



**PRESS CONTACTS:**

Gratiela Brancusi [gratiela@TheActorsGang.com](mailto:gratiela@TheActorsGang.com) | 424-204-3715

Peter Goldman [p.goldman@dpublicity.com](mailto:p.goldman@dpublicity.com) | 323-954-7510

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE ACTORS' GANG THEATER**  
***1984***

Written by George Orwell

Adapted by Michael Gene Sullivan

Directed by Tim Robbins

October 10th – December 7th

(Press Opening – October 19th)

2019-2020 Season also includes

A stage adaptation of Fritz Lang's

**M**

*Workshop Production*

Co-Written by Thea von Harbou and Fritz Lang

Adapted and Directed by Tess Vidal

**CAN'T PAY? WON'T PAY!**

Written by Dario Fo

Directed by Bob Turton

*February 8 - March 28, 2020*

**CABARET**

*(1998 Version)*

Book by Joe Masteroff

Based on the play by John Van Druten and Stories by Christopher Isherwood

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Directed by Will Thomas McFadden

April 23 - June 13, 2020

**FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK**

August 8th - 29th, 2020

**Culver City, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019** – The Actors’ Gang Theater opens its 2019-20 season with a new production of *1984*, written by George Orwell, adapted by Michael Gene Sullivan, and directed by The Actors’ Gang Artistic Director Tim Robbins. The play will begin previews Thursday, October 10th and run through Saturday, December 7th, with an official press opening on Saturday, October 19th.

The Actors’ Gang Theater has been home to over 38 years of provocative stories, and continues this 2019-2020 season with *1984*, a workshop production of Fritz’s Lang’s *M*, *Can’t Pay? Won’t Pay!*, *Cabaret* and *Free Shakespeare in the Park*.

The season begins October 10th with *1984* and concludes on June 13th, with *Cabaret*, directed by Will Thomas McFadden, with book by Joe Masteroff, stories by Christopher Isherwood, music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb.

The season also includes Dario Fo’s *Can’t Pay? Won’t Pay!*, directed by Bob Turton and translated by Cam Deaver, and a workshop production of Fritz Lang’s drama-thriller *M*, co-written by Thea von Harbou and Fritz Lang, and adapted and directed by Tess Vidal. Last season, The Actors’ Gang Theater presented an acclaimed production of Fo’s, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, earning 4 2019 Stage Raw Awards nominations. Bob Turton earned **Best Male Comedy Award** for playing the Maniac.

In Orwell’s classic *1984*, Winston Smith hates his job. He works in the Ministry of Information rewriting history to serve the interests of the powerful. Winston’s soul is stirring with rebellion and his heart alive with love. Welcome to a world of no privacy, where electronic screens create paranoia, divisiveness and hatred for the ‘other’, where the state manufactures consent for perpetual war, and where truth is manipulated and love itself is an act of rebellion. Seventy one years ago, in writing his visionary novel, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, George Orwell eerily predicted the world we are currently living in.

Director Tim Robbins said, “*Throughout the world for over a decade, every time The Actors’ Gang has performed this adaptation, we have found new relevance and importance in Orwell’s cautionary tale. Today, in this new, frighteningly cruel world of mass deportations, nativist violence, and a constant assault on the truth, 1984 has taken on a new gravity and urgency. For this reason we see the absolute necessity of presenting this staged adaptation this fall.*”

*Nineteen Eighty-Four* is one of – if not *the* classic literary example of political and dystopian fiction. Many terms used in the novel entered common usage, including *Big Brother*, *doublethink*, *thoughtcrime*, *Newspeak*, *Room 101*, *telescreen*, *2+2=5* and *memory hole*. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* also popularized the adjective *Orwellian* connoting things such as official deception, secret surveillance, brazenly misleading terminology, and manipulation of recorded history by a totalitarian or authoritarian state. *Time Magazine* included it on its *100 Hundred Best English-Language Novels* from 1923 to 2005. It was placed on the Modern Library’s 100 Best Novels reaching No.

13 on the editors' list and No. 6 on the readers' list. In 2003, the novel was No. 8 on the BBC's *The Big Read* survey.

The Actors' Gang Theater first presented Orwell's *1984* in 2006 – an acclaimed, wildly successful production that has now been seen in over 40 US states and throughout the world, from Greece, Italy, Spain to Australia, China, Mexico.

Tickets for *1984* are available by calling 310-838-4264 or online at [www.TheActorsGang.com](http://www.TheActorsGang.com). Tickets range from \$25 - \$50 (ticket prices are subject to change). The Actors' Gang Theater is located at The Ivy Substation at 9070 Venice Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232.

### **George Orwell (Novelist, Essayist, Journalist and Critic)**

Eric Arthur Blair (George Orwell) was born in 1903 in India, where his father worked for the Civil Service. The family moved to England in 1907 and in 1917 Orwell entered Eton, where he contributed regularly to the various college magazines.

From 1922 to 1927 he served with the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, an experience that inspired his first novel, *Burmese Days* (1934). Several years of poverty followed. He lived in Paris for two years before returning to England, where he worked successively as a private tutor, schoolteacher and bookshop assistant, and contributed reviews and articles to a number of periodicals.

*Down and Out in Paris and London* was published in 1933. In 1936 he was commissioned by Victor Gollancz to visit areas of mass unemployment in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937) is a powerful description of the poverty he saw there.

At the end of 1936 Orwell went to Spain to fight for the Republicans and was wounded. *Homage to Catalonia* is his account of the civil war. He was admitted to a sanatorium in 1938 and from then on was never fully fit. He spent six months in Morocco and there wrote *Coming Up for Air*.

During the Second World War he served in the Home Guard and worked for the BBC Eastern Service from 1941 to 1943. As literary editor of *Tribune* he contributed a regular page of political and literary commentary, and also wrote for the *Observer* and later for the *Manchester Evening News*. His unique political allegory, *Animal Farm*, was published in 1945, and it was this novel, together with *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949), which brought him world-wide fame.

His works have been sold in over 80 translation markets. George Orwell died in London in January 1950. A few days before, Desmond MacCarthy had sent him a message of greeting in which he wrote: 'You have made an indelible mark on English literature. You are among the few memorable writers of your generation.'

*One of the most influential English writers of the twentieth century.*

### **Michael Gene Sullivan (Actor, Director and Playwright)**

Michael Gene Sullivan is award-winning playwright, director, and actor based in San Francisco. Michael's plays have been produced and performed at theaters throughout the United States, and in Greece, England, Scotland, Spain, Columbia, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, as well as at the Melbourne International Arts Festival (Australia), the International Festival of Verbal Art (Berlin), The Spoleto Festival, (Italy), and The Hong Kong Arts Festival.

For the past 17 years Michael has been Resident Playwright for the Tony and OBIE award-winning (and despite its name never, ever silent) San Francisco Mime Troupe, where he has written or co-written over 20 plays. He is also a Resident Playwright for the Playwrights Foundation, and was awarded a 2017 artist residency at the Djerassi Arts Center. Michael's non-Mime Troupe plays include the award-winning all-woman political farce *Recipe, Red Carol*, his critically-acclaimed one person show, *Did Anyone Ever Tell You-You Look Like Huey P. Newton?*, and his stage adaptation of George Orwell's *1984*, which opened at Los Angeles' Actors' Gang Theatre under the direction of Academy Award winning actor Tim Robbins. *1984* has since been produced nationally and internationally, and is published in the United States, Canada, and Spain.

Michael and his wife, Velina Brown, were also recently profiled in [American Theatre Magazine](#).

### **Tim Robbins ( Playwright, Actor, Director, Producer)**

For the past 38 years, Tim Robbins has served as Artistic Director for The Actors' Gang, a theater company formed in 1982 that has over 150 productions and more than 100 awards to their credit. Past productions with The Actors' Gang include: As Writer/Director – *Johnny Got His Gun* (2018-19), *The New Colossus* (2017-18), *Harlequino On to Freedom* (2017), *Break the Whip* (2010-11), *Embedded* (2003-4), *Mayhem, the Invasion* (1992), *Carnage, A Comedy* (1988-89), *Violence*, *The Misadventures of Spike Spangle, Farmer* (1987) and *Alagazam* (1986). As Director – *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2012-16), *Orwells' 1984* (2006-16), *Mephisto* (2001), *The Good Woman of Setzuan* (1991), *Methusalem, the Eternal Bourgeois* (1985), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1984), *Ubu the King* (1982); In addition to producing live theater throughout the year, The Actors' Gang provides arts education to thousands of Elementary, Middle and High School students working in 12 LA USD schools and in underserved communities in the L.A. area. Since 2006, The Actors' Gang's groundbreaking Prison Project provides theatrical workshops to incarcerated men and women in 12 California prisons.

As an actor, his credits include *Dark Waters, Castle Rock, Here and Now, Marjorie Prime, The Brink, Mystic River, The Shawshank Redemption, The Player, Bull Durham* and *Jacob's Ladder*. As a writer/director, his credits include *45 Seconds of Laughter, The Cradle Will Rock, Dead Man Walking, and Bob Roberts*. Robbins has won the Academy Award, Golden Globe, SAG Award, the Prix d'Interprétation Masculine at the Cannes Film Festival and the Officier de L'Ordre des Arts des Lettres from the Republic of France.

## **More about 2019-20 Season**

A stage adaptation of Fritz Lang's

**M**

**Workshop Production**

Co-Written by Thea von Harbou and Fritz Lang

Adapted and Directed by Tess Vidal

In the past, *The New Colossus, Break the Whip, Embedded, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and countless other shows have started as workshop productions. This year's production, Fritz Lang's *M*, is currently being imagined by a team of artists ready to push the boundaries and create a startling journey of theater.

**CAN'T PAY? WON'T PAY!**

Written by Dario Fo  
Translated by Cam Deaver  
Directed by Bob Turton

**Previews**

Thursday, February 6th – Friday, February 14th

**Opening Night**

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**Closing Night**

March 28th

Hungry and fed up by rising prices and stagnant wages, humble housewife Antonia—determined to live with dignity and reject an austere diet of dog food and bird seed—leads a revolt of women at the local supermarket. As the protest escalates, looting ensues and police search door to door for the culprits. Antonia and her friend Margherita frantically try to hide their 'liberated' goods from their husbands and the police. *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!* is a wildly funny satirical farce written by Nobel Laureate Dario Fo that questions why, in a world of bailed-out banks and overpriced prescription drugs, theft is only a crime when it is committed by those truly in need.

**CABARET**

*(1998 Version)*

Book by Joe Masteroff

Based on the play by John Van Druten and Stories by Christopher Isherwood

Music by John Kander and Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Directed by Will Thomas McFadden

**Previews**

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Opening Night**

Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Closing Night**

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

In a Berlin nightclub, as the 1920's draw to a close, a garish Master of Ceremonies welcomes the audience and assures them they will forget all their troubles at the *Cabaret*. With the Emcee's bawdy songs as wry commentary, *Cabaret* explores the dark, heady and tumultuous life of Berlin's natives and expatriates as Germany slowly yields to the emerging Third Reich. Cliff, a young American writer newly arrived in Berlin, is immediately taken by English singer Sally Bowles. Meanwhile, Fraulein Schneider, proprietor of Cliff and Sally's boarding house, tentatively begins a romance with Herr Schultz, a mild-mannered fruit seller who happens to be Jewish. Musical numbers include "Willkommen," "Cabaret," "Don't Tell Mama" and "Two Ladies."

## **About The Actors' Gang Theater**

The Actors' Gang was founded in 1981 by a group of young actors looking to build a theater that would present relevant and vibrantly entertaining plays. Over the past 38 years, The Actors' Gang has performed for audiences in Los Angeles and throughout the world, on five continents and in 40 U.S. States. The Actors' Gang has toured the U.S. in forty-five states and on five continents, performing across the world from London to Milan, Bucharest, Athens, Madrid, Barcelona, Bogota, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Buenos Aires and recently, to Santiago and Concepcion, in Chile.

Our groundbreaking Prison Project is currently in fourteen California prisons, serving incarcerated women, men and children with rehabilitation programs that significantly reduce the recidivism rate. Each year, thousands of children in Los Angeles public schools discover confidence and creativity with our Education Department through in-school immersion and after-school programs and by participating in classes that encourage acceptance, respect and team building in a fun and impactful way.

The Actors' Gang ensemble has included accomplished actors such as Jack Black, Lee Arenberg, John Cusack, John C. Reilly, Brent Hinkley, Helen Hunt, Kate Walsh, Kyle Gass, Fisher Stevens, Ned Bellamy, Jeremy Piven, Ebbe Roe Smith, Kate Mulligan, and Tim Robbins. The theater company has presented the work of innovative theater artists including Georges Bigot, Simon Abkarian, Charles Mee, Culture Clash, Bill Rauch and The Cornerstone Theatre Company, Tracy Young, Namaste Theater Company, Roger Guenver Smith, Eric Bogosian, Oskar Eustis, Danny Hoch, Beth Milles, David Schweizer, Brian Kulick, Stefan Haves, Jason Reed, Michael Schlitt and Tenacious D.

Guest artists who have appeared on The Actors' Gang stage include: Jackson Browne, Sarah Silverman, Ben Gibbard, John Doe, Tom Morello, Jenny Lewis, Wayne Kramer, Paul Provenza, Zooey Deschanel, Serj Tankian, David Crosby, Pink, Felicity Huffman, Jill Sobule, William H. Macy, Phillip Baker Hall, Jeanne Tripplehorn, T.C. Boyle. and the late, beloved, Gore Vidal.

Recent touring productions include *The New Colossus*, *Harlequino: On to Freedom*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *1984*, *The Exonerated*, *Tartuffe*, *Embedded*, *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine* and *The Guys*. The Actors' Gang has toured the US and performed throughout the world, from London to Milan, Bucharest, Athens, Madrid, Barcelona, Bogota, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Buenos Aires and recently, Santiago and Concepcion, Chile.

## **CALENDAR LISTING FOR 1984**

Written by George Orwell

Adapted by Michael Gene Sullivan

Directed by Tim Robbins

**When:** October 10th - December 7th

**Previews:** Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

**Opening Night:** Saturday, October 19th at 8:00pm

**Performances Evenings**

Thursdays at 8:00 pm

Fridays at 8:00 pm

Saturdays at 8:00 pm

**Matinees**

Sundays, October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm

**Tickets**

Preview Tickets: \$25

Tickets: \$34.99

Seniors: \$30

Under 30 and full-time students: \$25

Thursday Evenings - "Pay What You Can"

Tickets are available online at [www.TheActorsGang.com](http://www.TheActorsGang.com) or by phone at 310-838-4264

Opening Night and Closing Night Tickets range from \$34.99 to \$50

**Where:** The Actors' Gang Theater | 9070 Venice Blvd | Culver City, CA 9023