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MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE
Presents the Maryland Premiere Production of
1984

by Michael Gene Sullivan and based on the novel by George Orwell
October 20 - November 12, 2017

Sullivan's provocative adaptation is not your father's 1984.

FREDERICK, MD (October 20, 2017) - **Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET)** presents, as part of their 20th season, a provocative theatrical adaptation of the iconic dystopian novel, *1984*. Winston Smith, a cog in the giant machine state of Oceania, is physically and mentally under the eye of Big Brother. He is caught struggling for scraps of love and freedom in a world awash with distrust and violence.

Adapted for the stage by award-winning actor, director and playwright **Michael Gene Sullivan**, *1984* brings us a very human Winston Smith and his resistance to Big Brother. Winston is imprisoned and forced to admit his thought-crimes to an unseen inquisitor. Within the interrogation room, Winston recounts his acts of treason and learn his "precise" story of love, life and free-will while audiences witness his torture. "I want to maintain a certain level of discomfort during this show" says director **Julie Herber**, "with the audience feeling as involved and guilty as the characters do on stage." A warning or a premonition? See why people are calling this script "not your father's *1984*".

Under the helm of Julie Herber, the *1984* crew includes: scenic design by **Wheeler Stone**, costume design by **Stephanie Hyder** and **Thom Huenger** as sound designer; **Paul Shillinger** is the productions lighting designer and **Vanessa Strickland** is props designer. **Daniel Wyland** designs/provides video projections.

The presenting cast includes **Matt Lee** as Winston Smith, **Tim Seltzer** as O'Brien and the four party members: **Daniel Valentin-Morales**, **Margaret Anne Murphy**, **J.D. Sivert** and **Steve Custer**.

1984 opens on Friday, October 20 and runs through **November 12, every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.** with performances on **Thursdays, November 2nd and 9th** and **Sundays October 29, November 5 and 12 at 3 p.m.** Tickets continue under our special 20th Season Celebration pricing of \$20. Tickets may be purchased by phone at (301) 694-4744, online at marylandensemble.org or in person at the MET box office.

RATING/AGE APPROPRIATE/WARNINGS: *Due to language, sexual themes and violence, 1984 is recommended for mature audiences.*

WHEN

Pay-what-you-will Preview on October 19th
Opening Night Friday, October 20th at 8pm
Saturday, October 21 at 8pm
Friday, October 27 at 8pm
Saturday, October 28 at 8pm
Sunday, October 29 at 3pm
Thursday, November 2 at 8pm
Friday, November 3 at 8pm
Saturday, November 4 at 8pm
Sunday, November 5 at 3pm
Thursday, November 9 at 8pm
Friday, November 10 at 8pm
Saturday, November 11 at 8pm
Sunday, November 12 at 3pm

WHERE: Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

TICKET PRICES: All tickets \$20! Special pricing for local college and high school students - call for details.

BOX OFFICE: 301-694-4744 or marylandensemble.org or at the MET (Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 3pm, Friday 11am - 3pm and 1 hour before each show.)

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR: Julie Herber
STAGE MANAGER: Bailey Sterling
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER: Sarah Shulman
SET DESIGN: Wheeler Stone
COSTUME DESIGN: Stephanie Hyder
LIGHTING DESIGN: Paul Shillinger

SOUND DESIGN: Thom Huenger
PROPS MASTER: Vanessa Strickland
VIDEO PROJECTIONS: Daniel Wyland

CAST

Winston: Matt Lee
O'Brien: Tim Seltzer
First Party Member: Daniel Valentin-Morales
Second Party Member: Margaret Anne Murphy
Third Party Member: J.D. Sivert
Fourth Party Member: Steve Custer

MICHAEL GENE SULLIVAN: “Michael Gene Sullivan is an actor, writer, director, blogger, and teacher committed to developing theatre of social and economic justice, of political self-determination, and, of course, musical comedy.” -- www.michaelsullivan.com

A 2017 Playwriting Fellowship award-winner from *Djerassi Arts Center*, Michael is a resident playwright with both San Francisco's nationally acclaimed *Playwright's Foundation* and *Mime Troupe*. He is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and has taught and lectured on playwriting and play creation at Stanford University, The National Theatre Conservatory, Trinity College, Dartmouth College, University of Southern California, University of California at Humboldt, New Colleges of San Francisco and Santa Rosa and the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis.

MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE MISSION: Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET) is dedicated to the creation and production of extraordinary theatre art through the combined voices of a diverse ensemble of professional resident artists who are influential leaders in the community and visionaries in the art of theatre.