



# **44 Plays for 44 Presidents**

by Andy Bayiates, Sean Benjamin, Genevra Gall-Bayiates,  
Chloe Johnston & Karen Weinberg

**2016 FALL PLAY  
Information Meeting  
for Performers & Technicians**

**Black Box Theater  
Harris Center**

**Wednesday  
August 24, 2016  
4:00pm—5:00pm**

# 2016 Fall Play Staff

## DESIGN STAFF

Mr. Chris Adamson, Design/Construction  
Tyler Garcia '17, Lighting Intern  
Ms. Rachel Malin, Costuming  
Mr. Brian O'Neill, Sound/Special Projects  
Mr. Spencer Price, Media Consulting  
Ms. Sally Slocum, Tech Supervision/Lighting  
Mr. Bradley Winkleman, Tech Direction

## MANAGEMENT STAFF

Ms. Cindy Dunning Jakle, BBB Coordination  
Ms. Leah Heine, VPA Chair/VPA Program Direction  
Mr. Paul LeBoeuf, Chaplaincy  
Mrs. Cathy Levering, Managing Direction/Patrons/Musical Theater  
Mr. Ed Trafton, Artistic Direction  
Ms. Calleen Wilcox, House Management/Hospitality  
Mr. Bradley Winkleman, Box Office Coordination  
Mr. Mike Wood, JHS Principal and Jesuit Drama Supervisor

## REHEARSAL STAFF

Casey Honaker '18, Assistant Stage Management  
Nick Lopez '17, Production Stage Management  
Ms. Rachel Malin, Associate Direction/Workshop Director  
Rev. Michael Gilson, S.J., Dramaturgy  
Scott Tooley '18, Assistant Stage Management/Sound & Media Coordination  
Mr. Ed Trafton, Fall Play Direction

## JESUIT DRAMA

*Student Centered...*

*Process Oriented...*

*In the Ignatian Tradition...*

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[jesuithighschool.org/drama](http://jesuithighschool.org/drama)

# 44 Plays for 44 Presidents

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Quick—How many U.S. presidents can you name?

*44 Plays For 44 Presidents* is a chronological, biographical survey of the lives and presidencies of each of the 44 men who have held the office so far. Their mistakes and successes are celebrated by a company of actors who take turns donning a star-spangled coat that symbolizes the presidency.

Beginning with George Washington's almost Eden-like perfection, the scenes shift frequently between the comic and the tragic, from Ben Franklin giving Thomas Jefferson a Comedy Central-style roast, to the frank portrayal of William Henry Harrison's life as an "Indian slayer," and later the grim onset of the Civil War.

Act II starts off the twentieth century with the assassination of William McKinley, moves through a Nixon-praising dance number, a George Bush Sr. mini-musical about dirty campaigning and arrives at a polarized America in both the George W. Bush and Barack Obama plays.

Audience members consider their role in shaping the history they've just witnessed, as they are left to ponder where the presidency has gone since its fall from paradise...and where it will go next.

## ABOUT THE CREATORS: THE “NEO-FUTURISTS”

The Neo-Futurist aesthetic draws upon Dada, Surrealism, the work of the original Italian Futurists, and an array of other artistic and performance disciplines to create something new and different. The Neo-Futurists are a collective of wildly productive writer/director/performers who create:

- Theater that is a fusion of sport, poetry and living-newspaper.
- Non-illusory, interactive performance that conveys our experiences and ideas as directly and honestly as possible.
- Immediate, unreproducible events at head-slappingly affordable prices.
- Work that embraces those unreached or unmoved by conventional theater – inspiring them to thought, feeling and action.

[neofuturists.org/](http://neofuturists.org/)

# How to Audition

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1. Attend the Info Meeting; listen and ask questions.
2. Sign up online for a five-minute (:05) audition-spot:
  - (a.) Go to **Google Chrome** (Internet Explorer will not work, unfortunately...)
  - (b.) Type in **[www.jesuitdrama.com/register](http://www.jesuitdrama.com/register)**
  - (c.) Follow the instructions as prompted
  - (d.) Please select your audition time and write it down below as a reminder
  - (e.) Upload your audition form and fill it out in advance

## *AUDITION TIME REMINDER:*

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*Audition-Time (Remember: Check in 15 minutes early, please.)*

3. Prepare and rehearse **one minute** of a pre-existing, known or unknown speech of your choosing. For the purpose of this audition, please do not present original work. (Our fantastic library has several resources to help you find a great speech!)
4. If you wish, attend the optional Audition Workshop next Tuesday, 8/31, at 4:00pm in the Black Box Theater.
5. Make sure to wear comfortable clothes (preferably dark) and comfortable shoes in which to move. Arrive at least 15 minutes early to your audition-time to check-in with the audition coordinators in the Harris Center Lobby and turn in your audition form. (If you need to cancel your audition, please call us at **(916) 480-2197**. We appreciate your courtesy!)
6. Please bring a résumé, if you have one. (No photograph will be necessary—we will take your picture when you check in.)
7. Audition! Have fun! Be supportive of everyone! (Be nice.)
8. If called back, please attend call-backs (Friday, 9/2, at 4:00pm). The list will be posted Friday morning at 9:00am in the Harris Center Box Office window and online at **[www.jesuithighschool.org/drama/auditions](http://www.jesuithighschool.org/drama/auditions)**. The call-backs will consist of some cold-readings, movement and some other fun stuff.
9. The cast list will be posted on Saturday, 9/3, at 12 Noon in the Box Office window. You may also check out the cast list online at **[www.jesuithighschool.org/drama/auditions](http://www.jesuithighschool.org/drama/auditions)**.

“Break a leg!”

# How to Do Tech

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1. Attend the Info Meeting and then register online:
  - (a.) Go to **Google Chrome** (Internet Explorer will not work, unfortunately...)
  - (b.) Type in **www.jesuitdrama.com/register**
  - (c.) Click the link to tech at the top of the page
  - (d.) Please fill out the registration information; we'll send you an email confirmation
  
2. Once you register, we email you a "Tech Release Form" and a "Technician Information Form." Please print them out, fill them out, get the required signatures, and then bring them to "Tech Orientation Day."
  
3. Once notified by e-mail, attend the first day of tech, "Tech Orientation Day" (Saturday, 9/10, at 9:30am), and turn in your completed and signed "Tech Release Form" and "Technician Information Form."
  
4. Show up on time to the beginning of tech work-sessions. Work hard. Ask questions. Be nice.
  
5. Check your e-mail for future tech calls.
  
6. Weekend Work Crew calls will be based on the needs of the production. Thank you, in advance, for being available.
  
7. Production Run Crew positions will be based on the number of hours you've worked, the quality of your work, your ability to work with other people, and your attitude. (Production Run Crew, like production performers, will receive non-weighted transcript credit.)

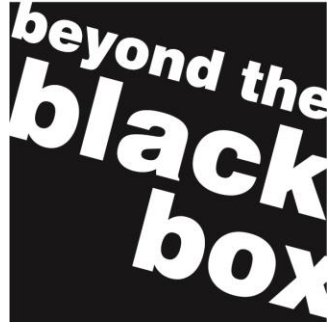
Remember: *"Tech Makes It Happen!"*

We look forward to working with you!

# Beyond the Black Box

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## Jesuit Drama



**Beyond the Black Box** is the community-service, outreach part of Jesuit Drama that gives cast and crew members the chance to share their gifts and provide service and support to the larger community.

Our many projects have included helping veterans return to college (**Boots to Books**); reading to and tutoring at-risk kids (**Reading Partners**); sharing music and performing for seniors (**River's Edge & Carlton Plaza**); touring plays to sick children (**Sutter Children's Center**); raising money for peace initiatives (**Capital Park Peace Garden**); partnering with refugee organizations to raise awareness for local, state, and national refugee issues (**Opening Doors & Jesuit Refugee Service/USA**); and conducting

on-site, after-school drama workshops for the next generation of young performers (**Leataata Floyd Elementary School**).

Cast and Crew members of the fall play will have an opportunity to join us on a new venture!

## Fall Play Audition Workshop

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**WHAT:** Optional Audition Workshop

**WHEN:** Tuesday, 8/30 @ 4:00pm–5:00pm

**WHERE:** Jesuit Drama's **Black Box** Theater

**WHO:** All are welcome! This workshop will be given by Jesuit Drama's Associate Director Rachel Malin and is completely optional. (It is—in **no way**—a requirement for participation in our fall play.) We're offering it to beginners who'd like more information about how to audition and to old pros who'd like a refresher and some feedback.

**WHY:** To get some great advice and some practical tips on how to make this your best audition ever!

# Declamation Speeches: What they are, how to choose a piece and deliver them

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A declamation speech is the term used to describe the *re-giving* of an important or famous speech. It could be a political, graduation or commencement speech, a eulogy, or a sermon. The speaker re-interprets the original, reproducing its power afresh.

This method was used in ancient Greece where public speaking was considered a necessary art for anybody embarking on a career in public service. A declamation was a practice piece set by a teacher for exactly the same reason they are set now: to have a student learn the skills of combining eloquent language with equally eloquent delivery.

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What you choose is critical. Firstly, you must like it. There's no good to be gained from choosing something because you think it will please or impress your teacher and likewise, judges. You're going to work on this piece to make it your own. Therefore it needs to genuinely reflect you in theme and message.

And secondly it needs a combination of the qualities listed in the following areas:

- **Style of language:** Elevated, inspirational, elegant, poetic, masterful; the speech should be an example of “beautiful” language and construction.
- **Structure:** Look for unity of purpose. The piece needs to be structurally coherent; it should have a beginning, development and close. It is not a loose ramble or collection of impressions without form.
- **Theme:** The message or theme running through it should be worthy of its oratorical treatment, that is, the style of language specified above. It must be important and applicable beyond the time it was first delivered. For example, Martin Luther King's “I Have a Dream” speech has carried its theme down the years without any loss of potency or relevance. **(But be warned: choose carefully. A famous speech such as King's will have been heard and heard again. You need something of similar impact but with considerably less profile.)**
- **Impact:** The speech must have reached and grabbed the hearts and minds of its listeners. It will have persuasively challenged and changed the way people thought and acted, uniting and inspiring them toward a common goal or course of action.

If you're choosing for a competition *before* you make your choice be sure to *review the guidelines* and do take note of the allocated time. Be prepared to cut your selection to fit.

Looking for just the right extract takes time. Avenues worth exploring are archives of previous declamation competition winners, asking for help from your teachers, or librarians, experimenting with search words: eulogies, motivational or persuasive speeches, civil rights speeches. Keep going until you find something you know you'll feel wholehearted about.

# Fall Play Schedule Overview

8/24/16	Wed	4:00pm–5:00pm	Fall Play Info Meeting
8/30/16	Tue	4:00pm–5:00pm	Optional Audition Workshop
8/31/16	Wed	TBD	Fall Play Auditions 1
9/01/16	Thu	TBD	Fall Play Auditions 2
9/02/16	Fri	4:00pm–TBD	Fall Play Call Backs
9/03/16	Sat	12 Noon	Fall Play Posting & Staff Design/Safety Meeting
9/7/16	Thu	6:00pm–9:30pm	Fall Play Rehearsals Begin
Cast Rehearsals M/W		3:45pm–6:45pm	)
Cast Rehearsals T/Th		6:00pm–9:30pm	) Performers must be available for <u>all</u> these times.
Cast Rehearsal Sat		10:00am–1:00pm	)
9/10/16	Sat	9:30am	First Day of Tech/Tech Orientation ( <i>forms due</i> )
		10:00am	Actor Call for “Company Day”
		12:15pm–1:00pm	Full Company Lunch ( <i>Jesuit Drama hosts!</i> )

## Tech Work-Sessions

Saturdays & Sundays—(Morning Tech) 9:30am–1:00pm | (Afternoon Tech) 2:30pm–5:45pm  
*Tech sessions arranged in advance by email; not all technicians will be called all the time. If needed, there also might be occasional Monday or Wednesday evening calls from 7:00pm–9:30pm.*

10/18/15 Sun TBA Special Schedule on day of **JHS Open House**

## Tech Weekend (*more specific times TBA*)

10/29/16	Sat	10:00am–6:00pm	Fall Play Tech 1
10/30/16	Sun	10:00am–10:00pm	Fall Play Tech 2
10/31/16	Mon	4:00pm–10:00pm	Fall Play Dress 1
11/01/16	Tue	4:00pm–10:00pm	Fall Play Dress 2
11/02/16	Wed	4:00pm–10:00pm	Fall Play Dress 3

## Performances

11/03/16	Thu	7:30pm	Fall Play 1 (Gala & Opening Night)
11/04/16	Fri	7:30pm	Fall Play 2
11/05/16	Sat	7:30pm	Fall Play 3
11/10/16	Thu	7:30pm	Fall Play 4 ( <i>earlier call this day for brief pick-up session</i> )
11/11/16	Fri	7:30pm	Fall Play 5
11/12/16	Sat	2:00pm & 7:30pm	Fall Play 6 & Fall Play 7 (“Double Day”)
11/13/16	Sun	2:00pm	Fall Play 8 (Closing & Strike)