



Stage Write

The Newsletter of **ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE**

Volume 18, Number 3

October 2008

Big Brother comes to OnStage in George Orwell's classic *1984*

By Teri Brown

"In times of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."—George Orwell

Imagine a world where people fear their opinion cannot be expressed freely, where leaders are not held accountable for their deceptions, where censorship is mandated by government; a world where Ignorance is Strength, Freedom is Slavery and War is Peace. This is the world George Orwell created more than half a century ago and its prescience is stunning.

With our country on the verge of important political decisions, OnStage Playhouse brings George Orwell's timely novel of misplaced government authority to life.

Director James "Mike" McCulloch is returning to OnStage after directing the critically-acclaimed *Two Rooms* in 2006, and has assembled a talented cast to bring Orwell's world to life. Rob Conway, last seen at OnStage in *The Night of the Iguana*, tackles the role of Winston, the man who rebels against Big Brother with a plan to overthrow the government. Winston's love interest, Julia, will be played by Nicole Hagemeyer, fresh off her award-winning performance in last season's *Ordinary People*. Bob Christiansen plays Inner Party member O'Brien. Noelle Chaanine, Dan Feraldo, A. L. Haynes, Jessica Luna, James Paraiso, and Neal Sullivan round out the cast.

Ticket prices are \$15.00 general admission and \$13.00 students/seniors/military. Reservations may be requested on our web site,

www.onstageplayhouse.org. Groups of 10 or more can arrange reduced rates. Leave a message on the theatre telephone for Betsy Keller (619) 422-7787.

Curtain times are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. This production is produced by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois. There will be no performance on Thanksgiving evening, November 27.



Rob Conway as Winston Smith and Nicole Hagemeyer as Julia try to find love in the Party-controlled world of *1984*.

- photo by Tony Eisenhower

LOOKING for holiday laughter?

Don't miss fun-filled productions of *A Nice Family Gathering* and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*—Details on page 2.

TWO SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOWS COMING TO ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

THANKSGIVING-

A staged reading of

A Nice Family Gathering

Comedy by Phil Olson

Directed by Bob Christiansen

Two performances only: **Sunday, Nov 9 at 7 pm**
and Sunday Nov 23 at 7 pm

It is Thanksgiving at the Lundeen family home in Minnesota, and the first time the whole family has been together since Dad passed away. Mom is so happy that her three children will all be there: Michael, the doctor following in his father's footsteps; Carl, who wants to be a writer and drives a bakery truck right now but that's okay; and--what's her name--oh yah, Stacy, the overlooked member of the family who has a couple of surprise announcements. An unexpected guest shows up, Dad, who looks pretty good considering he passed away a couple of months ago. He can only be seen and heard by Carl, and he won't go to heaven until he tells his wife something that he forgot to tell her while he was alive--that he loved her.

An all-star cast of favorite OnStage actors will read this very funny script, which will leave you feeling good and may even inspire you to go home and tell a family member how much you love them. Mom will be played by Eileen Ivey, Neal Sullivan is Dad, Nathan Plummer is Carl, Chris Armour is Michael, Jenna Dawsey is Michael's emotional wife Jill, Layla Stuckey is sister Stacy, and Dan Feraldo is Mom's "guest" Jerry.

Yes, the Lundeens are all Minnesota nice, even complimenting Mom for serving hot dogs on Thanksgiving (actually Turkey dogs, as she points out). But they are not all that great at expressing their true feelings and sometimes forget to communicate. Anything like that ever occur in your family?

"A good heart is behind all this family silliness!" - Los Angeles Times

"Garrison Keillor meets "Topper" by way of "Fargo"!" - NPR

Tickets are only \$5. Bring the family!

CHRISTMAS-

A full production of

Every Christmas Story Ever Told

Comedy by Michael Carelton, Jim Fitzgerald and John Alvarez

Directed by Desmond Hassing

Five performances: **Thurs Dec 11, Fri Dec 12, Sat Dec 13 at 8 pm, Sat Dec 13 & Sun Dec 14 at 2 pm**

Reminiscent of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, (and brought to you by the same creative team that produced that show at OnStage in July of 2007), *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* attempts to plow through as many beloved holiday classics as possible in about an hour and a half (plus intermission).

The show opens with an actor reading a solemn production of *A Christmas Carol*, but the other two thespians involved just can't muster up enthusiasm for another round of Dickens' well worn classic. Instead they decide to cobble together a revue of memorable scenes from their favorite yuletide fare.

Over the course of the evening we're treated to: a condensed version of "Frosty the Snowman," a lawsuit avoiding rendition of "Rudolph the Green-Nosed Reingot", and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, complete with an audience member drafted to play Cindy Lou Who.

By the end of the show *A Christmas Carol* somehow gets combined into *It's a Wonderful Life*. If you consider such zaniness to be irreverent, then *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* is probably not for you. But everyone else will find this production family friendly and a perfect cure for those holiday shopping blues. However, it is not recommended for younger children, solely because they may find it confusing.

Brian Evans, Dan Zisko, and Nathan Plumber will serve as the storytellers.

"Warning: If you see *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, you'll never be able to watch Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* without laughing out loud." --David Jacobson, Life Newspapers (Sacramento)

All tickets are \$10.

Request reservations for both shows at onstageplayhouse.org or (619) 422-RSVP (7787)

MORE STARS NEEDED!

We are very grateful for those who have generously donated to meet some of our one-time needs at the Playhouse. Donors names appear on a plaque in our lobby near the entrance to the theater. There are still some needs to be filled. In particular, we are in need of a \$500 donation to purchase a computer for the tech booth to run videos and slide shows. Contributions of all sizes are welcome!

INTERN REPORT

by Kym Pappas

The 2008-2009 OnStage Playhouse Intern Program is now in full swing. We currently have six interns in our program: Johnny Flores, Allison Lutz, and Jewell Kaimen (Bonita Vista), Mia House (Mar Vista), Luis Carrillo and Maricela Galaviz (Castle Park).

The Interns are looking forward to the events that we have planned this season including our upcoming College Prep Workshop and Playwright Roundtables. One of our interns just completed his first "gig" at OnStage Playhouse: Johnny Flores was the Board Operator for Neil LaBute's *Fat Pig*.

We would also like to congratulate a few of our graduates, Noelle Chaanine is Stage Managing and will be appearing in *1984* at OnStage Playhouse at the end of this month, Megan Wymer just completed midterms in her first semester at San Jose State, and Erika Pallasigüe just directed her first production for Theatre Rice in her second year at UC Berkeley!

We currently have four available positions within the Intern Program. If you know a local high school junior or senior who would be interested in being a part of our program, please have them contact me at the theater as soon as possible: 619-422-7787 OR onstageplayhouse@excite.com.

The intern program is sponsored by a grant from the Chula Vista Office of Arts and Culture and donations from OnStage patrons. Contributions may be mailed to: Intern Program, OnStage Playhouse, P. O. Box 120044, Chula Vista, CA 91912, attn: Janis Vanderford.

This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the volunteer efforts of Bob Christiansen, Teri Brown, Kym Pappas, and Bruce Wilde.

President's Corner

By Bruce Wilde

I want to thank InnerMission Productions, especially Carla Nell and Kym Pappas for their excellent work on our joint production of *Fat Pig*. Both OnStage and InnerMission have every reason to be proud of this collaboration.

Sixty years ago, George Orwell peeked into the future and provided us with the prophetic book, *1984*. This warning of the power of government to enslave in the name of service is all the more powerful in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks on this country. As the election draws near, we hope for our future and we worry, knowing that 'Big Brother is Watching'.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

After-Play

Wry comedy by Anne Meara

Directed by Steve Murdock

Sunday, Nov 2 and Monday, Nov 3 at 7pm

A wildly funny and tender comedy is served up in a trendy Manhattan restaurant, where two couples have dinner after attending the theater.

Roles are available for three men and three women late 40s to early 60s to play three couples and one man any age and ethnicity to play a mysterious waiter.

The audition will be by cold readings from the script. No appointment is necessary, but please arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. Please bring a headshot and a current theatre resume. Further information is on our web site.

Around the County

We encourage you to support other community theatre companies in the county. Here are some of the upcoming shows being offered by our sister theatre groups in San Diego County.

Lobby Hero

PowPAC, Poway's Community Theatre

Thru Nov 9

Call (858) 679-8085

The Magic Forest

Coronado Playhouse

Thru Nov 23

Call (619) 435-4856

Reckless

Patio Playhouse, Escondido

Nov 14 - Dec 7

Call (760) 746-6669

Stage Write

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

Office Staff: Michael Turk Woodbury,
Lyandra South
Facilities Manager: Desmond Hassing

Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Bruce Wilde
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Lynne Batchelor	Rosemary King
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Theatre telephone: (619) 422-7787

Visit us on the web at

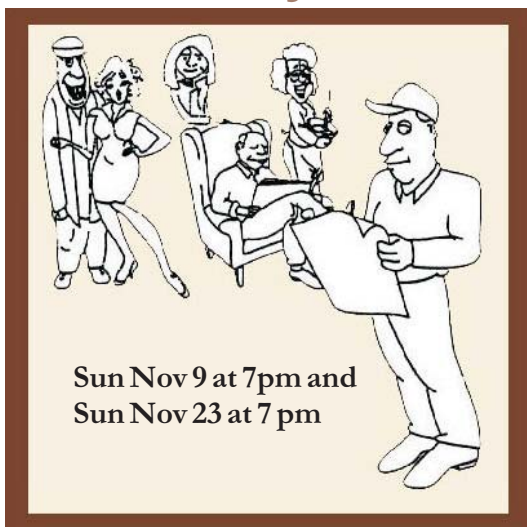
<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>

email: OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com

SPECIAL EVENT

This November--a staged reading at OnStage Playhouse.

A Nice Family Gathering



PLAYING AT ONSTAGE...

1984

Drama by Robert Owens & Wilton E. Hall Jr.
and William A. Miles Jr. from George Orwell
Directed by James Michael McCulloch
Oct 31 - Nov 29, 2008

After-Play

Wry comedy by Anne Meara
Directed by Steve Murdock
Jan 9 - Feb 7, 2009

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at
8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm.
(No performance Nov 27)

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

OUR THEATER IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CHULA VISTA AT 291
THIRD AVENUE, NEAR F STREET. LOOK FOR THE GREEN AWNING.

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a grant from Supervisor
Greg Cox and the County Board of Supervisors.
The 2008 Student Intern Program is funded in part a grant
From the Chula Vista Office of Arts and Culture.

SPECIAL EVENT

This December--a full production at OnStage Playhouse.



Thurs Dec 11, Fri Dec 12, Sat
Dec 13 at 8 pm, Sat Dec 13, Sun
Dec 14 at 2 pm