

Lawyers on Stage Theatre Society

in collaboration with

Langham Court Theatre

presents



ANIMAL FARM

Adapted by Ian Wooldridge

From the George Orwell novella

Directed by

Francis G. Matheu & Sara Ramshaw

Proceeds go to support

Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA)

Victoria Humane Society (VHS)

Produced by special arrangement with

THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

For more information, contact info@lawyersonstage.com or go to www.lawyersonstage.com

LAWYERS ON STAGE THEATRE SOCIETY
in collaboration with Langham Court Theatre
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ANIMAL FARM

Adapted by **IAN WOOLDRIDGE**
From the **GEORGE ORWELL** novella

CREATIVE TEAM

Directors	Francis G. Matheu & Sara Ramshaw
Producer	Andrew Pirie
Stage Manager	Gillian Calder
Assistant Stage Manager	Janet Cook
Lighting Designer	Karrie Wolfe
Sound & Projection Designer	Jason King
Set Designer	Don Keith
Costume Designer	Clara Rose Van Horn-Foy
Lighting Board Operator	Jennifer Illingworth
Sound Board Operator	Amanda Heffelfinger
Stage Fight Choreographer	Niki Kihira
Makeup Coordinator	Gabrielle Doiron
Props Coordinator	Ruari McLennan
Music Composer	Jake Hól m
Singer	Jocelyn Toledo

CAST

(In alphabetical order)

Kim Cholette	Executed Pig, Sheep
Eliott de Rosnay	Young Animal
Gabrielle Doiron	Mollie, Animal 1, Sheep
Christine Eely	Benjamin
Jake Hól m	Napoleon
Lisa Jackson	Sheep, Animal 2
Rebecca Johnson	Snowball
Moira Kelly	Squealer
Raya MacKenzie	Clover
Rob Maguire	Mr. Jones, Dog
Caroline Mitic	Executed Goose, Goose
Bruce Murray	Moses, Dog
Andrew Pirie	Old Major, Pilkington, Farmer 1
Sara Ramshaw	Storyteller, Farmer 2
Jocelyn Toledo	Minimus, Pigeon
Theresa Walsh	Sheep, Animal 3, Executed Hen
Teddy Weinstein	Boxer
Debra Young	Executed Goose, Hen

LOST gratefully acknowledges the traditional territory and legal orders of the Lək'wəŋən (Songees and Esquimalt) Peoples on which we create and perform, and the Lək'wəŋən and WSÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

A Message from Lawyers on Stage Theatre Society (LOST)

The production tonight is not just about enjoying a great story; it is about fundraising to support two local charities:



Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) began in the 1970s as a response to racism in our community. Today, it continues that important work by offering wide ranging services that help newcomers access housing, healthcare and employment as well as English language instruction and mentorship. Alongside its direct services to newcomers, ICA helps Greater Victoria be a more welcoming place by providing anti-racism programming and community education. For more information, go to <https://www.icavictoria.org/about-ica/>.



Victoria Humane Society (VHS) is a small community group committed to doing big things – finding homes for animals in need. Since it was formed in 2013, thousands of animals have been adopted through VHS. It is a place where animals can find the time and space to settle, to heal mentally or physically if necessary, and to stay for a short period until an appropriate foster home can be found or, in some cases, after the initial assessment, be adopted directly into their forever home. For more information, go to <https://victoriahumanesociety.com>.

As you take in the powerful, heart-warming, and at times haunting messages that abound in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, you may be wondering, "Who the heck is LOST?" Please visit our website, www.lawyersonstage.com, for our story and a history of our previous shows. At its core, LOST is a way not only to produce engaging, high quality, relevant theatre, but also to encourage that huge generosity of spirit in the legal community to give back to their community.

Your presence at the show will make a real difference in the lives of many beings. Bid generously in the silent auction and consider being in the Donation Draw. It's all for a wonderful cause. Please join us after the show in the Lounge for the draw and an informal reception. Mingle with the cast and crew. Meet the animals. Consider becoming vegan!

A special thanks to Langham Court Theatre for once again allowing us lawyers to play in their beautiful theatre.

And, most of all, Comrades, enjoy the show!

Happy Holidays from the LOST Board of Directors:

**Albert Berns | Marina Goodwin | Raya MacKenzie | Ruari McLennan
Rebecca Johnson | Andrew Pirie | Sara Ramshaw**

Directors' Notes

Sara:

"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" (Lord Acton).

2025 will mark eighty years since the publication of George Orwell's novella, *Animal Farm* (1945). While we may no longer care so fervently about its parallels with mid-20th century Soviet Union, we cannot avoid its resonances with contemporary politics and society, a world of fake news and online conspiracy theories. As Orwell presents it, those who control the narrative control the world. It is often easy to exaggerate the truth-revealing powers of art. Still, in this case, we cannot but think that Orwell got it right! Keeping the truth simple in what he perceived to be a post-truth era, Orwell's allegory, which takes place on a farm in the idyllic English countryside, has a much greater range of significance and is profoundly relevant to current human affairs. As a result, *Animal Farm* transcends space and time in its depiction of the ever-present shadow of incipient tyranny hanging over us in the contemporary world and beyond. Orwell teaches us the extreme difficulty of getting justice right, a lesson we must never forget.

Francis:

"Those who want power will do all they can to get it" (Maria Ressa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate)

Growing up in Manila, I enjoyed a "normal life". *Bagong Lipunan* ("New Society") and *Ako ay Pilipino* ("I am Filipino") appeared in the form of advertisements and segments on the shows that were on the television and radio. They were catchy, positive and popular. *Bagong Lipunan* highlighted unity, progress, and discipline; while *Ako ay Pilipino* celebrated Filipino identity and love for the country. These songs were heavily promoted during the Martial Law period of the Marcos government to encourage a deeper connection to the nation's history, culture, and aspirations. As I matured, I came to understand that these songs were songs of propaganda, designed to maintain control over the people. As a teenager, I became increasingly aware of the political climate and the pervasive corruption. The big wake-up call for many Filipinos was the assassination of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, ushering in the people's revolt of 1986 that led to the ousting of the Marcos regime. Thousands bravely went to Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue (EDSA) to face battle tanks and armed men shouting "*Tama na! Sobra na! Palitan na!*" (Enough is enough! It's time for change!). The succeeding governments, however, failed to bring the country out of debt. Election after election echoed the rhetoric of empty promises. The result? After 36 years, the Marcoses are back in *Malacañang* (the White House of the Philippines.) Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Yet, even now, I have not lost hope for my country, or even the world. We shouldn't. Despite the uncertainty of all our futures, we must remain positive and hopeful. We do what we can in our respective spaces in the world. Our nations' histories serve as a beacon that reminds us of our collective strength and capacity for constructive societal revolution. We move forward and trust that there is always the possibility for a better and brighter future, driven by a renewed commitment to the true spirit of unity celebrated in those iconic songs. We, the people, after all, have the power! May you find something to reflect upon after seeing this stage adaptation of Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

About the Author

George Orwell, whose real name was Eric Blair, was born in 1903. He won a scholarship to Eton then served in the Imperial Police in Burma from 1922-27, where his experiences of colonialism stayed with him for life. His first book, *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1933), described his experiences in both cities of living on the poverty line. In *The Road to Wigan Pier* (1937) he wrote about the unemployed in the north of England, but before it was published he left for Spain and fought for the Republicans in the Civil War, as described in his *Homage to Catalonia* (1938). He had by then also written three realistic novels, but it was his allegorical *Animal Farm* in 1945 that won him widespread acclaim, which was redoubled with the publication in 1949, just before his death the following year, of his most famous novel, *1984*.

About the Playwright

Ian Wooldridge is a freelance director and also dean of the British Academy, where he works alongside leading British actors and directors training American theatre students. He was artistic director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre company, where he produced 100 plays, directing 41 of them himself. Before this he was artistic director of TAG Theatre Company, based in Citizens Theatre in Glasgow.

Production Biographies

Francis G. Matheu | Director



Francis is a Filipino theatre artist who holds a MFA from UVic. He made his North America debut as a director/actor in Theatre Inconnu's production of *Pepe* in 2023. In Manila, he founded Twin Bill Theater in 2013 and served as its Managing and Artistic Director/Producer until 2021. Most recently, Francis has been involved with productions such as [im:print](#) (Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria), *Vinegar Tom* (Phoenix Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival), *Misery* (Blue Bridge Theatre) and *Hedda Gabler* (Blue Bridge Theatre). Francis sits on the board of Theatre SKAM and is currently in rehearsal for Langham Court Theatre's production of *Now and Then* which will open in January 2025.

Sara Ramshaw | Director



Sara is Professor of Law and Director of Cultural, Social and Political Thought (CSPT) at UVic. She is also the current President of LOST. This is her fourth time co-directing a LOST production and she is grateful for all she has learned over the years from her co-directors, this year being no exception. She wishes to thank Francis for sharing with her his immense talent and expertise. Sara also wishes to extend her gratitude to the amazing cast and production team. Her previous experience with LOST includes: *The Great Gatsby*, *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, *Treasure Island*, and *The Snow Queen*. She has also performed with Canada Ice Dance Theatre, Lennox & Addington Theatre Guild, Hamilton Urban Theatre, and Hamilton's Staircase Theatre.

Gillian Calder | Stage Manager



Gillian is a Professor at UVic Law, and her roles with LOST in the past have included "Dr Livesey" in *Treasure Island* and "Justine" in *Frankenstein*. Gillian comes to *Animal Farm* with a firm belief that empathy, creativity and imagination are three of the most important legal skills, and that performativity is the best form of training. She loves the themes of democracy animated in this play and is thrilled to work with such a fabulous production team and wicked-talented cast. Special thanks to Sara for her leadership and sense of play, Rebecca for riding the high horse of justice, and Uumati, as always, for inspiration.

Karrie Wolfe | Lighting Designer



The Honourable Justice Karrie Wolfe was appointed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia in late February 2024. A long-time supporter and participant in community theatre, Justice Wolfe is very pleased to be able to help bring LOST's production of *Animal Farm* to light. Justice Wolfe thanks her very patient family for sharing her, the dedicated and talented cast, crew and production team, and as always, lights this show in honour of her friend, phil.

Production Biographies

(continued)

Clara Rose Van Horn-Foy | Costume Designer



Clara is a Victoria-raised designer who completed her BFA at UVic's Phoenix Theatre in 2017. Recent works include *Pepe* (Theatre Inconnu), *Witch* (Theatre Inconnu), *Ginny's Enterprise* (Suzanne Moreau Short Film) and the 2021 Showcase by Starry Starry Skies Productions (Youtube). *Animal Farm* has been an exciting chance to explore topical themes relevant to today in a fun conceptual way.

Niki Kihira | Fight Choreographer



Niki is a Vancouver and Victoria based lawyer with some experience in self-defence and various theatre and theatre adjacent activities in Canada and Japan. He is very grateful to LOST for offering him the position of fight choreographer. It has been wonderful to work with a fabulous team and cast. His hobbies also include reading military history, to which he occasionally refers to in his role in this production.

Janet Cook | Assistant Stage Manager



Janet is thrilled to be back for her second season with the awesome cast and crew of LOST!

Ruari McLennan | Props Coordinator

This is Ruari's first time as Props Coordinator. Last year, he was the Artistic/Foley Director for LOST's production of *The Great Gatsby*, and he also made lots of noise as a SFX//Foley artist for LOST in both *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*. Ruari has been an actor in LOST productions off and on since the early 2000s. He practices at Sitka Law Group.

Amanda Heffelfinger | Sound Board Operator

Amanda comes to this role naturally as she works in sound professionally. Currently, as part of the Hansard broadcasting team, she turns on mics (and other things) at the B.C. Legislature. Before that she worked at CBC Radio Victoria. This is her fourth LOST show. She hopes you enjoy it.

Jason King | Sound & Projection Designer

Jason is a photographer and videographer for Camosun College, Stage Manager for Ballet Victoria, as well as the Technical Director for Langham Court Theatre, and Game Day Video Producer for The Victoria Harbourcats Baseball Club and Peninsula Panthers Hockey. He is also a filmmaker and operates his own production company, Shoestring Filmworks.

Don Keith | Set Designer

Don has developed a reputation for producing challenging and diverse productions. He has directed plays at St Luke's Players and Langham Court Theatre, most recently *Present Laughter*. For Theatre Inconnu he has directed *The Good Soldier Schweik*, *Crumble*, *East of Berlin* and *Bull*. Recently he adjudicated the Theatre BC Festival in the Okanagan.

Cast Biographies

(In alphabetical order)



**Kim Cholette | Executed Pig,
Sheep**

This is Kim's first play with LOST. Kim is a retired public servant who is now taking the time to indulge in activities such as acting and doing a PhD with UVic Faculty of Law. Kim was last on stage in her early twenties where she worked in francophone theatre in Ontario. Other interests include singing and playing the guitar (she played in a band for 5 years but also enjoys a good karaoke). Kim is thrilled to be part of this production (despite being executed!).



Elliott de Rosnay | Young Animal

Elliott is a passionate theatre enthusiast and currently in grade 9 at Oak Bay High. He has performed in multiple Shakespearean productions with Kaleidoscope Theatre for Young People, recently taking on the role of "Mark Antony" in their acclaimed Summer 2024 production of *Julius Caesar*. Known for his quick wit and adaptability, Elliott excels in improvisation and brings a lively, creative energy to every performance. His dedication to the craft and love for the stage make him a memorable presence in any production.



**Gabrielle Doiron | Mollie,
Animal 1, Sheep**

Gabrielle has performed with LOST in *Dracula* as "Lucy Westenra", as "Beatrice Rhodes" in *The Seven Keys to Baldpate* and did the makeup for last year's production of *The Great Gatsby*. She is excited to be back on stage this year with the amazing cast and crew of LOST.



Christine Eely | Benjamin

Christine works as a legal assistant at Johns Southward LLP. This is Christine's second production with LOST and she is thrilled to be back! Christine has over 20 years of dance and performing arts experience and has performed in productions such as *The Great Gatsby*, *Grease*, *Guys and Dolls* and many many more. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Cast Biographies

(In alphabetical order, continued)



Jake Hólm | Napoleon

This is Jake's second time on stage with LOST, having appeared as "Tom Buchanan" (A.K.A. "*Daisy's hulking brute of a husband*") in last year's production of *The Great Gatsby*. While Jake is pleased to take on another villainous role this time around, he assures audience members he is "a pretty chill guy" in real life. This is Jake's first time producing a musical score for the theatre. Jake works as a staff lawyer with Legal Aid BC.



**Lisa Jackson | Sheep,
Animal 2**

Lisa is excited to return to the Langham Court stage, after appearing in *The Great Gatsby*, as one of the Mellow Dees, and playing "Catherine"/ "Michaelis". She is looking forward to sharing the stage with this talented cast and performing this show in support of two important causes. Enjoy the show!



Rebecca Johnson | Snowball

Rebecca is Professor of Law, and Associate Director of the Indigenous Law Research Unit at UVic. After a nearly 40-year hiatus from the stage (where she appeared in Calgary as part of the "Chorus of Euripides" in *The Trojan Women*), she stretched her vocal chords into "Meyer Wolfsheim" in last year's LOST production of *The Great Gatsby*. This year, she looks forward to her role as "Snowball", the Pig of the People (and a chance to think about additional routes to creating equality and justice for all!).



Moira Kelly | Squealer

Moira is thrilled to be returning to the stage for her first time since high school and to remind people that lawyers can be creative too! She is in her final year of the Joint Degree Program in Canadian Common Law and Indigenous Legal Orders at the University of Victoria and plans to pursue a legal career advocating for decolonization. When she isn't on stage or studying, Moira can be found hanging with her friends, sewing, or politically engaging through community organizing.

Cast Biographies

(In alphabetical order, continued)



Raya MacKenzie | Clover

In her day job, Raya is a solicitor with a particular interest in Estates Law. She is grateful to LOST for getting lawyers out of the office and onto the stage for a good cause! You may have seen Raya in various LOST roles in the last two years, including “Dracula’s Driver” and “Gatsby’s Gardner”. Raya is excited for her first LOST production in which she portrays just one character: “Clover the Mare”. Enjoy the show!



Rob Maguire | Mr. Jones, Dog

Rob is an aging solicitor of more than 30 years practice in Victoria. This is his first experience with LOST and he is looking forward to his debut under the bright lights of Langham Court.



**Caroline Mitic | Executed
Goose, Goose**

Caroline is an award-winning graphic designer who in her spare time enjoys performing for a good cause. When she isn’t doing either of those things, she can be found hiking in the woods or enjoying a glass of wine at one of her favourite watering holes.



Bruce Murray | Moses, Dog

Bruce is a carpenter and an educator whose partner is a lawyer. This is Bruce’s fourth season with LOST, having been well received as the pirate “Kilgrew the Kind” in *Treasure Island*, “Peters the Hermit” in *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, and “Professor Waldman” in *Frankenstein*. To paraphrase Hamlet addressing the skull of a lawyer, Bruce marvels at his castmates’ quiddities, quillets, cases, tenures, and tricks (Act V, Sc. I).

Cast Biographies

(In alphabetical order, continued)



**Andrew Pirie | Old Major,
Pilkington, Farmer 1**

Andrew is delighted to be back on stage after co-directing two radio plays for LOST, *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*, and to play three eccentric and challenging characters. Favourite on-stage appearances include: two detectives with attitude in *Mating Dance of the Werewolf* (Theatre Inconnu) and *Escape from Happiness* (Langham Court Theatre); and, for LOST, the forgettable "Gray" in *Treasure Island*, and "Mr. Quimby" in *Seven Keys to Baldpate*. Offstage, Andrew is a Professor Emeritus in the UVic Faculty of Law and a pickleball enthusiast.



**Jocelyn Toledo | Minimus,
Pigeon**

Jocelyn is in her second year of law at UVic and is excited to be participating in LOST for the first time. Before law school, Jocelyn wanted to become an actor and completed her Diploma in Acting at the Vancouver Acting School. Jocelyn is now very excited about her future career in law and hopes to spend her free time participating in local theatre shows, such as *Animal Farm*!



**Theresa Walsh | Sheep,
Animal 3, Executed Hen**

Theresa, who works as a lawyer member with the B.C. Mental Health Review Board, is happy to be back for a second performance with LOST, having played "Jordan Baker" in last year's production of *The Great Gatsby*. Previous experience includes auditioning for her high school musical, undeterred by her belief that she can't sing. Since then, she has taken some acting classes and worked as an extra for a Hallmark Christmas movie (filmed in July) as well as a web series.



Teddy Weinstein | Boxer

Teddy is a newcomer to LOST and to Victoria, hailing from Toronto, Ontario. They graduated from Windsor Law in 2018 and from McGill University in 2013. Their passions include cycling, gaming, cooking, travelling and creating art in their limited spare time.

Cast Biographies

(In alphabetical order, continued)



**Debra Young | Executed
Goose, Hen**

Debra, a retired neurophysiotherapist, is gobsmacked to have the opportunity to again be on stage at Langham Court Theatre. Merci LOST for letting her honk, cluck and hiss to her heart's content! 🐔🐔🐔🐔🐔



To learn more about the issues faced by animals, on farms and elsewhere, go to www.animaljustice.ca. Animal Justice is Canada's only national animal law advocacy organization. Its team of compassionate lawyers and advocates fight for stronger legal protections for animals: working to pass strong new animal protection laws, pushing to hold industries accountable for abusing animals, and fighting on behalf of animals in court.

Another wonderful resource is the UVic Animals & Society Research Initiative (ASRI), led by Professor Maneesha Deckha, Lansdowne Chair in Law, and Academic Director of ASRI. See ASRI's website for more information: <https://www.uvic.ca/law/asri/index.php>.

**Lawyers on Stage Theatre
Society
(LOST)**

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on stage, giving back to the community*

Watch for our 2025
Production Announcement!

For more information, or to get involved, contact info@lawyersonstage.com
or go to www.lawyersonstage.com

Photo credit: Sara Ramshaw (Salzburg Courthouse, Austria)

Lawyers on Stage Theatre Society (LOST) says ...

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In memoriam: Ivan Elieff 1970-2024

We are saddened by the sudden passing of a dear friend of LOST, Ivan Elieff. Ivan was a UVic Law alumnus with a love of music. He kindly offered his time to design the beautiful sound for LOST's *The Snow Queen* (2017) and *Treasure Island* (2018). We are saddened by his sudden passing. His generosity of heart and joyful spirit live on in our memories and in our work.



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