IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE - AGAIN!
ROLLING READINGS LEADING TO
THE OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY OF THE
1936 SINCLAIR LEWIS DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY

A NATIONWIDE EVENT
PRESENTED BY
WRITERS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
www.writersfordemocraticaction.org/ICHH
AND PARTNERS ACROSS AMERICA

It Can’t Happen Here,
a stage adaptation by Sinclair Lewis of his own bestselling novel,
opened simultaneously on October 27th, 1936
on 21 stages in 17 states across America…
one week before that year’s presidential election.

It served as a warning against the rise of fascism in America.

It Can’t Happen Here – Again!,
by Writers for Democratic Action members
Rachel DeWoskin, Wesley Savick and James Carroll,
is both an homage to the 1936 production
and a call to action now, in 2024.

On July 19th, 2024
It Can’t Happen Here - Again!
played at 91 locations in 24 states in 71 cities and towns.

Let’s do it again!

Please join us with your own production
before Election Day on November 5th, 2024!

WRITERS RESIST!
VOTERS VOTE!
(FIVE PLAYERS with scripts in front of the gathered audience. One of the FIVE PLAYERS, to be determined by your production, will read the following INTRODUCTION to the reading.)

INTRODUCTION
Greetings everybody and welcome to our reading of “It Can’t Happen Here - Again!” Before we begin, I’d like to thank...[INSERT NAMES OF PEOPLE AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTIONS]...for their support in making this event happen. I’d also like to introduce you to our cast and thank them for volunteering their time and talent. They are...[INSERT NAMES OF CAST MEMBERS]. One last thing, please stick around after the reading for a brief discussion about what we can all do to make sure that “It Can’t Happen Here.” And now...one, two, three-

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

It Can’t Happen Here!

PLAYER ONE

A statement!

PLAYER TWO

A declarative statement!

PLAYER THREE

An ironic statement!

PLAYER FOUR

It Can’t Happen Here!

PLAYER FIVE

A provocation!

PLAYER ONE

A warning!

PLAYER TWO

The ultimate denial of reality!

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

It Can’t Happen Here!
PLAYER THREE
The title of a novel and play by Sinclair Lewis…

PLAYER FIVE
Which perfectly expresses the complicity

PLAYER THREE
And complacency

PLAYER FIVE
Of America in 1936…

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
And now.
(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)

PLAYER FOUR
In 1936, the tide of authoritarian dictatorship was flowing.

PLAYER ONE
In 2024, the tide of authoritarian dictatorship is flowing.

PLAYER THREE
In 1936, Adolf Hitler’s storm troopers reoccupied the Rhineland, a signal of a forbidden German rearmament that went unopposed.

PLAYER TWO
In 2024, Vladimir Putin began the third year of his full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

PLAYER FIVE
In 1936, Francisco Franco claimed totalitarian powers in Spain, and the brutal Spanish Civil War was ignited.

PLAYER FOUR
In 2024, the war between Israel and Hamas splintered the American Left, threatening its ability to defend democracy.

PLAYER ONE
In 1936, the Great Purge was underway in the Soviet Union, marked by the murders of 700,000 people, a tsunami of blood that secured the tyranny of Joseph Stalin.

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)
And in the United States of America…
On October 27, 1936, one week before a presidential election

An election which would determine not only the fate of the New Deal, but of democracy itself

Coast-to-coast productions of a new play premiered simultaneously on 21 stages in 17 American cities. The play was called:

It Can’t Happen Here!

Based on the novel by Sinclair Lewis, America’s first and at that time only Nobel laureate in literature.

That play, like our performance tonight, asks what happens when dictatorship threatens democracy

And, less obviously,

…what happens when complacency begets complicity.

In 1936, Hallie Flanagan was invited to do something big.

Hi! I’m Hallie Flanagan and I wanted to do something really big. Something that had never been done before. Back story: I was asked by Harry Hopkins, my former classmate at Grinnell, to lead the newly created Federal Theater Project. Harry, wouldn’t you know, was head of the WPA…the Works Progress Administration. Director of America’s first and only national theater? Hey, not bad for a girl from Redfield, South Dakota!

She immediately commissioned Sinclair Lewis to write a stage adaptation of his novel…
PLAYER FIVE
(as Hallie Flanagan)
I wanted to do "It Can't Happen Here" because it is a play about American life today. The play says that when dictatorship comes to threaten democracy it comes in an apparently harmless guise, with parades and promises, but that when such dictatorship arrives, the promises are not kept, and the parade grounds become encampments. We as American citizens...should like to do what we can to keep alive the 'free, inquiring, critical spirit' which is the center and core of a democracy."

PLAYER ONE
The play opened on the very same night in Birmingham and Denver

Omaha and Los Angeles

PLAYER TWO
A New York production in Yiddish.

PLAYER FOUR
A Spanish production in Tampa.

PLAYER ONE
A black production in Seattle...

PLAYER TWO
...featuring white actors as the villains.

PLAYER THREE
In an article about the 21 simultaneous productions, The New York Times wrote, "Thousands of Americans who do not know what a fascist dictatorship would mean now have an opportunity to find out."

PLAYER ONE
And today, in 2024

PLAYER FIVE
Writers for Democratic Action invites us to gather for a reading

PLAYER FOUR
A reminder

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
And a serious call to action.

PLAYER ONE
The play you are now watching
PLAYER FIVE
Like the one staged across the country on October 27, 1936

PLAYER ONE
Is being publicly performed across America in bookstores and public squares

Theaters and coffee houses

PLAYER FIVE
Churches and bars

PLAYER ONE
All across the country

PLAYER FIVE
We are gathered together to ask:

PLAYER ONE
What’s happening here?

PLAYER TWO
What has happened here?

PLAYER THREE
CAN it happen here?

PLAYER FOUR
And…

PLAYER ONE
What can we do about it?!

PLAYER ONE
Welcome all!

PLAYER THREE
We’re so grateful for your presence here.

PLAYER TWO
Thank you for coming.

PLAYER FOUR
Together, we can make a difference.
Together, we can make our voices heard.

Welcome all!

The protagonist of Lewis’ play is a small town newspaper editor named


The populist candidate for President, running against Franklin Roosevelt, is a character named


On the campaign trail, Buzz Windrip makes a speech:

“Folks were wrong when they thought this [campaign] trip [of mine] was to educate the people about Buzz. No. It’s me that got educated. What grand people I’ve been meeting. And everywhere I have found the true American people DIVIDED…kept apart by the politicians who in their insensate selfishness befool the very constituents who have placed them on their tinseled thrones. We ought to go forth into the great councils of state, not asking for anything but tellin' 'em!”

“If you honor me with your votes, I shall not be president…no, I mean that…NOT BE PRESIDENT AT ALL…but the telephone central through whom every man in this great land can get in touch with every other man so that…for the first time since 1860…we can be joined in one unified nation that will sweep the world.” I will be your voice.

Doremus Jessup…educated, liberal…

…complacent…
PLAYER ONE
Doremus Jessup, whose belief in reason over emotion naïvely extends to his fellow citizens, concludes:

PLAYER TWO
(As Jessup)
“It's not so much that I trust Windrip as that I trust that!”

(Gestures arms outstretched to the audience)

PLAYER THREE
(Confused) Trust what?

PLAYER TWO
(As Jessup)
(Indicating the audience) You all!

(Again gestures arms outstretched to the audience)

“Look! God's own free, open American country! Do you know how big Texas is? Big as any three European countries put together. This isn't any one-horse European country that a dictator could get hold of. No sir! It's too big! Dictatorship?...it can't happen here!”

PLAYER FIVE
(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)
May 10th, 1933. Berlin. In an effort to cleanse Germany of “un-German” books, 25,000 volumes are burned.

Burn Freud!

PLAYER ONE

Burn Einstein!

PLAYER TWO

Burn Kafka!

PLAYER THREE

Burn Brecht!

PLAYER FOUR

Burn Sinclair Lewis!

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
PLAYER TWO
December 5, 2023, the Fight Book Bans Act is introduced to the United States House of Representatives by congressman Jamie Raskin.

PLAYER FIVE
And Representative Raskin says this:

(as Raskin)
“America is in the middle of an escalating book ban crisis that requires our full attention and strong response. Sinister campaigns to remove books from our schools and libraries are a hallmark of authoritarian and fascist regimes.”

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Ban Atwood!

PLAYER THREE
(as Atwood)
Ban me? Margaret Atwood? Quote: “I had thought America was against totalitarianisms. If so, surely it is important for young people to be able to recognize signs of them. One of those signs is book-banning. Need I say more?”

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Ban Morrison!

PLAYER FOUR
(as Morrison)
Ban me? Toni Morrison? Quote: “I come from a race of people for whom at one time in this country it was illegal to be taught to read…white people who taught Black people how to read were taking the risk of being punished…I think the same sensibilities that informed those people to make it a criminal act for Black people to read are the ancestors of the same people who are making it a criminal act for their own children to read and I don’t see a great deal of difference between that.”

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Ban Henry Louis Gates!

PLAYER ONE
(as Gates)
Ban me? Henry Louis Gates? Quote: “Censorship is to art as lynching is to justice.”

PLAYER FOUR
(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)
But... can it happen here?
PLAYER TWO
Well…the “justices” on our current Supreme Court ruled that the President of the United States has “broad immunity from prosecution” for crimes he commits, so…

PLAYER FIVE
You mean like interfering in elections, inciting an insurrection, and suspending the vote?

PLAYER TWO
Something like that, yeah.

PLAYER FOUR
Okay, I get it. I do. Roger that.
(After a beat)
But can it happen here?

PLAYER TWO
It IS happening here!

PLAYER THREE
Whoa there, slow down!

PLAYER FIVE
Nothing like that is happening here!

PLAYER THREE
It just looks and sounds and feels like it’s happening here, but it’s really not!

PLAYER ONE
(as Trump):
“Four more years, and you know what? You won’t have to vote anymore, my beautiful Christians.”

PLAYER FOUR
Wait, what?

PLAYER ONE
(As Trump)
“We’ll have it fixed so good you’re not going to have to vote.”

PLAYER THREE
But this is America!

PLAYER ONE
This is America!
ALL FIVE PLAYERS except PLAYER FOUR

It Can’t Happen Here!

PLAYER FOUR

Phew! Well! That’s a relief! (PAUSE)
Except…but…. Really?!? Why are you so certain that it can’t?

(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)

PLAYER THREE

November 12, 2023…at a rally in Claremont, New Hampshire…

PLAYER FOUR

The former President of the United States, campaigning for his third consecutive nomination to be Republican candidate for President, said:

PLAYER ONE

(As Trump)

“We pledge to you that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists, and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country that lie and steal and cheat on elections. The threat from outside forces is far less sinister, dangerous, and grave than the threat from within.”

PLAYER FOUR

Threat from within? What does that mean? What is he talking about?

PLAYER THREE

Project 2025 spells it out pretty clearly…

PLAYER TWO

Eliminate the “deep state.” Cut the Civil Service.

PLAYER FIVE

And all those immigrants?

PLAYER THREE

Hiding in schools and churches and hospitals?

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

Round them up!

PLAYER FIVE

And put them in camps!

PLAYER TWO

By the millions!
PLAYER ONE
They don't call it “ICE” for nothing.

PLAYER THREE
Fire the climate scientists!

PLAYER FIVE
Fire the librarians!

PLAYER THREE
Fire the history teachers!

PLAYER ONE
(As Trump)
You’re fired!

PLAYER THREE
(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)
By Act III of “It Can’t Happen Here,” Doremus Jessup is tortured and imprisoned in a concentration camp for seditious writing, critical of the Windrip administration.

PLAYER FOUR
He dreams of escape to a better place.

PLAYER TWO
(As Jessup)
“Think of being in a place where you can speak right out without looking back over your shoulder! Think of…Montreal.”

PLAYER FIVE
(As Dorothy Thompson, warmly to assembled)
Hi. Thank you so much for coming. Your concern…your patriotism (and my, that’s a tricky word!) is deeply…moving to me. To my memory. My name is Dorothy Thompson. I lived from 1893 to 1961 and enjoy the wonderful distinction of being the first American journalist to be expelled from Nazi Germany in 1934. I wrote the book, “I Saw Hitler”…and I did! My book is out of print, alas, but it was quite the sensation at the time! I described the man thus: “He is formless. He is inconsequential and voluble, ill poised and insecure. He is the very prototype of the little man.” Ring any bells?

I was married to Sinclair Lewis. He also wrote a book which was quite a sensation at the time. But his is still very much in print, the bastard.

What did I learn from my time in Germany?
“When our dictator turns up, you can depend on it that he will be one of the boys. He will stand for everything traditionally American. They will greet him with one great big, universal, democratic, sheeplike bleat of ‘O.K, sir! You alone can fix it, sir. Fight, fight, fight.’”

I first expressed this concern in 1936, but I’m afraid it is even more urgent for all of you in 2024. My concern is this:

You have moved so far “away from being an informed public to being a persuaded public.”

(QUOTE)

“When liberty is taken away by force, it can be restored by force. [But] when it is relinquished by default, it can never be recovered.”

PLAYER FOUR
(as Dorothy Parker)

Dorothy Thompson! As I live and breathe! And I don’t! Not since 1967, may I rest in peace. I’m the other Dorothy. The funny one. I’m Dorothy Parker. And I hear you.

“When editors asked me what I was doing to combat Fascism?...I could only answer…” Not enough!’ My last editor asked, ‘God damn it, why can’t you be funny again?’"

PLAYER ONE

In 1936, Dorothy Parker helped found the Hollywood Anti-Nazi League. When she died in 1967, she bequeathed her estate to Martin Luther King, Jr.

PLAYER FOUR
(as Parker)

Like so many writers who were anti-fascist activists in the 1930s, I was blacklisted in the 1950s by the distinguished Republican from Wisconsin, Senator Joe McCarthy…

PLAYER TWO
(as McCarthy)

“I have here in my hand a list of two hundred and five people that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party…”

PLAYER FOUR
(as Parker)

One of many times when it did happen here. (Beat) God damn it, why can’t I make that sound funny?

PLAYER TWO
(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)
Before the internet

PLAYER THREE

And podcasts
And blogs!

PLAYER FOUR

Long before eight-track tapes

PLAYER TWO

And television

PLAYER THREE

And color movies

PLAYER FOUR

There was only radio!

PLAYER TWO

And in 1936, if you wanted to win the presidency, you absolutely had to have the support of

PLAYER ONE

PLAYER FOUR
(as COUGHLIN)

Father Charles Coughlin (pronounced “Cog-linn”)

“Pastor Paul Peter Prang.”

PLAYER TWO

Demagogue and master of the medium

PLAYER THREE

Reaching a quarter of all Americans every week.

PLAYER TWO

In the play, Lewis calls him, “Pastor Paul Peter Prang.”

PLAYER THREE

Today we might call him… “Fox?”

PLAYER TWO

Spoiler Alert: FDR did NOT have the support of Father Charles Coughlin…

PLAYER FIVE

PLAYER FOUR
(as Coughlin)

Of course he did not have my support. “Democracy in America is doomed. This is our last election. It is fascism or communism. We are at the crossroads. I take the road to fascism.”
PLAYER TWO

Father! What?

PLAYER FOUR
(as Coughlin)

“And when we get through with the Jews of America, they’ll think the treatment they received in Germany was nothing.”

PLAYER FIVE

…nor did FDR have the support of Pastor Paul Peter Prang, the fictional Father in Lewis’ play whose imitation of Coughlin wasn’t terribly exaggerated.

PLAYER ONE
(as Prang)

I am Pastor Peter Paul Prang and while “I (have) no quarrel with individual Jews…those subversive international organizations which, unfortunately, are so largely Jewish, must be driven with whips and scorpions from off the face of the earth.”

PLAYER THREE

Today we have Alex Jones…

PLAYER TWO
(as Alex Jones)

“Unfortunately folks we gotta help the innocents and face the demons that have taken over. We gotta face it. Most of your top government people are child rapists, murdering scum. I’ve told you everything else, you’ve seen it come true. It’s a pedophile army.”

PLAYER FIVE

And we have a vice-presidential nominee…

PLAYER THREE
(As JD Vance)

“America is being run by a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable at their own lives and the choices that they’ve made and so they want to make the rest of the country miserable, too.”

PLAYER FOUR

Wait, what again?

PLAYER ONE
(As Vance)

Kamala Harris? Childless cat lady.

PLAYER TWO

Oh, he means no offense.
PLAYER ONE
(As Vance)
No! Of course not! Let me be clear: I have nothing against cats.

PLAYER FOUR
Okay, but . . . how about women? How’s it going for women?

PLAYER FIVE
Well, in China Xi Jinping crushed feminist movements, silencing women who have accused powerful men of sexual assault.

PLAYER FOUR
And in North Korea, Kim Jung Un spurred women to seek refuge abroad at roughly three times the rate of men.

PLAYER FIVE
And in Afghanistan, the Taliban’s victory has erased twenty years of progress on women’s access to education and representation in public office and the workforce.

PLAYERS FOUR and FIVE
But here in the US?

PLAYER FIVE
Oh! Here in the US, the Supreme Court erased 50 years of progress

PLAYER FOUR
Making the subjection of women a matter of law.

PLAYER TWO
AND here in the US, the Republican nominee for

PLAYER THREE
(Drawn out for emphasis) Pre-si-dent of the U-ni-ted States!

PLAYER TWO
Was ordered by a Manhattan jury to pay eighty-three million dollars for defaming a woman

PLAYER FOUR
A woman he *raped* in a department store.

PLAYER TWO
(PAUSE)
So . . . what was the reaction of the Republican nominee for . . .
PLAYER THREE
(Drawn out more for even greater emphasis) Pre-si-dent of the U-ni-ted States!

PLAYER TWO

…as he left the courtroom?

PLAYER ONE
(as Trump)

“This is not America.”

PLAYER FIVE

Actually, it is.

PLAYER ONE
(As Trump)

“This is NOT America.”

PLAYER FIVE

It is, actually. Yup. Sure is. Nobody above the law? Mm-hm, yeah, that’s pretty much how it’s supposed to work actually. Until a few months ago, anyway.

PLAYER ONE
(As Trump)

(Tantrum) This is not AMERICA! This is NOT America! It’s not, it’s not, it’s NOT!

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

Yes! It! Is!

PLAYER FOUR

Fearing for his precarious hold on power, in Sinclair Lewis’ play President Buzz Windrip raises an armed militia

PLAYER THREE

An armed militia which is independent of established government agencies

PLAYER FOUR

An armed militia which is directly accountable to President Windrip

PLAYER TWO

An armed militia which imprisons

PLAYER FIVE

Assaults

PLAYER THREE

And murders American citizens who disagree in any way with President Windrip.
PLAYER ONE
An armed militia with the sole function of intimidating dissent.

PLAYER FOUR
In Sinclair Lewis’ fiction, they are called:

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
“The Minute Men.”

PLAYER FIVE
In America in 2024, we have REAL armed militias. They are called:

Constitutional Sheriffs
PLAYER TWO

Three Percenters
PLAYER THREE

Guardians of Liberty
PLAYER ONE

Michigan Wolf Pack
PLAYER FOUR

Army of God
PLAYER FIVE

Aryan Nation
PLAYER TWO

Boogaloo Bois
PLAYER ONE

Oath Keepers
PLAYER THREE

White League
PLAYER FIVE

Proud Boys
PLAYER FOUR

Patriot Movement
PLAYER TWO
PLAYER ONE
Imperial Klans of America

PLAYER THREE
QAnon

PLAYER FIVE
All awaiting instructions from their Commander in Chief

PLAYER ONE
(as Trump)
“I am your voice. I am your warrior. I am your justice. And for those who have been wronged or betrayed…”

PLAYER FIVE
Instructions which may be issued on January sixth…

PLAYER ONE
(as Trump)
“I am your retribution.”

PLAYER FIVE
Or on any… other… day…

PLAYER ONE
(as TRUMP)
“Stand back and stand by.”

PLAYER FIVE
(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)
Sinclair Lewis ended his play “It Can’t Happen Here” with the admonishment: “Remember everything. Remember America.”

PLAYER FOUR
But what America, exactly, are we to remember?

PLAYER TWO
In the America I remember, I can check out any book from the library and read all the possibilities. No books are banned or burning in the America I remember.

PLAYER FIVE
In the America I remember, I can seek help when my body and future are in danger.

PLAYER FOUR
I can marry the person I love, no matter who that is.
PLAYERS FOUR AND FIVE
In the America we remember, we have choice.

PLAYER THREE
I remember never having a lockdown drill. Never having heard the words “school shooting.” I can go to school unafraid in the America I remember.

PLAYER ONE
I remember speaking freely, even with those whose views opposed mine.

PLAYER TWO
I remember the long arc of America bending toward justice.

PLAYER THREE
I remember when the insights of science informed the basis of government policy.

PLAYER FOUR
When hurricanes, forest fires or heat waves struck, no one denied them. We rallied to help our brothers and sisters.

PLAYER FIVE
I remember all of our votes being counted, fair and free elections being fair and free. I remember accepting the certified results of elections. I remember the peaceful transfer of power. America, I remember.

PLAYER THREE
The America I remember opens its golden door and cries “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Remember?

PLAYER ONE
Remember with us.

PLAYER TWO
Remember everything.

PLAYER THREE
Remember America.

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
But how? (Pause.) How are we going to do that?

(PAUSE. TONAL SHIFT)
PLAYER TWO
(as Walter Winchell)
“Good evening Mister and Mrs. America, from border to border and coast to coast and all the ships at sea. This is Walter Winchell. Let’s get to press…”

PLAYER ONE
Remember that Sinclair Lewis’ play was seen across the nation one week before the 1936 presidential election…

PLAYER TWO
(as Winchell)
“The election results are in. President Roosevelt has carried every state in the nation, except two…”

PLAYER FOUR
Remember America.

PLAYER TWO
(as Winchell)
“As Maine goes, so goes Vermont.”

PLAYER FOUR
Remember your sacred duty as a citizen of this nation.

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
(To AUDIENCE) Vote!

PLAYER ONE
In November, 1936…

(ALL FIVE PLAYERS mime pulling the lever in a voting booth.)

ALL FIVE PLAYERS
…WE DID!

PLAYER FOUR
At least those Americans who had the right to vote. The rest had to wait another thirty years.

PLAYER THREE
(as FDR)
This is Franklin Delano Roosevelt and it is my privilege to serve as your newly re-elected president. “I see a great nation upon a great continent…but here is a challenge to our democracy…I see tens of millions of its citizens…denied the necessities of life. One third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished…”
PLAYER TWO
I remember.

PLAYER THREE
(AS FDR)
“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have too much. It is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

PLAYER FOUR
Oh yes!

PLAYER THREE
(as FDR)
“We are determined to make every American citizen the subject of this country’s interest and concern… I shall do my utmost to speak their purpose and to do their will…to give light to them that sit in darkness and to guide our feet onto the way of peace.”

Remember America!

Remember Freedom.

“Freedom of speech.”

“Freedom of worship.”

“Freedom from want.”

“Freedom from fear.”

Remember America!

But what do we do?
(THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS A RHYTHMIC CHANT)

What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Pay attention! PLAYER FOUR
What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Get involved! PLAYER TWO
What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Ask a question! PLAYER ONE
What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Read! PLAYER THREE
What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Listen closely! PLAYER FIVE
What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Give respect! PLAYER FOUR
What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
Challenge authority! PLAYER TWO
What do we do? ALL FIVE PLAYERS
PLAYER THREE

Think!

What do we do?

Say their names!

What do we do?

Believe women!

What do we do?

Stay awake!

What do we do?

Act!

What do we do?

Open your mind!

What do we do?

Get the facts!

What do we do?

Show up!

PLAYER FIVE

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

PLAYER FIVE

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

PLAYER FOUR

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

PLAYER TWO

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

PLAYER THREE

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

PLAYER FOUR

ALL FIVE PLAYERS

PLAYER ONE
What do we do?

Vote!

What do we do?

Vote!

What do we do?

Vote!

WHAT DO WE DO?

VOTE!

We are the Writers for Democratic Action and we approve this gathering. Thank you for coming. Stick around. Let’s talk to each other.

It must not happen here!

GET OUT THE VOTE!

IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE!

=THE END= 
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On October 24, 2011, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the 1936 performances of It Can’t Happen Here, there were nationwide readings sponsored by Dell’Arte International and the San Francisco Mime Troupe, organized by the actor Darryl Henriques. The authors acknowledge a debt to Mr. Henriques, from whom we obtained the poster reproductions on our title page. We had invaluable advice from Allie Mulholland, Artistic Director of The ReGroup Theater in New York, and from Professor Sally Parry of Illinois State University, Executive Director of the Sinclair Lewis Society. And special thanks to The Mighty Orq for his design of our poster.