



**Greater Reading Alliance of  
Community Theaters**

**September 15, 2024 - 2pm**

**at Yocum Institute Schumo Theater**

**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](http://www.dramatists.com))**

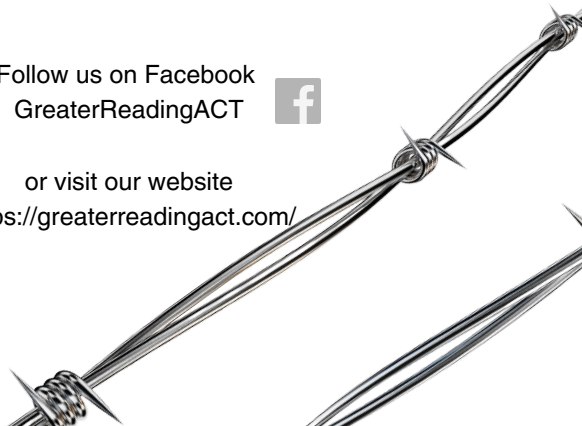


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# CREW

## Crew Members

Director .....	Patricia Perfect
Producer .....	Greater Reading Alliance of Community Theaters Roger Levesque
Production Manager .....	Craig Dodge
Stage Manager .....	Patricia Perfect
Costumes and Props .....	GRACT Cast Members
Banner .....	Robin Buckwalter
Music .....	VA Productions
Sound Effects .....	Jewell Brown
Light and Sound Technicians .....	Ralph Thompson Griffin Yeyna
Facilities Manager .....	Andrea Hart
Box Office .....	Maggie Perfect
Set & Concept .....	Patricia Perfect
Stage Hands .....	Leaman Dunning Fred Perfect
Program and Graphic Design.....	Jennifer Schwegler

**There will be a brief 10 minute intermission during the show.  
The raffle drawing will occur at the end of the intermission**

# WHO'S WHO

## Robert Bara-Popa

Robert is an actor, photographer, and writer who performs and helps in productions in the Reading area. He most recently played the roles of "Finn" in *Banshee* by Adam Richter, as well as "Tate" in *The Storm* by Daniel Egusquiza. He's been acting in plays for the last 7 years and has helped co-direct in two productions in collaboration with Barrio Alegria. Other plays he has been a part of with Barrio Alegria are *Rosa Dances With Wolves* and *Where the Trees Walk*. Another play he has been a part of with RTP is *Hospital Cafeteria*.

## Denise E. Darrah

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.

## Dean Fichthorn

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 GRAC and past chairman of the GRAC board.

## Tara Lutz

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.

## Ruth Martelli

Ruth's theatrical career began in the EHS class of '63's Senior Class play, *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*. Almost 45 years passed before Ruth performed again, this time in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* at Reading Community Players. In the twenty odd years since her first performance at RCP, she has continued to play mothers, old women and, on occasion, old men. Each experience in the theatre has been a joyful one. *It Can't Happen Here* is a powerful piece demanding our attention and our commitment to vote to uphold our Democracy.

# WHO'S WHO

## Tony Quinones

Tony made his stage debut as “Juror 5” in RCP’s production of *12 Angry Jurors*. He will also be joining them again as “Edmund Swettenhan” in *A Murder Is Announced*. He never saw himself doing much theatre, but fell in love with the art form. He is grateful to be joining the cast of *It Can’t Happen Here* and help give life to this intense and poignant story.

## Dave Renninger

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 *It Can't Happen Here*. Thanks to Pat for choosing me for this role and to Carole for all her support!

## Debbi Silas

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 GRAC 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.

## Susan Sneeringer

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!

# WHO'S WHO

## Laura Diann Stewart

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.”

## Kevin Wade

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.

## Robert Weidman

Robert is an academic librarian and an avid member of his local community theater group, the Talisman Players of Kutztown, participating in their productions primarily as an actor but also in a number of other roles. He has also had a number of collaborations with the Reading Theater Project (RTP) as both a playwright and an actor.

## Griffin Yeyna

Griffin is proud to put this production under lights, push politics, and shout "Pow! Pow!" from the back of the theatre. Griffin has a penchant for poignant theatre. Last March he directed *Rhinoceros* at Elizabethtown College; an absurd anti-fascist play written by Eugene Ionesco in 1959. More recently, Griffin was a stage manager for the staged reading of *Poor Clare*, which was featured as a production in Susquehanna Stage's Undercurrent Series. A new play written by Chiara Atik that explores poverty, class consciousness, and the personal stakes involved in enacting meaningful change. Productions like these, as well as *It Can't Happen Here* are an important exercise of our first amendment and a testament to the necessity of the arts. Thank you for being here.

## SUPPORTING BUSINESSES



**Greater Reading**  
Alliance of Community Theatres

### **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**



## SUPPORTING BUSINESSES



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## Program Note

Mr. Lewis wrote his book in 1935, several years before Hitler's takeover of Germany as a Dictator; this book was a cautionary dark satire about the fragility of democracy. It is the story of a family. The father, Doremus Jessup, is a liberal, middle-class newspaper editor from an imaginary town in Vermont. He witnesses the rise of a demagogue who becomes president of the United States, promising to return the country to greatness. He trusts the system will fix itself --- until he sees firsthand the tyranny perpetrated on his family and others and ends up in a prison camp for expressing an opposing view to the administration. His life changes radically and he becomes someone else to survive, giving up much of his life and losing his family.

PRACTICE DEMOCRACY ....VOTE.



**An abbreviated version of “It Can’t Happen Here” will be performed Nationally across America by different groups just before Election Day. This is being sponsored by the University of California Berkeley**



# **THANK YOU!!**

**Thank you to Susan Rohn, and the  
Yocum Institute for the Arts Board for  
the opportunity and privilege for  
GRACT members to perform in their  
Schumo Theater.**

## **GRACT Board of Directors**

Chairwoman - Patricia Perfect

Vice-Chairwoman - Vicki Haller Graff

Secretary - Debbi Silas

Treasurer - Roger Levesque



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## **What is GRACT?**

GRACT is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised of members of the involved theatres and leaders in the community. The Alliance will focus on creating and managing strategies to: sustain professionalism and transparency across all aspects of theatre production; promote and market community theatre; acquire and allocate financial resources; support planning; develop audiences; operate profitably and with fiscal responsibility; identify and acquire appealing performance and rehearsal venues; sustain intra-Alliance member professionalism and communications; and, enhance artistic quality among all member theatre groups.

This is a special presentation from GRACT, we are not a performing entity. All money brought in from the play reading will go to support GRACT and the members benefits.



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