



Synopsis

Dinner with Goebbels

Toronto Fringe 2019

Playwright/Creator: Mark Leith

Director: Vrenia Ivonoffski

#18 Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

July 5 – July 8, July 10 – July 14

9:00 p.m.

Dinner with Goebbels is now more relevant than ever. The play brings to the stage an imagined dinner between three historical figures – Edward Bernays, Josef Goebbels and Karl Rove. Edward Bernays was the nephew of the historic figure Dr. Sigmund Freud, the neurologist who developed psychoanalysis. Bernays used his uncle's psychological ideas to create the burgeoning consumerist culture of the 20th century. Among the many things he sold was war. Josef Goebbels was the Nazi Minister of Propaganda and used Bernays' books to exterminate the Jews. Rove was the PR mastermind of George W. Bush's administration and used now well documented disinformation to create the War On Terror.

The men gather to ostensibly honour Bernays and their shared profession of propaganda. Predictably there are hidden agendas that unravel, revealing not just the actions of these men but the nature of their characters as well.

While the production demonstrates the role of false information in the creation of the atomic bomb, the waging of WWII, the genocide of the Jews and the War on Terror, it serves as the historical context for these questions as they have surfaced in the Age of Trump. The play shows that fake news is nothing new.