

SYDNEY  
THEATRE  
CO  
EDUCATION



ON CUE

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About <i>On Cue</i> and STC	2
Curriculum Connections	3
Cast and Creatives	4
Synopsis	5
Glossary of Newspeak	6
Study Guides	9

Compiled by Lisa Mumford.

The activities and resources contained in this document are designed for educators as the starting point for developing more comprehensive lessons for this production. Lisa Mumford is the Education Projects Officers for the Sydney Theatre Company. You can contact Lisa on [lmumford@sydneytheatre.com.au](mailto:lmumford@sydneytheatre.com.au)

© Copyright protects this Education Resource.

Except for purposes permitted by the Copyright Act, reproduction by whatever means is prohibited. However, limited photocopying for classroom use only is permitted by educational institutions.

# ABOUT *ON CUE* AND STC

## ABOUT *ON CUE*

STC Ed has a suite of resources located on our website to enrich and strengthen teaching and learning surrounding the plays in the STC season.

Each school show will be accompanied by an *On Cue* e-publication which will feature essential information for teachers and students, such as curriculum links, information about the playwright, synopsis, character analysis, thematic analysis and suggested learning experiences.

For more in-depth digital resources surrounding productions, please visit the STC Ed page on our website.

### **Such resources include:**

- Director documentaries
- Design sketchbooks

## ABOUT SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY

In 1980, STC's first Artistic Director Richard Wherrett defined STC's mission as to provide "first class theatrical entertainment for the people of Sydney – theatre that is grand, vulgar, intelligent, challenging and fun."

Almost 40 years later, that ethos still rings true.

STC offers a diverse program of distinctive theatre of vision and scale at its harbourside home venue, The Wharf; Roslyn Packer Theatre at Walsh Bay; and Sydney Opera House, as its resident theatre company.

STC has a proud heritage as a creative hub and incubator for Australian theatre and theatre makers, developing and producing eclectic Australian works, interpretations of classic repertoire and great international writing. STC strives to create theatre experiences that reflect Sydney's distinctive personality and engage audiences.

Strongly committed to engagement in the community, STC's Education and Communities programs aim to inspire theatre appreciation and participation not only in theatres but also in schools, community halls; wherever people get together. STC offers an innovative School Drama™ program; partners with groups in metropolitan Sydney, regional centres and rural areas; and reaches beyond NSW with touring productions throughout Australia. Through these partnerships and initiatives, STC plays a part in ensuring a creative, forward-thinking and sociable future by engaging with young people, students and teachers.

The theatre careers of many of Australia's internationally renowned artists have been launched and fostered at STC, including Mel Gibson, Judy Davis, Hugo Weaving, Geoffrey Rush, Toni Collette, Rose Byrne, Benedict Andrews and Cate Blanchett.

STC often collaborates with international artists and companies and, in recent years, the company's international profile has grown significantly with productions touring extensively to great acclaim.

STC is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, by its arts funding and advisory body, and by the New South Wales Government through Arts NSW.

[sydneytheatre.com.au](http://sydneytheatre.com.au)

# CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS



## SUITABLE FOR

Students in Years 9 – 12

## SUBJECTS

Advanced English Module A  
Comparative Study of a Text and Context,  
Elective 2: Intertextual Perspectives

SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY IN ASSOCIATION WITH STATE THEATRE COMPANY SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
GWB ENTERTAINMENT AND AMBASSADOR THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS THE HEADLONG, NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE AND ALMEIDA THEATRE PRODUCTION

# 1984

BY GEORGE ORWELL

A NEW ADAPTATION CREATED BY ROBERT ICKE AND DUNCAN MACMILLAN

PARSONS

**PAUL BLACKWELL**

WINSTON

**TOM CONROY**

O'BRIEN

**TERENCE CRAWFORD**

JULIA

**URSULA MILLS**

MARTIN

**RENATO MUSOLINO**

SYME

**GUY O'GRADY**

CHARRINGTON

**YALIN OZUCELIK**

MRS PARSONS

**FIONA PRESS**

CHILD

**MOLLY BARWICK  
COCO JACK GILLES**

CO-ADAPTOR / DIRECTOR

**ROBERT ICKE  
DUNCAN MACMILLAN**

DESIGNER

**CHLOE LAMFORD**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**NATASHA CHIVERS**

SOUND DESIGNER

**TOM GIBBONS**

VIDEO DESIGNER

**TIM REID**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (AUSTRALIA)

**COREY McMAHON**

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER

**MARC GOUGH**

ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGNER

**RICHARD BELL**

ASSOCIATE VIDEO DESIGNER

**IAN VALKEITH**

PRODUCTION MANAGER &  
ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER

**GAVIN NORRIS**

TECHNICAL STAGE MANAGER

**BRUCE BOLTON**

STAGE MANAGER

**NICOLA FILSELL**

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

**LAURA PALOMBELLA**

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

**KELLIE JONES**

TOURING AV OPERATOR

**DANIEL VOSS**

TOURING SOUND OPERATOR

**TIM WALKER**

PRODUCTION MANAGER (STC)

**KATE CHAPMAN**

RPT HEAD ELECTRICIAN

**ANDREW TOMPKINS**

RPT DEPUTY HEAD ELECTRICIAN

**HARRY CLEGG**

RPT HEAD SOUND

**KEVIN WHITE**

RPT HEAD MECHANIST

**STEVE MASON**

RPT HEAD FLYMAN

**CHRIS FLEMING**

RPT FLOOR MECHANIST

**JASON EDWARDS**

1 HOUR 40 MINUTES, NO INTERVAL

THE SYDNEY SEASON OF THIS  
PRODUCTION PREMIERED AT ROSLYN  
PACKER THEATRE ON 29 JUNE 2017

**Headlong**

**ALMEIDA  
THEATRE**

**Nottingham  
Playhouse**


**STATE  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**gwb**  
entertainment

**ATG** AMBASSADOR  
THEATRE  
GROUP  
ASIA PACIFIC

  
Australian Government

  
Australia  
Council  
for the Arts

  
NSW  
GOVERNMENT | Create NSW  
Arts, Screen & Culture

**SYDNEY  
THEATRE  
CO**

# SYNOPSIS

It's April, 1984, in London, Oceania – a totalitarian state that routinely spies on its citizenry (“Big Brother is Watching You”, as the posters in Oceania put it). Winston Smith, who works at the Ministry of Truth, has decided to take a drastic step; he is going to write a diary. If this act were to be discovered, Winston would likely be executed – Big Brother is always watching.



Tom Conroy in 1984 © Shane Reid.

# GLOSSARY OF NEWSPEAK

## ANTI-SEX LEAGUE

Organisation advocating celibacy among Party members and the eradication of the orgasm. In Airstrip One, love and loyalty should exist only toward Big Brother and the Party.

## AIRSTRIP ONE

A province of Oceania, known at one time as 'England' or 'Britain'.

## BIG BROTHER

The dictatorial leader of the Party, and its co-founder along with Emmanuel Goldstein. Life in Oceania is characterised by perpetual surveillance and constant reminders that "Big Brother is watching you".

## THE BROTHERHOOD

An underground network founded by Emmanuel Goldstein, an original member of the Inner Party. Goldstein turned on Big Brother and was one of the few to escape during the revolution (see also Resistance)

## BLACKWHITE

The ability not only to believe that black is white, but to know that black is white and forget that one has ever believed the contrary.

## DOUBLEPLUS

An example of how comparative and superlative meanings are communicated in Newspeak. 'Plus' acts as an intensifier, and 'double' even more so. In Newspeak, 'better' becomes 'plusgood' and even better is 'doubleplusgood'.



Renato Musolino, Paul Blackwell, Ursula Mills, Tom Conroy, Guy O'Grady, Fiona Press, Yalin Ozucelik in 1984 © Shane Reid.

# GLOSSARY OF NEWSPEAK (CONT.)

## **DOUBLETHINK**

The ability to hold two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously and accept both of them.

## **FACECRIME**

Any improper expression that carries the suggestion of abnormality or of something hidden. A nervous tic or unconscious look of anxiety could be a punishable offence.

## **GOLDSTEIN'S BOOK**

Referred to simply as "The Book", Emmanuel Goldstein's record is a compendium of all the heresies, of which Goldstein was the author and which circulated clandestinely here and there.

## **GOODTHINKER**

A person who adheres to the principles of Newspeak.

## **INNER PARTY**

Oceania's political class, who enjoy a higher quality of life than general Party members. They are dedicated entirely to Big Brother and the principles of Party rule.

## **MINISTRY OF LOVE (ALSO MINILUV)**

Oceania's interior ministry, enforcing loyalty and love of Big Brother through fear, oppression and thought modification. As its building has no windows, the interior lights are never turned off.

## **MINISTRY OF PEACE (ALSO MINIPAX)**

The defence arm of Oceania's government, in charge of its military.

## **MINISTRY OF PLENTY (ALSO MINIPLENTY)**

This arm of government manages Oceania's economy. It oversees rationing and maintains a state of poverty, scarcity and financial shortage while convincing the population that they are living in perpetual prosperity.

## **MINISTRY OF TRUTH (ALSO MINITRUE)**

The Party's communication apparatus, by which historical records are amended in keeping with the approved version of events.

## **NEWSPEAK**

The official language of Oceania. Designed to make thoughtcrime impossible, its vocabulary gets smaller every year, asserting that thoughtcrime – and therefore any crime – can not be committed if the words to express it do not exist. Implementation of Newspeak is referred to as 'The Project'.



Ursula Mills, Bianca Pisani, and Tom Conroy in 1984 © Shane Reid.

## **OCEANIA**

One of three global superstates. It is Winston's home and the dominion of Big Brother. Its neighbouring territories are Eurasia and Eastasia.

## **OLDSPEAK**

The version of English preceding Newspeak. In Newspeak, words that represent politically incorrect ideas are eliminated.

## **OLDTHINK**

Ideas and patterns of thought that are inconsistent with the Party's principles.



# GLOSSARY OF NEWSPEAK (CONT.)



Tom Conroy and Terence Crawford in 1984 © Shane Reid.

## THE PARTY

Party membership is divided between the Inner and Outer. Inner Party members, roughly 2% of the population, are the upper class who govern Oceania. The Outer Party, comprising middle class bureaucrats and other government employees, make up a further 13% of the population. This is where Winston fits in. Outer Party members are educated, but have almost no access to basic consumer goods. All Outer Party members have a telescreen in every room of their apartment and are routinely spied on.

## RESISTANCE

The revolutionary group said to have been led by Emmanuel Goldstein in an uprising against the Party. Every ill of society is blamed on this group, which may or may not exist.

## ROOM 101

A room in the Ministry of Love where thought criminals are taken.

## SEXCRIME

Having sex for enjoyment. In Oceania, the only approved purpose of sex is procreation for the Party.

## TELESCREEN

Two-way screens installed in the homes of all Party members to broadcast information and ensure constant surveillance. There is no way to control what is broadcast, only its volumes, and the screen cannot be turned off.

## THOUGHTCRIME

All crime begins as a thought, therefore all crime is thoughtcrime. A person who has committed thoughtcrime is a thought criminal, even before committing the act itself. Thoughtcrime is “the essential crime that contains all others in itself”.

## THOUGHT POLICE

Law enforcement department designed to detect mental political transgressions.

## TWO MINUTES HATE

A daily broadcast showing instances of thoughtcrime.

## UNGOOD

The opposite of good.

## UNPERSON (ALSO UNWRITE)

The process of altering and erasing records in order to eradicate someone from cultural memory. Once unpersoned, an individual’s previous existence can be denied.

## YOUTH LEAGUE

Group for children in which membership is mandatory. Members’ primary task is to monitor the activities of their parents.

# STUDY GUIDES

WONDERFUL STUDY GUIDES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR PREVIOUS ITERATIONS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND THEY HAVE BEEN COMPILED HERE:

## WEBSITE

[http://www.1984play.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/1984\\_Australia\\_Study-Guide.pdf](http://www.1984play.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/1984_Australia_Study-Guide.pdf)

<http://www.1984play.com.au/education/>

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/1984-the-play-education-pack-11295197>

<http://statetheatrecompany.com.au/content/uploads/2017/05/1984-Study-Guide-Australian-Tour.pdf>

[http://www.citz.co.uk/images/fileuploads/1984\\_Resource\\_Pack.pdf](http://www.citz.co.uk/images/fileuploads/1984_Resource_Pack.pdf)

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/09/learning/lesson-plans/teaching-orwell-and-1984-with-the-new-york-times.html?\\_r=2](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/09/learning/lesson-plans/teaching-orwell-and-1984-with-the-new-york-times.html?_r=2)

## THEATRE PROGRAM

Sydney Theatre Company Program, 1984, 2017.

