he has lived across New England and on Norfolk Island. David has also dabbled in production roles including as SM for the ADMS play "Proof" in 2017. His recent performance efforts locally were last year in the chorus of "Mamma Mia" and in Favourite Shorts for the ADMS. He is moving more into character roles these days!

### Gabriel Donleavy

Voice/O'Brian:

Gabriel has had a lifetime of occasional acting, directing and acting in amateur dramatic society plays since he played Manes in "The Birds" by Aristophanes at school in Birmingham, England in 1961. In Singapore in 1984 he played the lead doctor in "Whose Life is it Anyway?" Since arriving in Armidale in 2015, Gabriel has written plays for Favourite Shorts, performed in "Resonance", played the inspector in "An Inspector Calls", and now O'Brian in this production of "1984" in which he has learnt to love Big Brother when he is not watching.



### Lisa Quast

Party Member 3/Kid 2/Syme/Rally Speaker:

Lisa is a "professional" actor, contracted to the Universities of New England, Newcastle and Melbourne to play roles within their various Schools of Health - dream job, and she gets paid for it! Her stage addiction began as a competitive Bush Poet touring NSW, QLD and Vic. Upon moving to Armidale in 2008, she was introduced to the ADMS whilst watching "Titanic" and has remained a keen performer and supporter of all things theatrical ever since. Lisa also relishes dipping her toes in the exciting waters of UNE

Theatre Studies productions when given the opportunity. She sings in every local choir that she is eligible to join, and is well known for her collections of shoes and wigs. If something looks a bit out of her comfort zone....bring it on!

## 1984 CAST



### Mark Lawless

Winston Smith:

Mark has a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre and Performance Arts. He has performed in a number of productions for the ADMS and UNE Theatre Studies over a period of 20 years. Some of his most recent roles in other quality productions include "A Streetcar Named Desire", "Trojan Barbie" and "Inheritance". Mark is looking forward to the challenge of bringing Winston Smith to the stage.

### Rebecca Tafra

Julia/Telescreen Announcer:

Rebecca is a local actor and musician. She has recently returned to the stage in Empty Space Production's inaugural theatre show "Fools For Love" as the loveable yet troubled Girleen 2022. Her other acting credits include; UNE Theatre "Homesick" 2017 and "Hamlet" 2018. Her ADMS credits include "Jesus Christ Superstar" 2014. She was also part of Felt Tip Theatre throughout 2014. Rebecca is ecstatic to have been selected for "1984", she remembers her first time reading the Orwell novel as a moment of awakening and hopes to share that feeling with the audience.



### Valerie Dalton

Party Member 2/Julia/Mrs Parsons:

Valerie's interest in acting was reignited while undertaking her PhD research at the Sydney Theatre Company in 2014. Her first play for the ADMS was "The Lyons" in 2016. Since then, she has appeared in "Favourite Shorts", "A Bunch of Amateurs" and "Inheritance". In 2021 she appeared in High Country Theatre's production of "In Bed with the Bishops", a short film, "Death and Other Vanities", and a UNE Theatre Studies production. She has plans to steal Lisa Quast's shoe collection when her feet finish growing and also has an eye on the wigs!



### Warren Bartik

Party Member 1/Winston Smith:

Warren is no stranger to the Armidale stage with performance, writing, and production roles over the last 25 years for the ADMS, the Armidale Playhouse, community productions, Opera New England, and some film and television roles. Warren has sung and acted in various local musical and drama productions including "Les Misérables", "Cabaret", "Forum", "The Laramie Project", "Orpheus in the Underworld", "Blood Brothers", "Titanic", "Urinetown", with the last being "The Hatpin" in 2012. This role in '1984' marks a 10-year return to the stage for Warren, he wonders what role there might be in another 10-years' time!





## **1984 Play Synopsis: This play comprises two Acts with an intermission.**

Sullivan's adaptation of Orwell's classic novel is set in a constant present. In a nation where fervent and unquestioning patriotic zeal is expected of every citizen, where having rebellious thoughts is a crime, and where love of anything but The State and Big Brother is treason, Winston Smith is being interrogated for his "thoughtcrimes".

The play commences following Smith's capture and interrogation (part 3 of the novel). In a small cell in the Ministry of Truth, four Party Members under an omnipresent 'voice' who is controlling the interrogation, compel Smith to confess his crimes through their re-enactment as real time interrogation used to intimidate, cajole, confuse, arouse, and threaten. The Party Members read aloud from Smith's incriminating diary and alternate between their roles as assistant interrogators and their depiction of the characters from his diary.

This adaptation by Sullivan draws on the original Orwell text. The first two-thirds of the play presents the events leading up to Smith's capture. With the entry of the chief interrogator, Smith is forced to confront the reality of his situation and his ultimate fear. This tests his ability to hold onto the one thing he holds dear for his sanity and sense of self which is the memory of his love and relationship with Julia that of course stands in direct opposition to the party discipline of love only for Big Brother. We bear witness to Smith's memories played out on the stage but in stark contrast to the cold clinical plight of his interrogation cell and the diary depictions enacted by his interrogators. After all, Big Brother can't get inside your head, can he?

What of you as a member of the audience. Are you a passive observer of Smith's plight and his flesh-and-bone embodiment of suffering humanity and what judgements would you make?

What would you do in such a situation if you imagine a boot stamping on a human face...forever!

## **Behind the Scenes**

**Director** - Warren Bartik

**Producer** - Neil Horton

**Stage Manager and Properties** - Deborah Hunter

**Set Design** - Warren Bartik

**Set Construction** - Pat Bradley, Neil Horton, Greg Quast, Warren Bartik

**Publicity** - Marney Tilley

**Set/Prop/Technical Engineer** - Pat Bradley

**Lighting Design and Operation** - Stephen Sharpe

**Sound and Video Operation** - Archie Todd

**Costume Advisor** - Deborah Hunter

**Photography** - Terry Cooke, Cary Bennett

**Front of House Manager** - Liz Ellis

**Front of House Staff** - Members of ADMS

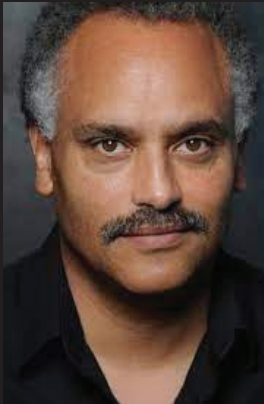
THANK YOU TO THE ARMIDALE SCHOOL (TAS) and Andrew McConnell and The TAS Hoskins Centre.



## About the Author:

1984 was the last novel written by George Orwell and completed during many hospitalisations for tuberculosis from which he ultimately died. He was born Eric Arthur Blair in Bengal, India on 25 June 1903 but raised and educated in England. Following his schooling, he became a policeman in Burma but returned to England and commenced his writing career under the pen name of Orwell with his success as a writer growing in the early 1930's. He fought in the Spanish Civil War initially to combat Fascism but found himself caught up in factional fighting on both sides. Orwell was also aware that he and his wife were being spied upon when in Barcelona. Orwell was wounded in the throat from a sniper's bullet, he had been warned not to stand up in the trenches being over 6ft tall, and eventually sought passage back to London. At the start of

WWII, Orwell was declared unfit for military service and joined the home guard. His first wife Eileen worked in the Censorship Department of the Ministry of Information. Orwell commenced work with the BBC Eastern Service with a key role to supervise cultural broadcasts to counter Nazi propoganda. Orwell published Animal Farm in August 1945 to world-wide success given its resonance in the post-war climate, and commenced writing 1984 in 1946 but his health continued to decline. He completed the final manuscript in late 1948 and the novel was published in June 1949 to critical acclaim. Orwell died in London in January 1950. His literacy legacy was far broader than his two best known novels, and included journalism, essays, newspaper and magazine columns, and reportage.



## About the Playwright:

Michael Gene Sullivan is a playwright, director, and actor based in San Francisco Bay. His plays have been performed in the United States, Greece, England, Scotland, Spain, Columbia, Ukraine, The Netherlands, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, and at the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

Michael is a resident playwright for the Playwrights Foundation, a 2017 Playwriting Fellow for the Djerassi Arts Foundation, and since 2000 has been Resident Playwright for the Tony and OBIE award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe, where he has written or co-written over 30 plays, each year creating a new comedy, drama, or musical dissecting a current burning political issue. Michael's non-Mime Troupe plays include the award winning all-woman farce Recipe, his critically acclaimed

one person show, Did Anyone Ever Tell You-You Look Like Huey P. Newton?.

This award-winning stage adaptation of George Orwell's 1984 opened at Los Angeles' Actors' Gang Theatre under the direction of Academy Award winning actor Tim Robbins. 1984 has since toured nationally and internationally, and been published in two languages. A ferocious and provocative adaptation of one of the most prescient works of literature of the last century.







## DONATIONS TO ARMIDALE PLAYHOUSE

The Armidale Playhouse ADMS would like to thank everyone for their generous support towards the renovation of The Armidale Playhouse. There is still much to do to develop and maintain Armidale's only community theatre. If you would like to donate, APH now has Tax Deductible status and donations of \$25, \$50, or more are very welcome. Donations of \$100 or more are acknowledged on the Donor Recognition Page (<https://www.adms.org.au/playhouse-donors>).





STILL TO COME IN 2022

ADMS PRESENTS:

# COMPANY

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
STEPHEN SONDHEIM  
BOOK BY GEORGE FURTH

*"someone to crowd you with love,  
someone to force you to care,  
someone to make you come through,  
who'll always be there..."*

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
BRUCE MENZIES

DIRECTOR & DESIGNER  
ANDREW O'CONNELL

2022 NOVEMBER 4, 5, \*6, 11, 12, \*13 7:30PM, \*2PM

**STARRING**

TAHNEE DENTON, KATE FRAZIER,  
ZOE GEORGE, LANA HOWLETT, CAL HUNTER,  
RICHIE KIEHNE, JORDAN LANE, JONO MCATEER,  
JAMES MEYER, SARAH MEYER, EMILY STOCKER,  
GENEVA STOCKER, NICK TROON, EMILY WALDRON

**THE ARMIDALE PLAYHOUSE**

309 BEARDY ST, ARMIDALE NSW 2350

ADULTS \$37, CONC. \$30, CHILD \$22

[WWW.ADMS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.ADMS.ORG.AU)

SCAN FOR TICKETS



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LICENSED EXCLUSIVELY BY MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALASIA)  
ALL PERFORMANCE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY HAL LEONARD



**2022**