

LONDON TOAST THEATRE PRESENTS

ANIMAL FARM

VIVIENNE McKEE KEVIN KEIRNAN-MOLLOY ANDREW JEFFERS



SEPTEMBER 16TH - OCTOBER 17TH 2026

**TEATRET VED SORTE HEST
TICKETS: TEATERBILLETTER.DK**

GUEST PRODUCTION PERFORMED IN ENGLISH



TEATRET VED SORTE
HEST

ANIMAL FARM

**An adaptation of George Orwell's novel for 3 actors
by Vivienne McKee**

**"ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL,
BUT SOME ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS"**

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

I chose to adapt Orwell's book into an immersive theatre experience in which the theatre space is the farmyard and the actors, together with the audience, play all the farm animals. In this way, everyone, audience and actors alike, are involved in the action.

Animal Farm was first published in 1945 and two years later in Denmark, as Kammerat Napoleon. It was written as a reflection on the Russian Revolution and it has since become an allegory about the corrupting influence of unchecked power. Fear propaganda is a central theme in the novel, illustrating how oppressive regimes use fear to maintain control, suppress dissent and manipulate people. We can all think of corrupt politicians who continue to cling to power in any way they can - from silencing dissent, manipulating truths, rewriting history and waging wars. They count on the masses to wilfully ignore the injustices that are hidden in plain sight. After all, it works better for them when they are faced with a nation of sheep, not citizens.

I hope that this production will be a thought-provoking and cautionary tale inviting us all to reflect on the consequences of unchecked authority and the impact of language manipulation on society. I also hope it will encourage you to read or re-visit the book with its timely warning about the dangers of totalitarianism. We will forever be exploited by corrupt authorities unless we think and act with authority ourselves.

Vivienne McKee - adaptor and director

THE WRITER - GEORGE ORWELL

George Orwell (1903-1950) was the pen name of Eric Blair. Born in British India and educated at Eton, he served as a police officer in Burma, and fought in the Spanish Civil War. He returned to England to become a writer, and died of tuberculosis at the age of 46. His last book was “1984”.

Orwell’s preface to the Ukrainian edition of *Animal Farm* (1947)

“I saw a boy driving a huge cart-horse along a narrow path, whipping it whenever it tried to turn. It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength, we should have no power over them, and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the proletariat.”

In Orwell’s own words, he wrote *Animal Farm* “primarily as a satire” on the Russian Revolution. He pointed out that, far too often, revolutions can “only lead to a change of masters”; a true radical improvement for ordinary people was unlikely unless they were themselves “alert” to what was going on and could genuinely hold their political representatives accountable.

CENSORSHIP OF ANIMAL FARM

In the UK, four publishers refused to publish the novel, because of the war-time alliance between Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. In Denmark, however it was published immediately and discussed across the political spectrum. In 1954, a cartoon of *Animal Farm* was secretly funded by the CIA and used as anti-communist propaganda to undermine the Soviet Union. The 1999 cartoon and the recent Andy Serkis 2025 Disney-style version, do not adhere to Orwell’s shock ending. In each of these versions, the producers change the story into their own ideological principles and in doing so - one might say that they themselves become “the pigs”. For decades, several American schools have challenged the inclusion of it in syllabuses. In 1977, it was banned from the International Book Fair in Moscow. In 2018, the Chinese Communist Party censored all social media posts referring to both of Orwell’s anti-totalitarian novels (*Animal Farm* and *1984*).

THE ANIMALS

The 9 main characters in this adaptation are played by 3 actors.
All the other animals on the farm are created by the audience
and by use of sound effects.

VIVIENNE MCKEE

Clover (a horse), *Snowball* (a pig)

ANDREW JEFFERS

Old Major (a pig), *Boxer* (a carthorse), *Napoleon* (a pig)

KEVIN KIERNAN-MOLLOY

Benjamin (a donkey), *Squealer* (a pig), *Molly* (a mare), *Mr Pilkington* (a human)

THE OFFSTAGE ANIMALS

Director	Vivienne McKee
Co-director	David Bateson
Set & Costume Design	Kirsten Brink
Lighting Design	Mark P. Jones
Sound Effects	Søren Bom Bom
Sound & Light Operator	Robyn Halkjær
Builder	Andreas Vium Bjørn
Production Assistant	Lyn Wolsey
Photo	Sara Lica
Production	Søren Hall & Ulla Håkansson

Thanks to Grønnegårds Teatret, Teatret ved Sorte Hest

