Greater Reading Alliance of Community Theaters

July 21, 2024 - 2pm at Alvernia Francis Hall PRESENTS

"It Can't Happen Here"

by Sinclair Lewis
Adapted by Tony Taccone & Bennett
S. Cohen

"It Can't Happen Here" (Taccone, Cohen) is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, Servicing the dramatists play service collection (www.dramatists.com)



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CAST

Cast Members

Denise Darrah	Mrs. Gimmitch/Woman #1
Santo Marabella	Dr. Fowler/Dimirk/Guard
Sue Sneeringer	Narrator
Laura Stewart	Lorinda Pike/ Woman #3 (is the role of man #5)
Tara Lutz	Mary Jessup
Steve Reazor	Shad Ledue/Pollikop/ Man #3/Guard
Dave Renninger	Swan/Tasbrough/ Prang/Minute man#1/Guard
Kevin Wade	
Daniel Dempsey	Phillip Jessup/Man #4/ Guard
Rachel Himes DeWalt	Sissy Jessup
Sandi Trait	Jamie Johnson/Crowley/ Prison Doctor/Woman #2
Debbie Silas	Emma Jessup
Dean Fichthorn	Buck Titus/Buzz Windrip/ Farmer/Man #1/Guard
Kevin Adams	Julian Falck/Pascal/ Man #2/Minute man #2

CREW

Crew Members

Director	Perfect
Producer	
Production Manager	g Dodge
Stage Manager	Martelli
Costumes and Props Cast M	GRACT Iembers
Banner	kwalter
Music	luctions
Sound Effects	l Brown
Light and Sound TechniciansRalph Tho Jewel	ompson l Brown
Facilities Manager	Stoltfus
Box Office	Martelli
Set & Concept	. Perfect
Stage HandsLeaman D	ounning Perfect
Program and Graphic DesignJennifer Sch	nwegler

WHO'S WHO

Kevin Adams

as Julian Falck/Pascal/Man#2/Minute Man#2

Kevin was last seen playing Narrator Josh in *The Other Josh Cohen* at Genesius Theatre. Other local credits include *Avenue Q, Beauty and the Beast, Rock of Ages, Working, Charlotte's Web*, and *Joseph...* Kevin is a member of the Berks County Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and is one half of The Rhythm Standard, an acoustic pop/ rock duo. instagram.com/TheRhythmStandard

Denise E. Darrah

as Mrs. Gimmitch/Woman#1

Denise is the current president of Reading Community Players. She holds a masters degree and educational doctorate from Temple University and has taught for 46 years in elementary schools and at Kutztown University. Leading RCP and helping that group achieve the goals that they have for the future and regaining their status as a serious theater group in Berks County is her goal.

Daniel Dempsey

as Phillip Jessup/Man#4/Guard

Danny got his start in acting back in 2013, when he played Young Scrooge in a production of 'A Christmas Carol.' Since then, he's been in several plays, including 'Blithe Spirit,' 'Godspell,' and, most recently, '12 Angry Jurors.' When he's not on stage or working his regular 9-5, Danny enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Dean Fichthorn as Buck Titus/Buzz Windrip/Farmer/Man #1/Guard

Dean has done productions at Genesius, Reading Community Players, Reading Civic Theater, and Fleetwood Community Theater over many years. He also has done some professional acting gigs. He is a founding board member of GRACT and past chairman of the GRACT board.

Rachel Himes-Dewalt

as Sissy Jessup

Rachel is the practice manager at Kylen Financials in Lititz, PA. Beyond her professional role, she lends her voice to the Vox Philia chamber choir, based in Reading. Rachel is also a regular performer on the stages of Berks County's theaters. This coming fall and winter, audiences can see her onstage at Genesius Theatre. In the autumn, she takes on the role of Shelby in "The Spitfire Grill," followed by her portrayal of Susan in "Big: The Musical" during the winter season. Rachel is excited to share the powerful message of "It Can't Happen Here," highlighting her commitment to both artistry and activism.

WHO'S WHO

Tara Lutz as Mary Jessup

Tara is typically found behind the scenes and not acting in them. Much of her theatrical endeavors have been directing productions at the high school level. Her most recent directorial effort was Calendar Girls staged with Reading Community Players. Tara is a full-time educator, wife, and mom to three lovely girls. She would like to thank all those reading with her today for their interest in this project and the individuals who created this opportunity.

Santo D. Marabella

as Dr. Fowler/Dimirk/Guard

Santo D. Marabella is a writer, producer and educator. He has written plays, a musical and short-films. His recent play is "Rocky Road Ain't Always Sweet". He was a producer of <u>This Is Reading by Lynn Nottage</u>, and was named <u>2018 Entertainment Newsmaker of the Year</u> by the Reading Eagle.

Steve Reazor

as Shad Ledue/Pollikop/Man #3/Guard

Steve has been acting, directing and writing for the Reading Area for the last 25 years. Upcoming roles include Arthur Birling in An Inspector Calls this Fall at Playcrafters in Skippack and Officer Welch in Rumors next Winter at 1st Street Players. Steve will also be directing Arsenic and Old Lace for Fleetwood Community Theater next Spring. But Summer 2025 is wide open!

Dave Renninger

as Swan/Tasbrough/Prang/Minute man #1/Guard

Dave is retired from real estate and lives in Douglassville with his wife, Carole. Dave was the foreman in "12 Angry Jurors" earlier this year and is thrilled to be included in "This Can't Happen Here". Thanks to Pat for choosing me for this role and to Carole for all her support!

Debbi Silas as Emma Jessup

Debbi is a retired teacher, working her entire career in the Exeter Township School District. She has been involved in community theater since 1995, performing or choreographing with all of the Berks County theater groups. She began directing in 1999, focusing on teaching young actors about the theater. Debbi has recently finished directing her 60th show. She spent the summer of 2009 performing and directing at Gretna Theater. She is a founding member of GRACT and is presently their secretary. Debbi teaches a dance class for young adults at the Yocum Institute and sings with the Opus One Berks Chamber Choir.

WHO'S WHO

Susan Sneeringer

as Narrator

Sue is an alum of Penn State University and the American Film Institute. A published playwright, she has appeared in 1776 and Watch On The Rhine for Reading's Fall Festival of the Arts. Sue has also acted in productions of SWEAT, ANGELS IN AMERICA, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY and THE HUMANS among many others. Her newest play, HOLY ORDERS, was included in the Reading Theater Project's spring "Wonder" play reading series with a staged reading at Goggleworks in April. She is most grateful to be asked to participate here!

Laura Diann Stewart as Lorinda Pike/Woman #3 (is the role of man #5)

Laura is excited to join Pat Perfect in another "radio" production with "It Can't Happen Here," as she had so much fun working on "A Christmas Carol" radio-style production a few years back. She was last seen as Woman #1 in the original work, "Rocky Road Ain't Always Sweet" and just prior to that, Juror #11 in RCP's production of "12 Angry Jurors." Laura would like to thank Pat for giving her the opportunity to be onstage to "play" with all of her friends as this is truly her "happy place."

Sandi Trait as Jamie Johnson/Crowley/Prison Doctor/Woman #2

Sandi has been in many plays and a few musicals in Berks County, Lebanon, Harrisburg and Schuylkill. She is an active actor with Amore Mortem Murder Mysteries. Sandi is going to be performing for her tenth season of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire in August this year. She was recently the royal bard in the first ever Reading RenFaire. She has 2 IMBD credits and is very experienced in improv. She has even directed three Shakespeare productions in the last three years. She is very excited to be part of this reading.

Kevin Wade

as Doremus Jessup

Kevin is excited to be a part of this important production with this wonderful cast. He has been involved in the Reading Theater scene for the last twenty years, both on-stage and back stage. Thanks to Pat for her energy and efforts to make this production happen and thanks to Toni for her endless patience and love.



Mission:

GRACT is a member-based nonprofit that supports and unifies artists and organizations to foster a vibrant theatrical community in Berks County.

G.R.A.C.T. Members















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Reservations Encouraged

Wed - Sat 4pm-9pm Sun 3pm - 8pm



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Santo D. Marabella Writer - Producer - Director

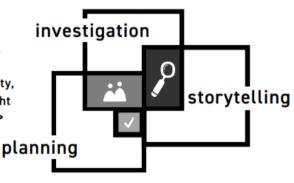
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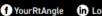


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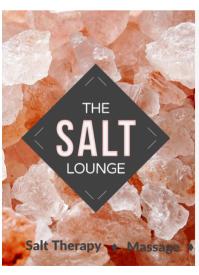


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Program Note

"It Can't Happen Here". Are we so sure? Many would suggest that it certainly 'could' happen 'here', which is precisely the point that Sinclair Lewis was making when he wrote the book in 1935. This incidentally, was still a few years before the worst fears would unfold in Germany, giving the book a somewhat prophetic flair.

Based on the American Democrat, Huey Long, it has been, despite that, often associated with the 'right wing' movements. This is ironic as only a few years later it would be the Democrat FDR that would put American—Japanese citizens into concentration camps using 'emergency powers', much as the book's protagonist, Berzelius (Buzz) Windrip was portrayed as doing!

The long history of abandoning civil rights using emergency powers was reprised more recently during the COVID pandemic, when Western nations and individual US states, ostensibly 'democracies,' nonetheless invoked emergency powers to enact all sorts of authoritarian measures.

When pondering whether or not 'it can happen here' (which all assume it can) we are perhaps left with a more intriguing question: Why hasn't it happened here? And then, once this has been answered, work to ensure that the factors that have prevented a full-blown authoritarian regime from materializing in the United States are retained and strengthened.

PRACTICE DEMOCRACY VOTE.



Thanks to Alvernia University's wonderful staff and Administration for this opportunity for GRACT members to be in their theater.

Special thanks to Wendy Bubbenmoyer, Glynis Fitzgerald, Leamor Kaharov, Meggan Kerber, and Nathan Thomas.

GRACT Board of Directors

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