



WINSTON (Samuel Womack, W&L class of 2021) and Julia (Charlotte Cook, class of 2019) fall in love in the W&L adaptation of “1984.”

# W&L Theater Presents Adaptation Of ‘1984’

The Department of Theater, Dance and Film Studies at Washington and Lee University will present the world premiere of Stephanie Sandberg’s stage adaptation of George Orwell’s “1984” this week in the Keller Theatre in the Lenfest Center.

The show will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9–11, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m.

Sandberg, assistant professor of theater at W&L, authored the adaptation and will direct the play. She describes “1984” as “dystopian exploration of the meaning of dictatorial politics and whether or not truth can exist in a system of control like that.”

Sandberg’s adaptation follows one character, Winston Smith, as he grapples with the unnerving grip Big Brother, the overpowering political party, has on Oceania.

Sandberg draws parallels between Orwell’s world and today’s society, and weaves together theater and technology, integrating a telescreen and a live surveillance camera into the production. The audience must cope with the excessive surveillance and come to terms with the constant surveillance that pervades their own lives through phones, computers and cameras.

Following the Friday performance, faculty from W&L’s Journalism and Mass Communications Department will lead a discussion with the audience. Panel members include Toni Locy, Kevin Finch and Mark Coddington.

“Orwell’s story of deception, wide-spread surveillance and manipulation of the truth reminds us of the fragility of the precious rights found in the First Amendment, and the importance of preserving the freedom of speech, the press, religion, association, and to petition government,” said Locy.

Tickets are available for purchase at [wlu.edu/lenfest-center](http://wlu.edu/lenfest-center) or by calling the box office at 458-8000.