

BURNING COAL THEATRE
PRESENTS



**ANIMAL
FARM**

BY GEORGE ORWELL
2020 SPRING EDUCATIONAL TOUR



WHO'S WHO IN THE PLAY

THE PIGS

Old Major- The wise, respected old pig who's ideas inspire the other animals to rebel against the humans. He dies before the revolution is realized. *Old Major represents Karl Marx, the philosopher who wrote The Communist Manifesto in 1848, which inspired Vladimir Lenin, who led the Russian Revolution of 1917.*

Snowball- Snowball is a popular pig among the animals and one of the leaders of the revolt. He is idealistic and intelligent, but eventually driven off the farm by Napoleon. *Snowball represents the thinker and revolutionary Leon Trotsky, who helped lead the Russian Revolution and was driven from the Soviet Union by Joseph Stalin.*



Napoleon- Napoleon is a large pig who leads the revolt along with Snowball. The two think very differently about the conduct of the farm. Eventually, Napoleon grabs power for himself. *Napoleon represents Joseph Stalin who consolidated power through force after the Russian Revolution. His policies lead to the death of millions.*

Squealer- A very persuasive pig. Squealer communicates developments on the farm. He frequently lies and twists the truth in order to win support for Napoleon and his policies. *Squealer represents Vyacheslav Molotov, a loyal follower of Joseph Stalin and major figure in the government's propaganda apparatus.*

THE OTHER ANIMALS

Boxer- A loyal and hard-working cart horse. Though hardest-working and strongest of the animals, he is easily led.

Clover- A motherly mare and cart horse. Sometimes doubts the pigs but assumes she is not correctly remembering things. *Boxer and Clover represent the proletariat, or working class, during the revolution. They particularly represent their susceptibility to propaganda and hard work.*

Mollie- A young, pretty mare who is obsessed with her appearance. *Mollie represents the young intelligentsia who left the Soviet Union following the revolution due to dissatisfaction with conditions.*



Benjamin- Benjamin is the cynical old donkey, the oldest animal on the farm. He has seen it all. *Benjamin represents the older generation who recognize Stalin's manipulations but take no actions against them.*

Jessie- Jessie is a female dog. She is pregnant throughout the play but eventually gives birth.

The Dogs- A litter of puppies taken by Napoleon and raised in isolation. They enforce the policies of Napoleon through force or threat of force. *The Dogs represent Stalin's secret police and bodyguards.*

THE HUMANS

Ms. Jones- The leading farmer at Manor farm. She is struggling with alcoholism. The animals revolt against her. *Jones represent Tsar Nicholas II of the Russian Empire. He was driven from power by Lenin during the 1917 Revolution.*

Farmhand- A very earnest employee.

Mr. Pilkington- A powerful businessman and fellow farmer who runs a large neighboring farm. Takes a strong interest in the fortunes of Manor (or Animal) farm. *Mr. Pilkington is taken to represent either the British Empire or United States of America.*



Servant- Serves Pilkington and Napoleon in the final meeting.

ABOUT “ANIMALISM”

After driving out the humans, the animals create a system of thought that enforces the thoughts that humans are evil and animals should continue to act like animals as opposed to becoming like humans.

According to the ideals of Animalism, the pigs create seven Commandments.

- 1.) Whatever goes on two legs is an enemy.
- 2.) Whatever goes on four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
- 3.) No animal shall wear clothes.
- 4.) No animal shall sleep in a bed.
- 5.) No animal shall drink alcohol.
- 6.) No animal shall kill any other animal.
- 7.) All Animals are equal.

By the end of the story, each of the commandments has been broken or changed by the pigs and erased. The only remaining commandment is “All Animals are equal” but this has changed to “All Animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.”

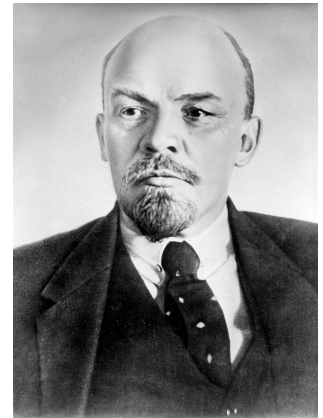
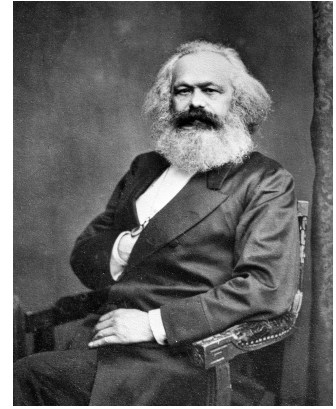
RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1917

The story of *Animal Farm* has a great deal in common with the historical events of the 1917 Revolution in Russia, which created the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This is a short introduction to the events of the revolution.

The power of the capitalist system in Europe and America made a great deal of money which was funneled upward while ordinary workers toiled in barely livable conditions. This led an international worker's group, called the Communist League, to ask German philosopher Karl Marx to draw up a plan for their organization. Marx's plan was called *The Communist Manifesto*.

Marx envisioned a worker's revolt followed by a collective paradise. Moderate followers of Marx were known as Socialists, while Communists sought to bring about the foreseen revolution. In Russia, Communists founded a group called the Bolshevik Party, led by a man named Vladimir Lenin.

By 1917, suffering in Russia was too great and the Bolshevik party began a revolution. Czar Nicholas II was forced to leave power then killed. The Russian Empire was converted to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.



SYNOPSIS

Animal Farm is the story of a group of animals which overthrow their human farmer and the farming system. They develop independent beliefs and rules, called "Animalism." The aim of the new farm is to create a system where animals are free and that the produce of the farm is used to support animals, as opposed to being taken by humans.

However, the new equality that is sought by the animals does not last long. The pigs quickly take advantage of the other animals due to their greater intelligence. This begins with small questions like how milk is to be used and expands to larger questions of resources and decision-making.

Eventually, the stronger pig, Napoleon, seizes control from his rival through the use of force. Fear and intimidation replace unity and democracy. In the end, the pigs become indistinguishable from the humans they were originally fighting against.

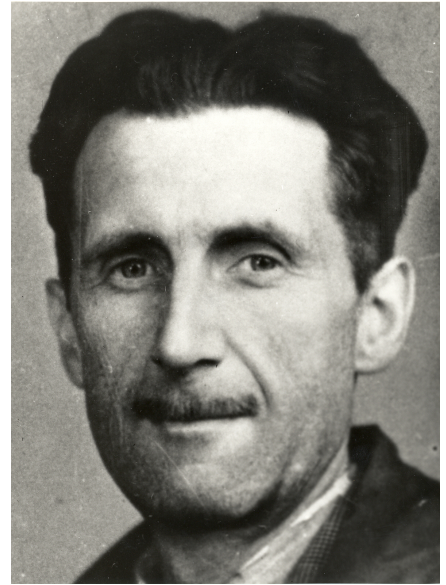
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Orwell is the pen name of Eric Arthur Blair, who was born in 1903 in British India, where his father worked in the civil service. During his early years, he was known for making up stories and talk to imaginary companions. The family returned to England in 1907 and Orwell entered Eton, the prestigious preparatory school, in 1917.

From 1922 to 1927, Orwell served with the Imperial Police in Burma, which inspired his novel *Burmese Days*. He would then live in Paris for two years, where he worked as a tutor and in a bookshop. His novel *Down and Out in Paris and London* was published in 1933.

In 1936, Orwell was commissioned to visit areas of mass unemployment, which led to the publication of *The Road to Wigan Pier*. He would then go to Spain to fight for the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War.

During the Second World War, Orwell served in the Home Guard and worked for the BBC. *Animal Farm* was published in 1945. *1984* was published in 1949, which brought him worldwide fame. He died in 1950.



THE COMPANY

Dylan Bailey (Boxer/Pilkington's Servant) is a Raleigh-based theatre artist. He holds a BFA in Theatre for Youth from ECU. As a teaching artist, he works with RLT, Applause! Youth Theatre, NCT, Seed Art Share, TAP, and The ArtsCenter. He also often works with Burning Coal Theatre as both an actor and a stage manager. In 2016 he was awarded a URCA grant to fund a tour of his original touring production of Cinderellas from Around the World which toured throughout Eastern NC. During the summer of 2018, he performed Tales from Around the World at the Juwenalia Festival in Krosno, Poland and in Polish Primary Schools. In 2019 he was awarded the Intersection of Arts and Sciences Award for his research of Polish and Czech Theatre practices and for the implementation of said research into his original touring production of The Many Adventures of Peter Rabbit.

Katie Beazley (Mollie/Guard Dog) is a current intern with Burning Coal Theatre Company. She graduated in May 2019 with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Samford University. Some of her favorite processes include Hedda Gabler (Hedda/Thea), Children of Eden (Serpent), The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Heart (Devil), and Talking With... (April March). Katie would like to thank Burning Coal for this opportunity and the cast and crew of Animal Farm for this collaborative community.

Kimmy Fiorentino (Snowball) is excited to be back with Burning Coal for another school tour! She was part of the 2018 touring cast of To Kill A Mockingbird as Scout/Jean-Louise. She holds degrees in Theatre and Psychology from Appalachian State University. Some other favorite roles include #25 in The Wolves for Sonorous Road Repertory, Voice 5 in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time for Raleigh Little Theatre, Janice in Crumble: Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake for Women's Theatre Festival, and Prince Edward in Henry VI for Bare Theatre.

Noelle Barnard Azarelo (Clover) is excited to perform in her third school tour with Burning Coal. Previous productions for Burning Coal include Lipstick Traces, Einstein's Dreams, You Are What You (staged reading), Oakwood Series and Kidswrite! A few favorite prior roles include: Vera Claythorne (And Then There Were None), Victoria (Cloud 9), Julia (The Rivals), and Rosencrantz (Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead). Her next theatrical project is directing for Project Chrysalis with Cary Playwrights' Forum, an initiative to develop a new full-length play from staged reading to full production.

Pimpila Violette (Jessie/Jones) is a Durham based actor with a degree in Theater from UNC-Chapel Hill. Some of her credits include: The Wizard of Oz (Nikko/Ozian), Two Gentlemen of Verona (Panthino/Outlaw), and The Wolves (#13). Pimpila spends her days working as a Standardized Patient at Duke and Campbell University, at Pure Barre, or live-gaming on Twitch. Find her on all social media or catch her live @PimpilaV!

Thom Haynes (Old Major/Pilkington) is a retired software programmer, standardized patient, audio-describer, Clevelander, near-vegan runner, Apecker, singer with Concert Singers of Cary. Board member – Cary Playwrights' Forum. Previously: Burning Coal's Oakwood Cemetery series (3x), Haunted Fayetteville St, Diary of Anne Frank. To Kill a Mockingbird (school tour). Fave roles: Garcin ('No Exit' by Sartre), Marat (Marat/Sade), Sir Andrew (Twelfth Night), Algernon (Importance of Being Earnest).

Kimmy Fiorentino (Snowball, Guard Dog) is thrilled to be making her first performance with Burning Coal Theatre. Other roles include Suzanne in Picasso at the Lapin Agile (NRACT), Carol in Decision Height (Women's Theatre Festival), Anne in The Diary of Anne Frank (Appalachian State University), Deputy Allan in House of the Fury (Sonorous Road Rep), and Peter in Romeo and Juliet (Bare Theatre). Kimmy holds a BA in Theatre from Appalachian State University.

Kaley Morrison (Napoleon). Mary is a young woman who has fought her way up from poverty to work in proximity to power. Kaley is honored and thrilled to return to the Burning Coal stage. Kaley is a Fayetteville native and recent transplant to the triangle. She received her BA for acting from Campbell University. Favorite roles include Viola in Twelfth Night, Holly in Nickel and Dimed, and Anecie in Unto These Hills.

Juan Isler (Benjamin/Farmhand) is a music business graduate of Winston-Salem State. He has experience on and back stage. His acting ability was seen in The Wiz, Written on the Heart, Ashe in Johannesburg, Camelot (Burning Coal) Porgy and Bess (JTP) Memphis (RLT) and Ain't Misbehavin' (NRACT). His sound design was heard in Bent (JTP) King Charles III (Burning Coal) Blood Done Sign My Name (RLT) and Ain't Misbehavin' (NRACT).

Ana V. Radulescu (Adaptor/Director) is delighted to be making her debut with with Burning Coal Theatre Company. Recent/Favorite directing credits include 'Tis Pity She's A Whore and The Death of Bessie Smith with Greensboro College, The Bacchae at Skidmore College for SITI Company Workshop, and How We Got On for Skydive Productions. She is a recent directing graduate of Greensboro College and a member of the Dramatist Guild, as well as currently serving as the Young Ambassador for North Carolina representation within the Dramatist Guild. She is a directing alumni from the National Theater Institute as well as SITI Company with Anne Bogart. Ana is the founding artistic director of Skydive Productions, an NC based production company that is committed to telling stories by voices who are not traditionally heard.

Gabby Abrams (PSM) received her BFA in Theatre from UNC Greensboro. Burning Coal: The Container, Ashe in Johannesburg, Midsummer, Great Celestial Cow. Berkshire Theatre Group: Children of a Lesser God (ASM), Arsenic and Old Lace (ASM). Sacramento Theatre Company: Kings of America (PA), The Musical of Musicals: The Musical! (PA), Mothers and Sons (PA). She also worked as the Costume Rental Coordinator and Costume Shopper for Broadway Sacramento. Outside of theatre, she's a coffee lover, audiobook fan, and Zoe's godmama.

Meg Kessinger (ASM) After studying at UNCW, Meg moved to the Raleigh area to further pursue theatre in a professional setting. Meg has worked in a range of capacities for stage and for films, from performing and doing makeup to stage management and building sets. She is so excited to be tackling her third show with Burning Coal as an Assistant Stage Manager after Camelot and Talley's Folly.

Alex Procknow (Production Coordinator) is Administrative Assistant with Burning Coal Theatre. They graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Theatre Arts. Their recent work has centered on creating devised theatre with high school-aged youth. For Burning Coal: Blue Sky (US Premiere) by Clare Bayley, Darkside by Tom Stoppard and Pink Floyd, and numerous others.

NC STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS

The state of North Carolina values the skills and competencies of Arts education due to their applicability to other disciplines. These productions are designed to give your students exposure to the competencies and specific standards listed below.

This production and the related study materials will provide students with specific knowledge and skills to address the following Standard Course of Study Competencies and Objectives in the Theatre Arts.

- COMPETENCY GOAL 1: The learner will write based on personal experience and heritage, imagination, literature, and history.
 - Grades 3-5
 - 1.02: Recognize the beginning, middle, and end of a story
 - 1.03: Infer lessons from multicultural stories, fairy tales, tall tales, legends, and myths.
 - 1.06: Refine reading comprehension by using verbal and non-verbal communication.
 - Grades 6-8
 - 1.01: Recognize and explain unique characteristics of the dramatic script such as dramatic structure and dialogue.
 - 1.04: Produce written, verbal, and visual responses to written and/or performed dramatic material.
 - 1.05: Identify themes and plots from multicultural literature.
 - Grades 9-12
 - 1.03: Compare and contrast play structure in relation to other forms of literature.
- COMPETENCY GOAL 7: The learner will analyze, critique, and construct meaning from informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions.
 - Grades 3-5
 - 7.01: Build skills to critique self and others in a respectful and constructive manner.
 - 7.03: Convey personal reactions to various texts.
 - 7.05: Communicate emotions and thoughts evoked by performance.
 - 7.07: Suggest alternative characters, settings, or events after viewing or participating in a performance.
 - Grades 6-8
 - 7.01: Recognize and practice audience etiquette.
 - 7.03: Develop verbal, visual and written responses to works of informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions from various cultures.
 - 7.04: Express meaning perceived from informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions.
 - Grades 9-12
 - 7.02: Develop and relate a world view of theatre in society.
- COMPETENCY GOAL 8: The learner will understand context by analyzing the role of theatre, film, television, and electronic media in the past and present.
 - Grades 3-5
 - 8.04: Experience live or recorded performance
 - 8.05: Discuss the similarities and differences between live and recorded theatrical events.

Ashe in Johannesburg is also designed to address the following Core Curriculum Anchor Standards in Language Arts Literacy and Social Studies.

- Reading Anchor 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- Reading Anchor 6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- Writing Anchor 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Writing Anchor 7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.