

# It Can't Happen Here

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## A nationwide reading

In 1936, Sinclair Lewis adapted his novel into a play under the auspices of the Federal Theatre Project, and 21 theatres across the country opened productions on the same night.

During the week of October 24, 2016—the 80th anniversary of that nationwide opening—Berkeley Rep was joined by 50 organizations across 24 states for a series of free, public readings of the new adaptation by Tony Taccone and Bennett S. Cohen. Host organizations included 20 theaters, 12 universities, 12 libraries, a high school, a coffee house, and four in-home readings.

The nationwide reading was made possible thanks to the generous support of Barbara and Rodgin Cohen and Orin Kramer, with the cooperation of the Sinclair Lewis Estate.

### Participating organizations

#### ARKANSAS

Ozark Living Newspaper at The Rep Annex  
Little Rock, AR

#### CALIFORNIA

Berkeley Public Library Playreaders  
Berkeley, CA

Calabazas Branch Library  
San Jose, CA

Coffee Bandits  
Merced, CA

#### MICHIGAN

Detroit Repertory Theatre  
Detroit, MI

#### MINNESOTA

St. Cloud State University  
St. Cloud, MN

University of Minnesota Duluth Department of  
Theatre  
Duluth, MN

#### MISSOURI

### Thank you!

From the beginning, the response to this project was enthusiastic and decisive. We thank all organizers, volunteer readers, audience members, and local journalists and patriots who took the time to share this important work of American art with their communities. The impact was wide-ranging and significant.

“We had five people over 80 years old there. They spoke so eloquently on how we keep making the same mistakes. Very moving all around.”

**Woodside, CA**

“It is a play about voting...It is a way for artists to come together

Custom Made Theatre Co.  
San Francisco, CA

Mary L. Stephens Davis Library, sponsored by Yolo  
County Library  
Davis, CA

University of Redlands Department of Theatre Arts  
Redlands, CA

USC School of Dramatic Arts  
Los Angeles, CA

Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum  
Topanga, CA

#### **COLORADO**

Curious Theatre Group  
Denver, CO

Su Teatro  
Denver, CO

#### **CONNECTICUT**

Connecticut Heritage Productions at Russell Library  
Middletown, CT

#### **FLORIDA**

American Stage  
St. Petersburg, FL

#### **ILLINOIS**

16th Street Theater  
Berwyn, IL

Aurora University Department of Art and Theatre  
Aurora, IL

Chicago Dramatists  
Chicago, IL

Illinois State University School of Theatre and  
Dance  
Normal, IL

The Upstagers—A Playreading Group  
Evanston, IL

#### **INDIANA**

Butler University Department of Theatre with  
cooperation from Indiana Repertory Theatre  
Indianapolis, IN

University of Notre Dame Department of Film,  
Television, and Theatre  
Notre Dame, IN

#### **IOWA**

Lisbon Public Library  
Lisbon, IA

#### **KANSAS**

Emporia State University Theatre Arts  
Emporia, KS

#### **LOUISIANA**

The Arts At Page Library, Inman E. Page Library  
Jefferson City, MO

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Keene Public Library  
Keene, NH

Matchbook Players Monadnock at Jaffrey Public  
Library  
Jaffrey, NH

#### **NEW JERSEY**

The Collaboratory at Rutgers University—Newark  
and New Jersey Institute of Technology  
Newark, NJ

#### **NEW MEXICO**

FUSION Theatre  
Albuquerque, NM

#### **NEW YORK**

Cooperstown High School  
Cooperstown, NY

Hobart and William Smith Colleges Department of  
Theatre  
Geneva, NY

Metropolitan Playhouse  
New York, NY

Pendragon Theatre  
Saranac Lake, NY

#### **OHIO**

Yellow Springs Theater Company at Yellow Springs  
Library  
Yellow Springs, OH

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Village Repertory Co. in residence at Woolfe  
Street Playhouse  
Charleston, SC

#### **TEXAS**

The VORTEX  
Austin, TX

#### **VERMONT**

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library  
Jericho, VT

Hartland Public Library and Windsor Public Library  
Hartland and Windsor, VT

Mad River Valley Libraries  
Warren, VT

The Manchester Players  
Manchester, VT

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Fairmont State University Departments of  
Communication and Theatre Arts and Language  
and Literature

and exercise a political  
voice.”

**Denver, CO**

“Here is what is really  
important. This is  
Louisiana, and the play  
was created with a  
Louisiana politician in  
mind, so we were able  
to get a thought-  
provoking piece of  
theatre out there in a  
very weird political  
season.”

**Metairie, LA**

“We had a spirited, hour  
talk-back with a  
historian who  
particularly studies the  
play’s era.”

**New York, NY**

“Theatre lets you live  
inside the big questions.  
Politics and theatre  
have gone together for  
a long time—and they  
go well together.”

**Yellow Springs, OH**

“It just kind of allows  
people to go, ‘Wow,  
how did we get here?  
How did this happen?  
And how is it replicating  
a time and place that  
this particular writer  
thought was possible  
80 years ago?’”

**Charleston, SC**

Jefferson Parish Library  
Metairie, LA

Fairmont, WV

**PLUS PRIVATE IN-HOME READINGS**

**MAINE**

Portland Stage  
Portland, ME

Saratoga, CA  
Woodside, CA  
Holyoke, MA  
New York, NY

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Vineyard Haven Public Library  
Vineyard Haven, MA

Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater  
Wellfleet, MA

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 **Berkeley Repertory Theatre**

**Peet's Theatre**

2025 Addison St, Berkeley CA 94704

**Roda Theatre**

2015 Addison St, Berkeley CA 94704

**Box office**

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