

AQUILA
THEATRE



1984

GEORGE ORWELL

FEBRUARY 4

AQUILA THEATRE PRESENTS
GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY MICHAEL GENE SULLIVAN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 • 7 PM
GUNTER THEATRE

Cast

Party Member 3: Daniel Rylee Bush
Party Member 1: Daniel Cassidy
Party Member 2: Maggie McMeans
Winston: Reece Richardson
Party Member 4: Cameron Robertson
O'Brien/Voice: Hannah Sinclair Robinson

Creative Team

Director & Scenic Designer: Desiree Sanchez
Lighting Designer: Stevie Mackie
Projection Designer: Lianne Arnold
Costume Designer: Lauren Gaston
Sound Designer: Lucas Cardwell

Production Team

Production Stage Manager: Alex Duncker
Technical Director: Bryan Marks
General Management: Perry Street Theatricals
Scenic Builder: Bjorn Perris Goller-Hagood

Aquila Staff

Executive Artistic Director: Desiree Sanchez
Founding Director: Peter Meineck
General Management: Perry Street Theatricals
Accountants: InsightLedger

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

The taking of photographs or the use of any kind of recording device is strictly prohibited.



Aquila Theatre

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GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984

The play is set in London, several years after a major war that changed the global order. The world has been divided into three super-states: Eastasia, which includes China, Japan, Mongolia, and Tibet; Eurasia, which includes the northern part of the European and Asiatic land-mass, from Portugal to the Bering Strait; Oceania includes the continents of North and South America, Atlantic islands including the British Isles, Australasia, and the southern portion of Africa. These superpowers are constantly at war with each other, often shifting alliances as they battle over unclaimed portions of the world.

Oceania, where the play is set, is governed by a totalitarian regime which controls the state by monitoring its people through personal screens.

Act 1: A prison cell inside Oceania's Ministry of Love, the government department responsible for upholding the citizens' love of the state's leader, named Big Brother. It is a place where torture and psychology are used to force compliance. Winston Smith, an employee of the Ministry of Truth, whose job is to rectify news articles so they align with the ideology of the state, is being held in this cell. Interrogators, known as Party Members, are *helping* Winston to confess his crimes against the state by reenacting key moments of his transgressions. The entire interrogation is directed by a voice heard over a loudspeaker.

Act 2: The same. Winston must face the final phase of his conversion and meet the person behind the voice.

CAST BIOS

Daniel Rylee Bush: Daniel recently graduated from Shenandoah Conservatory with a BFA in acting and moved to NYC to pursue a career in performing. Some of his favorite performances include *The Dumb Waiter*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and *The Whipping Man*. Daniel is also a guitar player, playwright, and singer. His short *Fast, Ugly, and F**ked up* recently premiered at NY Winterfest where it reached the top three in the shorts category.

Daniel Cassidy: is a Liverpoolian actor based in Liverpool and Manchester. Having completed a degree in Accounting and Finance in 2016, his theater training has since included various classes across the North-West of England, including with David Johnson and Jim Cartwright. Theater credits include: *Bottleneck* (Liverpool's Royal Court Studio/Hiding Place Theatre); *Thorn* (Oldham Coliseum Studio); *Those Two Weeks* (Gladstone Theatre). Film credits include: *Being Keegan* (Stephanie Zari). Daniel is also a proficient pianist.

Maggie McMeans: is an NYC-based theater and film actress. She received a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she trained at

the Meisner Studio. Her theater credits include *Top Girls*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, and the North American tour of *Friends! The Musical Parody*.

Reece Richardson: Trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain. Theatre credits include: *The Claykickers Chorus* (Wild Thyme Productions); *The Tempest* (The Lord Chamberlain's Men); *Up 'n' Under* and *Oh! What a Lovely War* (Oldham Coliseum); *The Tempest* (Stafford Gatehouse Theatre); *Closer* (Black Box Theatre York); *Othello* (Stafford Gatehouse Theatre); *Home and Beauty*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Lady in the Van*, *A Little Night Music* (all Pitlochry Festival Theatre); *Macbeth* (Young Shakespeare Company); *Virtual Heroes* (Vienna's English Theatre); *No Naughty Bits* (Hampstead Theatre). Film credits include: *Hamlet* (Globe Research Department); *The Old Man of Waterloo* (History in the Making); *Dreaming of Peggy Lee* (Big Mop Productions).

Cameron Robertson: After a degree in Classical Studies & History at the University of Wales, Lampeter, Cameron trained at

Drama Studio London. Theater credits include: *Of Mice and Men* (Selladoro UK No.1 tour); *For King & Country* (Southwark Playhouse); *Turkey* (Hope Theatre); *The Miser* (Garrick Theatre); *Les Blancs* (National Theatre); *The 39 Steps* (MFP); *Surgeon to the Dead* (Dream Team); *Macbeth* (Young Shakespeare Company); *Letters From Everyone* (Lonesome Schoolboy Productions); *A Trick to Catch the Old One* (Mercurius Theatre); *Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Principal Theatre); *Stag* (Courtyard Theatre). Television and film credits include: *Saved* (ITV); *Conspiracy* (Channel 5); *The Adventurer: the Curse of the Midas Box* (Cinema One SPV 5) and *The Wee Man* (Carnaby Films).
cameron-robertson.co.uk

Hannah Sinclair Robinson: Studied at Bath Spa University gaining a BA in Performing Arts; she then went on to train for her MA in Acting at East 15 Acting School. Since graduating in 2016 she has worked across theater and television, most recently playing the role of Helena in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Shakespeare in the Squares), Mandela in *Water, Bread and Salt* (Tangle International), Annette in *Timothy* (Joyous Guard) and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in the Squares). Television credits include: *Doctors* (BBC), *Eastenders* (BBC), *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (Hulu), *Killer Cops* (CBS Reality). Hannah is very excited to be joining Aquila this Spring. @heyitshannahrs

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION BIOS

Desiree Sanchez (Director) has been Aquila's artistic director since 2012. Past productions for Aquila include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Frankenstein*, *Hamlet*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Our Trojan War*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, *Philoctetes*, *The Tempest*, *Wuthering Heights*, *A Female Philoctetes* (BAM Fisher's Hillman Studio), *Twelfth Night*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Herakles* (Festival of the Aegean in Syros, Greece, at the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation in Athens and at BAM), *Macbeth*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Desiree wrote the stage adaptations for Aquila's productions of *Frankenstein*, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and *Wuthering Heights*, and choreographed for: *A Very Naughty Greek Play*, based on Aristophanes' *Wasps*, *Julius Caesar*, *Catch-22*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Iliad: Book One*. Desiree had a 20-year dancing career, which included working as a principal dancer for the Metropolitan Opera Ballet.

Stevie Mackie (Lighting Design): Early in Stevie's career he discovered the playground that is "theater" and he had a long and notable spell working worldwide with West-End and Broadway shows such as *Tap Dogs* and *Kat and the Kings*, as well as a 12-month arena tour with Sarah

Brightman in the USA. He jumped off the tour bus to join Birmingham Royal Ballet as Deputy Head of Lighting, working on many notable new works such as *Carmina Burana* and *Arthur Part 2*, as well as a full repertoire of classical ballet performances around the world. His lighting design credits include *Carnival of the Animals*, *Concerto for Two*, *Lately Undone*, *Present Fears*, and *Unfinished Sympathy*. Recent credits include *Frankenstein* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Aquila Theatre); *Sleeping Beauty* (UK Productions); *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* (Nick Brooke Ltd); *Aladdin* (UK Productions); *Swan Lake* (English National Ballet, UK tour); *Guys and Dolls* (Kilworth House); *Sleeping Beauty* (English National Ballet, US tour) and the UK Tour of *Boxes* (Purple Theatre/Nottingham Playhouse). Stevie is pleased to return to the US to create designs for *1984* and *The Odyssey*.

Lianne Arnold (Projection Design) is a video and scenic designer and interdisciplinary artist working in theater, opera, music, dance, film and art installation. For Aquila: *Hamlet* and *Sense and Sensibility*. Other recent credits include *Jazz Singer* (Abrons); *The Hello Girls* (59E59); *Oscar at the Crown* (3 Dollar Bill); *Lil Buck & Jon Boogz' Love Heals All Wounds* (CAP UCLA); *Words on the Street* (Baruch - also co-creator); *Joseph Keckler's Let Me Die* (Opera Philadelphia/FringeArts) and *Joseph Keckler's Train With No Midnight*

(Prototype Festival). She has exhibited video art and installations in galleries in New York and New Jersey with her collaborator Leslie Kerby. *Live Design Magazine* "Young Designer to Watch;" proud member of Wingspace Design Collective and USA829; MFA from CalArts. lianearnold.com

Lauren Gaston (Costume Design) is a Costume Designer whose work spans film, TV, theater, dance, and print. Over the last decade, Lauren has designed 50+ productions across North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Her design work has been featured by The Juilliard School (NYC), The Kansas City Repertory Theatre (MO) and The A.A. Bakruhsin State Theatre Museum (Russia). Recent design credits include: *Skylight* (Gulfshore Playhouse, FL) and The Drama League's *DirectorFest 2018* (Featuring *Gun and Powder*, Winner of the 2018 Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theater, NYC). More recently, Lauren has lent her design eye as a Background Fitter, working for companies such as Apple, HBO and New Line Cinema. While Lauren currently calls New York City base camp, she is a woman at home in the world.

Alex Duncker (Production Stage Manager) Hailing from beautiful Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Alex began her love affair with the performing arts at her local Western dinner theater. After progressing from showgirl to stage manager, she ventured east to pursue a theater degree from the University of Vermont. Now – having dabbled in film, expanded her technical skills to include sound and lighting design, created a "pop-up theater" in NYC, and produced several award-winning original works – Alex joins the Aquila team for the second time to continue her career of working with women-led artistic endeavors.

Bryan Marks (Technical Director) is a Theatrical Technician and Lighting Designer based in Asheville, North Carolina. Recent design credits include *The Asheville Christmas Show* (Marlumor Productions); *The Diary of Anne Frank*

(Asheville Community Theatre) as well as many one-off shows at his home base, The Wortham Center for the Performing Arts. He is a graduate of UNC Asheville class of 2018, with a B.A. in Theatre. He would like to thank his mentors, Rob Bowen and Sylvia Pierce.

Lucas Cardwell (Sound Design) is excited to be working with the wonderful Aquila company on his very first professional production. He will be graduating from Fitchburg State University in December 2019 with a B.S. in Communications Media with a concentration in technical theatre and a minor in music. During his time in school, he has designed sound for productions such as *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim and *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Brevoort. He has also dabbled in many other theatrical areas such as stage managing *The Diviners* by Jim Leonard, technical directing for various events and theatrical showcases around the university, and servicing as President of the Falcon Student Theatre Company. Lucas is ecstatic to learn and grow from his experience with Aquila and is very much looking forward to the grand journey.

Perry Street Theatricals (General Management) David Elliott, Martin Platt, and Victoria Weinberg. A multi-award-winning Producing and General Management Company in New York City. For Aquila: the 2018-2019 tour of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the 2017-2018 tour of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Hamlet* and the 2017 Tour of *Our Trojan War*. Others include *Little Rock* (Sheen Center); *The Saintliness of Margery Kempe* (Duke on 42nd Street); *Georgie, My Adventures With George Rose* (Davenport and U.S. Tour); *Bedlam's Sense & Sensibility* (Gym At Judson); *Hamlet* and *Saint Joan* (Lynn Redgrave), and *New York Animals* (New Ohio); *Me the People* (The Triad); *Dear Jane* (Clurman); *That Golden Girls Show!* (DR2); *Missed Connections* (New Ohio); *My Life is a Musical* (Bay Street), and *White People* (Atlantic). Upcoming: *Ms Trial* (New World Stages).

AQUILA THEATRE

Aquila Theatre's mission is to make classical works accessible to the greatest number. A play becomes 'classical' because we recognize that after a time it transcends the original culture it was created for. It retains the power to provoke the central question of what it means to be human. As a company dedicated to the classics, we feel a responsibility to acknowledge and explore newfound classical works. Aquila was founded in London in 1991 by Peter Meineck. In 1997 Aquila became a U.S. not-for-profit organization and is currently based in New York. Aquila's programs include:

Productions in New York City: Aquila is a major part of New York's theatrical landscape, producing a regular season of plays. Aquila recently produced: *The Trojan War: Our Warrior Chorus*, based on the writings of Homer, Aeschylus, Euripides, and Sophocles, and reimagined through the experiences of modern day military veterans at Brooklyn Academy of Music; *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and *Philoctetes* at GK ArtsCenter in Brooklyn; a staged workshop production of *A Female Philoctetes* at BAM Fisher's Hillman Studio as part of the YouStories program; Euripides' *Herakles* at BAM; Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at the GYM at Judson; Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts at New York University; Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*; and Homer's *The Iliad: Book One* Off-Broadway at the Lucille Lortel Theatre.

A Major Annual National Tour: Aquila is the foremost producer of touring classical theater in the United States, visiting 50-60 American cities per year. Recent past touring seasons include: Shelley's *Frankenstein* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2018/19); *Hamlet* and Austen's *Sense & Sensibility* (2017/18); *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Murder on the Nile*, as well as *The Trojan War: Our Warrior Chorus* (2016/17); *Romeo and Juliet* and Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2015/16); *The Tempest* and Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* (2014/15); *Twelfth Night* and Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* (2013/14); *Taming of the Shrew* and Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* (2012/13); *Macbeth* and

Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2011/12); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (2010/11); *As You Like It* and Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* (2009/10).

International Performances: Aquila has appeared in numerous festivals and at venues around the world including performances in London, Holland, Germany, Greece, Scotland, Canada, Bermuda, at the Festival of the Aegean in Syros, Greece, and the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation in Athens. Most recently Aquila performed *A Female Philoctetes* in Athens, Greece, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at New York University's campus, La Pietra, in Florence, Italy, as part of their summer event series.

Education Programs: Aquila is dedicated to theater arts education and produces three major initiatives: Workshop America, a nationwide program that provides an opportunity for people to share in the art of Aquila; Theatre Breakthrough, which brings America's schools to the stage; and NY-based programs which include: Shakespeare Leaders, an after-school program that enables inner-city students to perform the classics at Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem, and Hear Our Call!, a summer Greek drama training program for NY based teens from immigrant, refugee, asylee, and underserved families in partnership with the Onassis Foundation and New York University.

Warrior Chorus: A national initiative that trains veterans to present innovative public programs based on ancient literature, presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Follow Aquila Theatre on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, aquilatheatre.com, warriorchorus.org and youstories.com.

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Representation

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