

Electric City Playhouse presents



Adapted by
**Robert Owens, Wilton E.
Hall Jr. and William A. Miles Jr.**

From the novel by
George Orwell

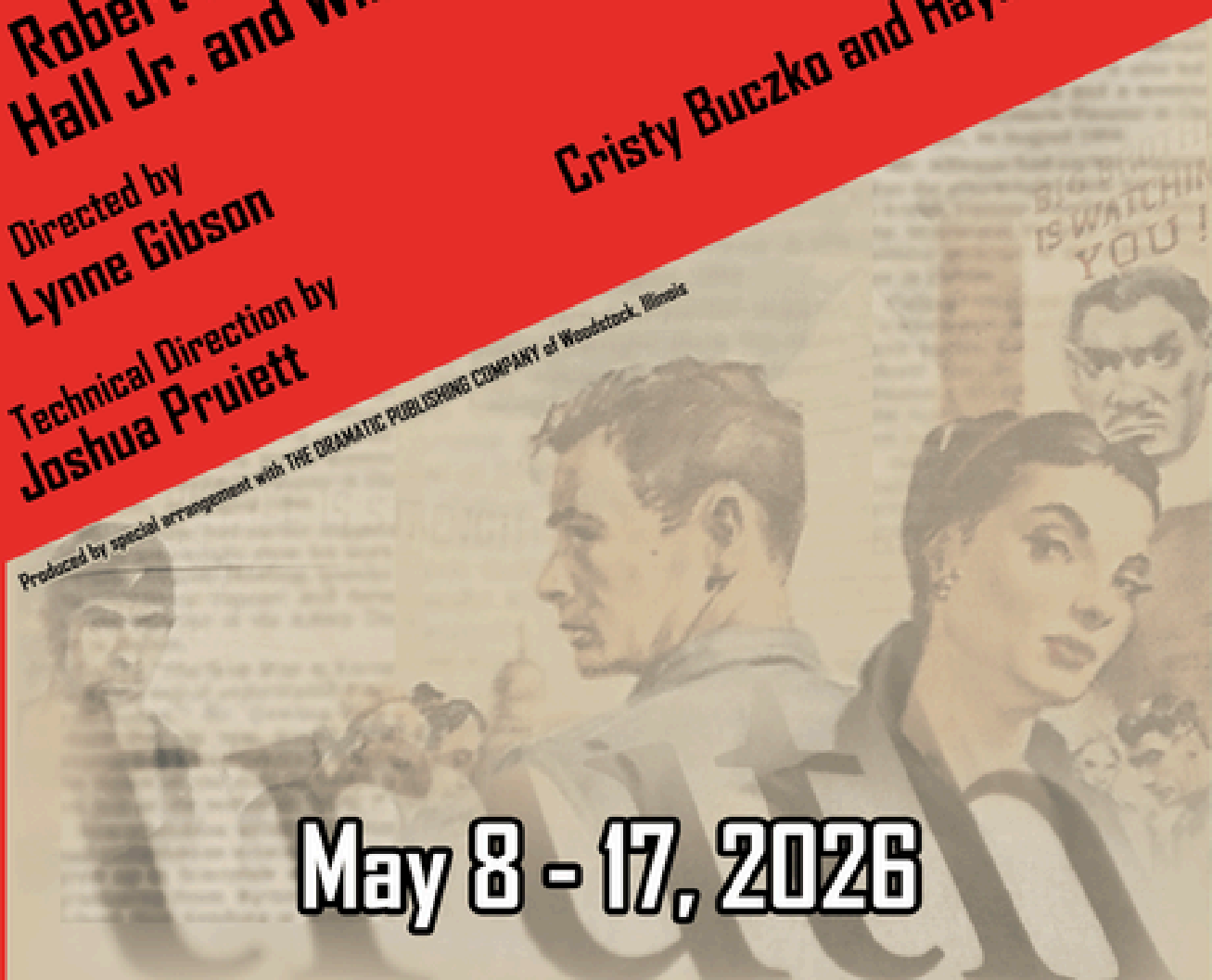
Directed by
Lynne Gibson

Produced by
Cristy Buczko and Hayes Schardt

Technical Direction by
Joshua Pruiett

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

May 8 - 17, 2026





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Director's Note

Usually, my Director's Notes are upbeat, encouraging, and full of praise for the cast and crew. This one is as well—to a point.

Our producers, technical staff, stage manager, and crew members have poured their hearts and souls into this production. I cannot thank them enough for sharing their time, talent, energy, and dedication. The cast of 1984 you are about to see is extraordinarily talented, and they will give you an unforgettable performance.

A special thank you to my Technical Director, Joshua Pruiett, for his support, enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to this production. It has been a pleasure to work with you. My endless thanks to my husband for once again helping bring the set I imagined to life on this stage.

And thank you to you, our audience, for supporting this theatre and attending tonight's performance. You are why we do this.

But that is where the upbeat portion of this note must end.

Because of 1984. Because of the nature of this story.

Because these warnings should unsettle us.

“He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past.”

Because Big Brother is watching. We know that truth all too well in a world of cameras, surveillance, and devices that constantly surround us.

Because thought control is real when disagreement is silenced, when power is used to punish dissent, when books are banned, when only one viewpoint is permitted, and when fear is used to demand conformity.

Because history reminds us what happens when societies surrender truth and freedom. We have seen it before—in persecutions, witch hunts, authoritarian regimes, genocide, and political fearmongering across generations.

That leads us to today.

We must be aware.

We are the present. If we erase the past, we risk losing the future.

As George Orwell once wrote:

“I do not believe that the kind of society I describe necessarily will arrive, but I believe something resembling it could arrive... Don't let it happen. It depends on you.”

With hope,
Lynne Gibson
Director of 1984 at ECP
May 2026

A Note From the President

To Our Honored Patrons,

Electric City Playhouse has been a part of the local arts community since 1984. We have been a nonprofit since the 90's and love being able to work in Anderson to help lift up our community. We have helped women receive feminine products with AIM, helped build with Habitat for Humanity, and helped raise money for the Cancer Association of Anderson to name a few.

You, as our patrons, are included in this. Supporting the arts helps support other parts of our community as well.

Here at ECP, we also love being able to showcase our local talent. The talent that I've seen come and go over the past decade is outstanding!

I am proud to serve this theater as their board President. Please join me as we build this beautiful piece of the upstate together in the arts for the future!

BRIANNA PRUIETT

Brianna Pruiett
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Scott Gibson



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Hanna George

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About the Show

This authorized stage adaptation is true to the novel in which Orwell depicts with great power the horrors of man's fate in a society where Big Brother is always watching—where everything that is not prohibited is compulsory. As your cast presents the play, you will be participating in a theatrical event that is both powerful and disturbingly provocative. Orwell himself once said, “I do not believe that the kind of society I describe necessarily will arrive, but I believe that something resembling it could arrive. The moral to be drawn from the dangerous nightmare situation is a simple one: Don't let it happen. It depends on you.”



PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Lynne Gibson
Tech Director.....Joshua Pruiett
Lead Tech Designer.....Hanna George
Producers.....Cristy Buczko & Hayes Schardt
Stage Manager.....Takara Thagard
Set Designer/Lead Construction Crew.....Scott Gibson
Construction Crew.....Scott Gibson, Lynne Gibson,
Kimberly Gibson, Dave Scanlon, Kaitlin Scanlon, Rain Scanlon,
Hayes Schardt, Hanna George, Cristy Buczko, Cole Lewis, Takara
Thagard, Megan Che
Set Decor & Props.....Cristy Buczko, Hayes Schardt, Keith
Buczko, Eugenia Heslin
Sound Design.....Hayes Schardt & Brianna Pruiett
Special Effects.....Joshua Pruiett
Lighting Design.....Hanna George
Costumes.....Hayes Schardt, Cristy Buczko, Cast Members



CAST

Loudspeaker Voice.....Hayes Schardt
Parsons.....Megan Che
Syme.....Conor Wise
Winston.....Adam Schubert
Messenger.....Lane Stone
Coffee Vendor.....Lauren Hall
First Guard/Martin.....Austin LeRoy
Second Guard.....Cole Lewis
O'Brien.....Dave Scanlon
Julia.....Natalie Hill
Goldstein's Voice.....Summer Beebe
Gladys/Glendon.....Levi Oliver
Landlady.....Eugenia Heslin
Waitress.....June Sala



WHO'S who

Hayes Schardt [Loudspeaker Voice]

This is Hayes's eighth show at ECP. She was previously seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird* [Mrs. Dubose], *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* [Merry], *Calendar Girls* [Ruth], *Misery* [Annie Wilkes] and *Little Shop of Horrors* [Narrator]. She also has been seen in *You Can't Get There From Here* [Myrtle], *The 39 Steps* [Annabella/Pamela/Margaret] and *A Murder is Announced* [Miss Marple]. Before relocating to South Carolina, she was active in Central Florida theater, with roles in *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Chamber Music*, the award-winning [Miss] at the Tampa Bay Theater Festival, along with numerous productions with Playwrights' Round Table at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, and at the Orlando Fringe Festival. Hayes dedicates this show to people working to make a better future, to librarians endeavoring to keep thinking people free and informed, and to Gypsy.



Megan Che [Parsons]

This is Megan's first foray into theatre, aside from volunteering backstage for her youngest child's performances of *The Nutcracker*. Megan is thrilled to be a part of such an important and timely production as *1984*, and has very much enjoyed every phase of the process. She would like to express her deep gratitude to the entire cast and crew for the ways they have supported her and lifted her up as she navigated the learning curve. It has been inspirational to be around so many people willing to give so much of their time and to work so hard. Megan would like to dedicate this performance to her three children, the most amazing people she knows. She would like to include a particular dedication to her youngest, her Little Bitty, for helping her see that this is something she could actually do.



Conor Wise [Syme]

This is Conor's debut with ECP. With almost a decade of experience, he is eager to lend his talents to bringing the bleak horror of *1984* to life. As a lover of all things spine chilling, he hopes to bring a truly unnerving look into the banality of evil under authoritarianism in what is easily the darkest performance of his career. Conor dedicates this play to the ghouls who suggested he audition.



Adam Schubert (Winston Smith)

Adam is honored to return to the spotlight in this production of *1984*. An Honor Thespian since his early days onstage, Adam spent much of his twenties immersed in the arts through music and film production. After a decade-long hiatus, he is thrilled to rediscover his passion for live theatre within Orwell's dystopian world.

Adam would like to deeply thank Electric City Playhouse for putting on this production and for the opportunity to step back into the craft. He is grateful to the cast, crew, and his family for their unwavering support during this homecoming to the stage.

Lane Stone (Messenger)

Lane Stone is excited to be part of the cast of *1984*. Lane has performed in seven plays and one musical. Favorite past roles include Ensemble in *Something Rotten!*, Krampus in *The Krampus Carol*, Dickie Harrington in *The Awesome 80s Prom*, and Gabriella in *The Witches Princess*. In August, Lane plans to attend University of South Carolina Beaufort to study marine biology. Outside of theatre, Lane enjoys sewing and all kinds of art. Lane would like to give a special shoutout to Momma and Dad for helping build the confidence to earn this role.



Lauren Hall (Coffee Vendor)

This is Lauren's first time onstage at ECP, and first time onstage since high school. Lauren performed in productions at Woodmont and Greenville High, including classics such as *Grease* and *Footloose*, and in a SCCT production of *Charlotte's Web*. She is excited to be involved and entertaining the community! Lauren dedicates her performance to her family.

Austin LeRoy (First Guard/Martin)

Austin LeRoy has been doing theatre for over three years. He has performed at Clemson Little Theatre, Market Theatre, and at Electric City Playhouse. At Clemson Little Theatre he debuted in *Blithe Spirit*, and was in *The 39 Steps*. At ECP, he debuted in *The Exonerated*, and was also seen in *Hairspray*, *Wait Until Dark*, *A Sherlock Carol*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. At Market Theatre he performed in *Rock of Ages*, *She Kills Monsters*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Something Rotten*.

Austin is a big fan of tabletop gaming, video games, and cosplaying at local conventions.





Cole Lewis (Second Guard)

Cole Lewis is an actor and stagehand who is excited to be part of this production of *1984*. While he has worked behind the scenes on shows such as *Carrie*, *Hairspray*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the stage has always been his first love. Cole would like to thank his fellow cast and crew for making this process doubleplusgood, and he hopes you enjoy the show.

Dave Scanlon (O'Brien)

This is Dave's seventh show with ECP. He has appeared in past productions of *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* [Sven], *Harvey* [Dr. Chumley], *Little Women* [Mr. Lawrence], *Hairspray!* [Cameo], *Wait Until Dark* [Mike Talman], and *To Kill a Mockingbird* [Nathan Radley and Boo Radley]. Dave is a stay-at-home dad when he's not performing and loves the outdoors. Dave dedicates this show to his best girls: Kaitlin and Rain Scanlon. Dave would also like to quote Dr. Sheldon Cooper: "This is absurd; I look ridiculous."



Natalie Hill (Julia)

Natalie Hill is excited to join the cast of *1984* and promises she is only mildly suspicious of any telescreens currently watching the performance. Around the Upstate of South Carolina, Natalie has appeared in various shows. Some favorites include: *Leading Ladies* [Meg], *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* [Olive], *The Birds* [Julia], *Les Miserables* [Eponine], *Carrie: the Musical* [Sue], and most recently, *Harvey* [Nurse Kelly]. When she's not onstage, she is usually reading several books contemporaneously, getting lost on a trail, playing guitar on a vineyard, or deciphering ways to get to the beach. Natalie thanks the cast and crew for the incredible experience—and reminds the audience that if anyone asks, she has always loved Big Brother. Natalie dedicates the show to Penelope, who believes the Two Minutes Hate should be reserved for the vacuum cleaner



Summer Beebe (Goldstein's Voice)

Summer is another "Jane of all trades" at ECP. She previously served as the Office Manager, trained the current [and fabulous] Office Manager, and has performed onstage in *Carrie: the Musical* [Margaret White], and *Little Shop of Horrors* [Ronnette]. Summer has been onstage or helping in theatre since 3rd grade [too many years to count - she just knows it's been a while]. Summer would like to dedicate this show to her son, Zane. May he forever be a voice of reason in this world of controlled chaos.





Levi Oliver (Glendon)

1984 is Levi's first production at Electric City Playhouse. Originally from Cartersville, Georgia, northwest of Atlanta, Levi moved to Anderson with his family at the beginning of summer 2025. Last summer, he appeared as Doody in Market Theatre's production of *Grease*. 1984 marks Levi's fifth stage production. His previous credits include *Alice in Wonderland*, *King of Hearts*, and *The Lion King* (Ed, the Crazy Hyena). Levi would like to thank his parents for their time and support in making this opportunity possible, as well as the director for her guidance and vision for the show.

Eugenia Heslin (Landlady)

Genie retired from the New York court system in 2021, and promised herself she would do one new thing every year. In 2022, it was community theatre! She has performed in several productions at ECP, Clemson Little Theatre, Foothills Playhouse, and Pickens Performing Arts. Favorite roles include *I Hate Hamlet* (Lillian), *Blithe Spirit* (Madame Arcati), *The Beverly Hillbillies* (Mrs. Drysdale), *The Game's Afoot* (Mrs. Gillette), and *The Unexpected Guest* (Miss Bennett). She tries to do a monthly 5K race [she uses the word "run" very loosely], grows vegetables with limited success, and enjoys time with her real life "Sam" and her wonderful supportive family. They are the ones clapping loudly. Special shout out to everyone who fights for freedom, in whatever ways are accessible to them. VOTE!



June Sala (Waitress)

June is excited to make her debut at ECP. She recently moved to South Carolina from California where she has been performing since high school and through college. Primarily focusing on musical theatre with a background in ballet, 1984 will be her step back into straight dramatic theatre. She once directed 1984 in high school; this will be her first time onstage for it. She may be playing the waitress, but as Konstantin Stanislavski once said, "There are no small parts, only small actors," so she will be giving it her all. June dedicates this performance to her fiancé, family, friends, and her beloved cats.



Lynne Gibson (Director)

Lynne Gibson is excited to return to the director's chair for the dystopian world of 1984. She believes the play carries an important message for the society we find outside our doors today and is honored to direct such a powerful and timely production. Some of her favorite shows she has previously directed include *Little Women*, *Calendar Girls*, *Misery*, *All's Well in Roswell [Isn't It?]*, and *A Seussified Christmas Carol*. She was most recently seen onstage as Jean Louise Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* here at ECP. Although Lynne holds degrees in Elementary Education and Speech/Theater Education, she has worked in a wide variety of jobs over the years, including Correctional Officer, first grade teacher [amazing how alike those two are...], Deputy Registrar, wading pool supervisor, daycare teacher, nanny, tourist trap salesperson, foster parent, vehicle transporter, and currently Security Officer. Her favorite roles, however, are wife and mother to the best husband and children in the world. Lynne has been active in the Upstate theatre community since 2013, shortly after moving from Colorado. Some of her favorite acting roles include Sister Hubert in *Nunsense*, Alice in *The Tin Woman*, Randa in *The Savannah Sipping Society*, and Abby in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Lynne hopes each of you finds this performance moving and meaningful. Thank you for attending!





Josh Pruiett (Tech Director)

Joshua has been a board member with ECP since 2016. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Board and has also served as past president. Josh has directed many productions at ECP, including *Carrie: The Musical* and *One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall*. His acting credits include Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*, Paul Sheldon in *Misery*, and Orin Scrivello, DDS in *Little Shop of Horrors*, along with many others. Josh would like to thank his wife, two children, and all of his friends at ECP for their encouragement and support.

Takara Thagard (Stage Manager)

Takara is thrilled to be stage managing the production, marking her second time in the role after stage managing *Wait Until Dark*. She has also performed onstage in *Hairspray* and most recently was featured in *To Kill a Mockingbird* [Calpurnia]. She loves being involved in theatre, both onstage and behind the scenes, and is grateful to work with such a talented cast and crew.



Hanna George (Lights/Tech)

Hanna George is ECP's head of marketing and resident art goblin who frequently creates props and scenic art for our shows. She has an MFA in digital production arts from Clemson University, and is delighted that *1984* gave her the opportunity to bring her animation skills directly to the stage on the telescreen! Some of her favorite onstage appearances were in *Wait Until Dark* [Susy Hendrix], *Carrie: The Musical* [Sue Snell] and *Hairspray!* [Prudy Pringleton]. Hanna dedicates this show to her leopard gecko, Oskar, who spent countless hours staring into her soul as she worked on telescreen graphics.

Hayes Schardt (Producer)

In addition to providing voiceovers for the show, Hayes also produced *1984*, her first time producing! Hayes has other experience on the other side of the curtain; she ran lights and sound for ECP's *Harvey* and *Little Women*, and was assistant stage manager for *Carrie: the Musical*. Recently voted onto ECP's Board of Directors, Hayes has learned a completely different angle of playing make-believe with *1984*.



Cristy Buczko (Producer)

Cristy Buczko is a familiar face both onstage and behind the scenes and has been actively involved in the local theatre community. Her recent onstage roles include Stephanie Crawford in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Ma Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Marmee in *Little Women*, Joy in *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*, Sunny Jacobs in *The Exonerated*, Grace Bradley in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, Libby Ruth Ames in *Always a Bridesmaid*, Yvette in *Clue*, and Taylor/Molly in *One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall*. Offstage, Cristy is an English teacher at Liberty Oaks Academy in Anderson, where she shares her love of literature with her students. She is grateful for the opportunity to help bring this powerful story to life and is especially thankful for her family's constant support.



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Can you feel it?

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we've successfully replaced our HVAC systems in the theatre – Thank you! Of course, with any well-loved space, there's always another improvement on the horizon.

Our next goal is to upgrade our lighting and sound systems, and we're aiming to raise \$10,000 to make it happen. These updates will bring brighter, more vibrant productions, improve energy efficiency, and deliver clearer, richer sound. With a new sound board, transitions will be smoother than ever, creating an even more seamless experience for our audiences.

Non-profits like ours depend on community support to continue thriving. If you're able, please consider making a donation to help ECP continue bringing you the highest-quality performances possible!

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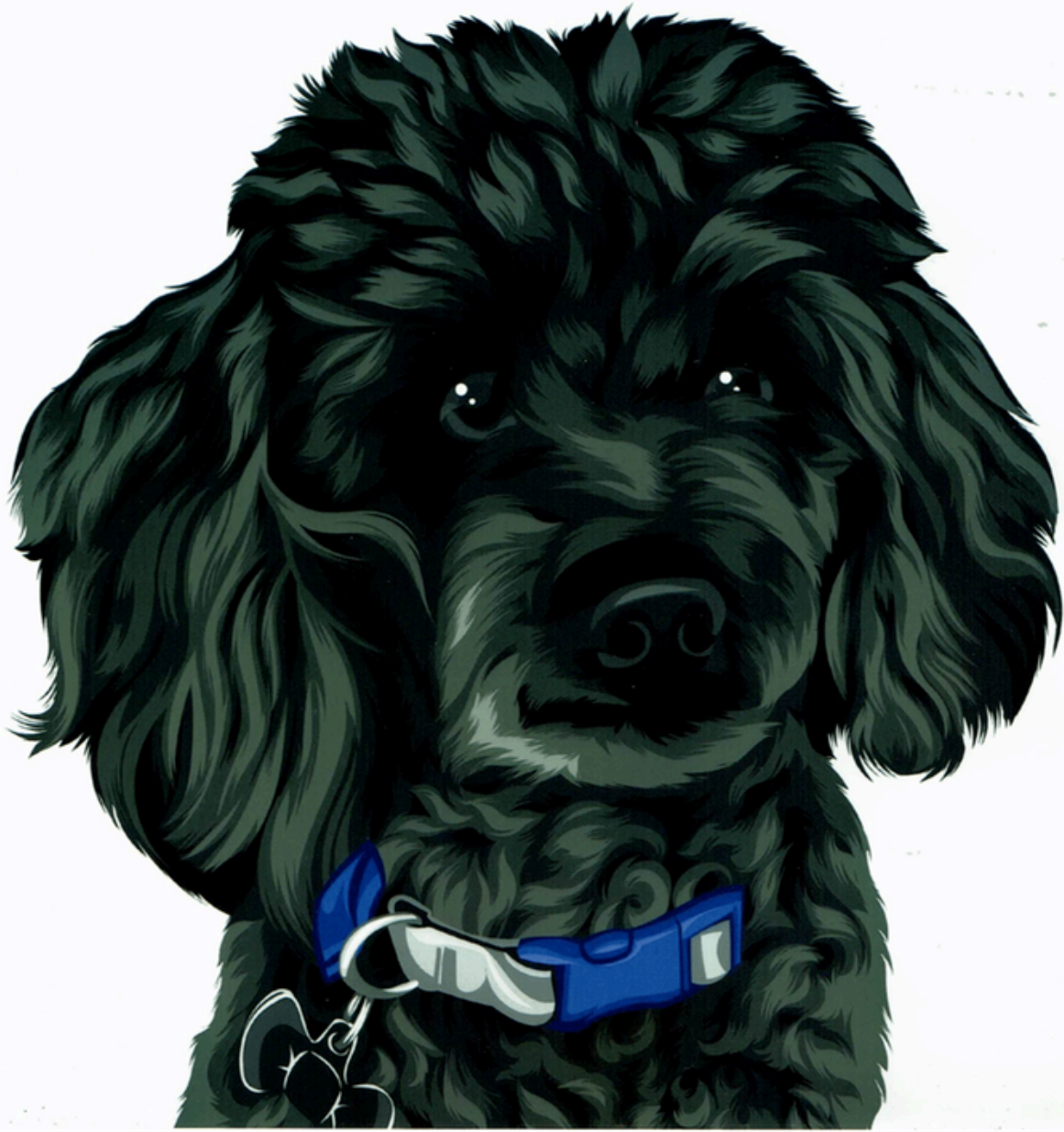
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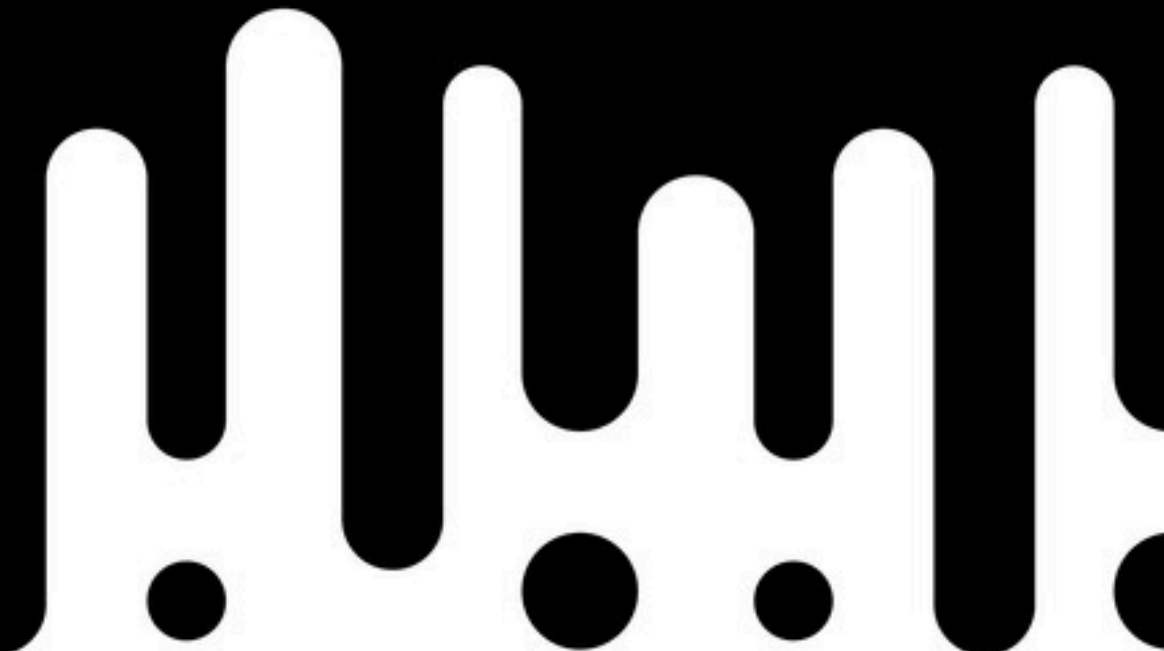
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