

AUDITION/PARTICIPATION NOTICE for
GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984
Reimagined + Directed by Charlotte Brathwaite



Created with Rochester University students with potential Community Performers

"Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past."
— George Orwell 1984

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This new production of 1984 uses George Orwell's vision of a totalitarian world as a lens to reflect our current world. The piece is immersive, political, and communal. It blends movement, text, improvisation, song, ritual, surveillance, silence, and direct audience interaction.

Together, we'll ask:

What sustains power? What breaks it? And what do we build after its walls fall?

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

7-8 Full cast participants; up to 10 part time "chorus/audience participation" members

- university students
- local artists
- community members
- activists
- musicians/singers
- dancers
- poets
- thinkers
- dreamers

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No “traditional” acting experience required. If you have something to say—come.

We’re especially interested in folks who:

- Move well / have physical theatre or dance experience
- Love to improvise or experiment and play
- Have lived experience with systems of surveillance or power
- Work with text (poetry, playwriting, spoken word)
- Play instruments, sing, or use the voice in dynamic ways
- Care deeply about what the future looks like

All ethnicities, body types, gender identities, and abilities are welcome.
This space is queer-affirming, collaborative, and anti-oppressive.

Disclaimer:

For the “full cast participants”:

Full cast participants, if cast, will be asked to commit to the full rehearsal/production/performance process (evening and weekend rehearsals). Dates are provided below. Please understand that, as an academic production, preference has to be given to UR students. That being said, we are open to non-UR folks in those roles as well. Currently, however, we do not have funding to pay non-UR participants in “full cast” roles (and it is unlikely we will be able to provide compensation).

For the audience participation opportunities:

The commitment for these participants would be between 30-60 minutes before curtain for any individual performance of *1984*. Audience participants will receive simple instructions and should be willing to be engaged when prompted during the show. 2 free tickets for each show that you participate in will be provided. (We are working on being able to provide some financial assistance with transportation; TBD).

If you’re interested in the Audience Participation opportunity, please email:
uritp@rochester.edu

If you’re interested in the full cast participation, you are invited to audition:

AUDITION DATES

Audition dates: Friday, October 24 starting at 7 p.m. and Saturday, October 25 starting at noon.

Audition location: Todd Theatre Lobby (first floor, [Todd Union](#))

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Auditions are open to everyone. Sign up or walk-in welcome!

WHAT TO PREPARE

Please bring:

- A short piece of memorized text that moves you (can be original or someone else's writing) no more than 1 min
- A short memorized song max. 30sec
- Be ready to try a few group improvisations

****Don't over-rehearse. Bring your ideas, curiosity, and presence.**

Questions? SIGN UP / CONTACT

Email: uritp@rochester.edu

Website: www.rochester.edu/theatre

Audition website: www.rochester.edu/theatre/auditions/audition-schedule.html#audition1984

REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCE

Rehearsals begin: January 20, 2026

Rehearsals are *generally* Tue-Fri from 7-11pm; Sat (10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm) & Sun (11-2pm; 3-6pm). You will not be asked to attend every rehearsal!

Performances: Thu - Sat, February 26 – 28 & Wed - Sat, March 4 – 7 at 8 pm; (Matinée) Sunday, March 1 at 2pm *ASL Interpreted*

Rehearsal Location: Todd Theatre, Todd Union

Performance Location: Smith Theatre/Sloan Performing Arts Center

www.sas.rochester.edu/theatre/about/directions.html