

# **ANIMAL FARM** 2026

By **George Orwell**

Adapted by **Tatty Hennessy**

Directed by **Dimitri Gibara**

20–30 May

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# SYNOPSIS

When the animals in the farmyard rebel against their tyrannical farmer and take control of the farm, they hope to create a world where they can be equal, happier, and free. But as power shifts and a new leader emerges, they soon face the age-old question: what does it really mean to be equal?

Exploring loss of identity, the seductive allure of privilege, and the corrupting nature of political power, George Orwell's *Animal Farm* is a classic story of rebellion and treachery, and a timely reminder of the importance of resistance.

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# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

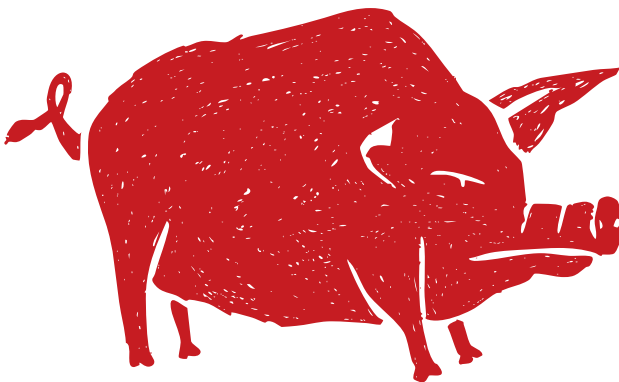
## GEORGE ORWELL

1903–1950

George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Arthur Blair, an English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, and critic. His work is characterised by social criticism and opposition to totalitarianism. He is best known for his allegorical novella *Animal Farm* (1945) and the dystopian novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949).

## TATTY HENNESSY

Tatty Hennessy is a British dramatist writing for stage and screen. She tells dark stories with warm hearts that find the epic in the everyday, look at big ideas through small lenses, and are preferably a little bit strange. She is best known for her adaptation of the novella *Animal Farm* (2021) and *A Hundred Words for Snow* (2018).



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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Comrades,

Cometh the hour, cometh the person, (to paraphrase.) “Animal Farm” was a piece for its time. Published in 1945 and designed to critique the Russian Revolution and totalitarianism. That was 80 years ago.

A simple question: “*What have we learned?*”

Welcome to Animal Farm.

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**THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW  
HISTORY ARE DESTINED  
TO REPEAT IT.**

— Edmund Burke (1729–1797)

**THOSE WHO CANNOT  
REMEMBER THE PAST ARE  
CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.**

— George Santayana (1863–1952)

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## DIMITRI GIBARA

Director

Comrades, Kiwis, Thespians, lend eyes to this. A bio written under sufferance. Good stuff disappears; bad stuff lingers longer. So let it be with bios. I come here under threat from Pim, for he is an honourable man, that either I write the bio or he does. So be it.

So be it indeed.

Dimitri has been a Repertory stalwart for he-forgets-how-many-years and is frequently involved as an actor and director. Recent directing credits for Repertory include *Killer Boobs* (2025) and *Mort* (2024). You may also remember seeing him onstage as a scene-stealing member of the ensemble in Repertory's last production, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

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# CAST

**SEBASTIAN BOYLE**

Boxer

Seb has always dreamed of being either a boxer or a horse, so is delighted both ambitions can now be realised with Rep, for whom he has previously appeared onstage in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Richard III*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has done other things, but, word count.

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**CLAIRE BUCKLEY**

Clara

Claire trained at Hagley Theatre Company where she discovered a deep passion for performing. She now acts and directs for the Rangiora Players, sings at local rest homes, and does physical comedy with the Feminist Clown Posse. Claire is delighted to debut with Repertory in this iconic play.

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**KAT FORRESTER**

Snowball &amp; Farmer Pilkington

Kat has been treading the boards at Elmwood, Riccarton and Rep for over a decade. A proud Hagley Theatre Company alum, she later co-directed Play Space Productions before being lured to film where she now works as an AD. She's delighted to be back on stage as Snowball and Farmer Pilkington.

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**KIM GEORGINE**

Clover

Kim Georgine is an experienced performer working across stage and screen, and is delighted to join Canterbury Repertory for *Animal Farm*. She's especially pleased to be playing Clover - embracing the challenge of emotional truth, physical commitment, and the occasional well-placed neigh.

**SYDNEY HOGARTH**

Squealer &amp; Old Major

When Sydney heard that he got the roles of Old Major and Squealer he was overjoyed to be part of this latest Repertory production, a classic sadly evergreen story for sure. Then he thought, “Old!? I suppose I’m no spring chicken. In fact, I’m two pigs!”

**JAIME HORNE**

Mollie

Jaime is a lover of theatre. Since moving to town in 2024, her first involvement in the local theatre scene was working back stage in the Repertory’s production of *Killer Boobs*. Jaime is very excited to be working with the Repertory Theatre again, and this time on stage as Mollie.

**GRAY KIM**

Milo &amp; Minimus

Gray hasn’t been on stage since Riccarton High School’s *Seussical Jr* in 2011. Now she’s nearly 30. You do the math. This is Gray’s first production with Canterbury Repertory Theatre which she’s pretty stoked about. When she’s not on stage, she might be on camera, or maybe even a runway?

**JACQUI MACGREGOR-PAHL**

Minty

When Jacqui was a pre-schooler, she was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up. To which she announced “a sheep”. She is very grateful to Repertory for enabling her to fulfil her childhood ambition. This is Jacqui’s 2<sup>nd</sup> show with Repertory, having previously appeared in *Mort*.

**EMMA MCBRIDE**

Nutmeg

Emma has been a big fan of dystopian fiction ever since reading *Examination Day* by Henry Slesar as a child. She is no stranger to playing women with questionable empathy, having played Regan (*King Lear*), Beverly (*Abigail's Party*), and Bridget (*Chorus of Disapproval*)—but playing a pig is definitely new.

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**LANCE MCBRIDE**

Napoleon

Known to his crewmates as the existentialist pirate, Lance has made many a voyage 'cross the wine-dark stages of Canterbury. He has led the charge in battle, engineered and escaped murderous plots, broken curses, fought his own inner demons, and even survived Death himself. Now, fresh adventure beckons!

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**SCOTT MORROW**

Benjamin &amp; Farmer Jones

Scott has been involved in Canterbury theatre for a number of years, appearing in plays with Elmwood Players and Rangiora Players and in musicals with North Canterbury Musicals, Showbiz Christchurch, and Hurunui Theatre Group. Scott is thrilled to be a part this exciting production of *Animal Farm*.

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**GEOFF YARDLEY**

Blue

Geoffrey Alexander Richard Yardley. Long name, longer talker. Born for the stage. Loves the spotlight. Has a great love of films and theatre, from Star Wars to Shakespeare and everything in between. Returning to Repertory after a hiatus to start a family. Last show was *Wind in the Willows* (2013).

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# CREATIVES

**DIMITRI GIBARA**

Director & set concept

**NICK HOBDEN**

Stage manager

**BRENDA HAYES**

Production manager

**SUE MATHER**

Wardrobe

**GERALDINE CLARKE**

Wardrobe

**JANENE GALLETLY**

Wardrobe

**STEPHEN BRINKHURST**

Set construction

**IAN HARDING**

Lighting design

**AMELIA HILL**

Music

**JONATHAN HILL**

Sound design

**BERNADETTE RICHARDSON**

Set graphics

**PIM VAN DUIN**

AV, graphic designer & photographer

**ALISDAIR MUIR**

Props

**MARY MCKEOWN**

Front of House manager

**GILL EDWARDS**

Front of House manager

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# SPECIAL THANKS

**JORDON JONES**

**AMON BROWN**

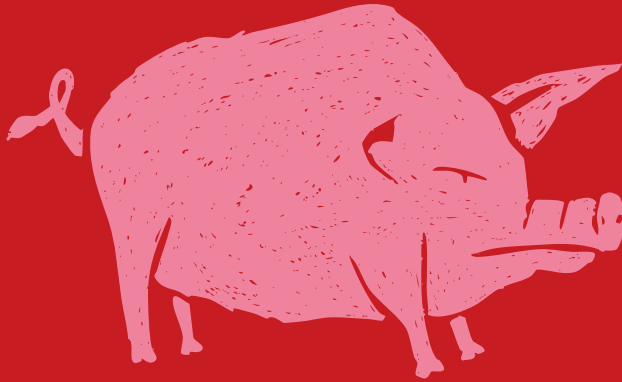
**JULIAN JOSLAND**

**DARREN SUNDBORN**

**DEREK DODDINGTON**

**JENNY BROOKS**

**ELMWOOD PLAYERS**



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