IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE – AGAIN
A note from the authors

After The Gunshots in Pennsylvania

Like all Americans, we at WDA were stunned, and saddened by the attempt on Donald Trump’s life. In its traumatic aftermath, some of our ICHH-A partners may decide to postpone their readings, and we fully understand that. The readings belong completely to the readers and their organizers.

But such an outbreak of political violence only reinforces our impulse to go forward with our July 19 campaign, to draw on the lessons of history as a warning of what could lie ahead for democracy itself. Our concern is not narrowly with the figure of Donald Trump, but with the broader movement of which he is both an emblem and an instigator. That is why, for example, we focus in our play as much on book banning as on Trump’s malevolence. As his electoral prospects are likely improved by his now reinforced status as an icon of grievance, as well as by the disarray among his
Democratic opponents, our determination to sound the alarm is steadfast.

As the litany at the end of our script makes clear, our purpose has always been—and remains—to get out the anti-Republican vote up and down the ballot. *Voting. Not violence.* The nationwide readings of this short play, inspired by Sinclair Lewis, affirms that art is the opposite of violence—the most humane form of resistance. Our solidarity reinforces our hope.

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