

# GOD'S COUNTRY

BY STEVEN DIETZ



NOVEMBER  
14-30 '96

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# God's Country

## A synopsis

Originally known as the Silent Brotherhood (Bruders Schweigen), The Order was a private guerrilla army, formed in September 1983 with the goal of destroying the U.S. government. Basing their beliefs in a misguided patriotism, paranoia and a race-based theology known as Christian identity, twenty-three people under the leadership of Robert J. Mathews, sought to emulate the fictional account of the overthrow of the U.S. government found in the book, *The Turner Diaries*.

After they were apprehended by the FBI, the government charged The Order with racketeering based on sixty-seven separate crimes. More than half the people (including Denver Parmenter, Thomas Martinez and Randall Radar) entered into plea bargains and agreed to testify against The Order.

On April 12, 1985, a federal grand jury in Seattle indicted twenty-four members of The Order on charges of racketeering and conspiracy. Through guilty pleas and other circumstances, only 10 defendants were actually tried in Seattle. Those on trial included Randy Duey, David Lane, Bruce Pierce, Andrew Barnhill, Gary Yarbrough and Ardie McBrearty (characters who appear in the play) as well as Jean Craig, Richard Kemp, Frank Silva and Randall Evans.

All of these defendants were tried in court by six prosecuting attorneys, depicted in the play by Mueller, Ward and Robinson. The defendants were all represented by their own attorneys.

Steven Dietz has created *God's Country* based on actual court records. All of the words attributed to actual, named persons, are real. None have been invented.

" In Germany, the Nazis came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the labor unionists and I didn't speak up because I was not a labor unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I was a Protestant so I didn't speak up. Then they came for me . . . by that time there was no one to speak up for anyone."

**Martin Niemöller (1892-1984), German Pastor.**

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# A Chronology of God's Country

## The major events relevant to God's Country

*"Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction ."*

- May, 1978                    The Turner Diaries are published. Many consider this to be the handbook for the far right "overthrow of the United States Government".
- June 15, 1983                Robert J. Mathews forms The Order.
- October 28, 1983            Members of The Order rob a Seattle bookstore.
- November, 1983             Members of The Order begin counterfeiting money.
- December, 1983             Robert J. Mathews robs a Seattle branch of Citibank.
- January 30, 1984            Members of The Order rob Washington Mutual Savings Bank in Spokane, Washington.
- March 16, 1984             Members of The Order rob an armored car leaving a Fred Meyers store in Seattle, Washington.
- April 23, 1984             Members of The Order rob an armored car leaving a Bon Marche store in Seattle, Washington.
- May 27, 1984                Members of The Order murder fellow member Walter West.
- June 18, 1984               Members of The Order murder Alan Berg, Denver talk show host, as he steps out of his car in his driveway.
- June 24, 1984               Order member, Thomas Martinez, is arrested in Philadelphia passing counterfeit money. He agrees to lead the FBI to Mathews in exchange for a lighter sentence.
- July 19, 1984                Members of The Order rob a Brinks armored car in Ukiah, California. \$3.6 million is stolen, the largest armed robbery in North American history.
- September, 1984            Reliance Project is formed to build laser weapons for The Order.
- October 4, 1984             Zillah Craig, Robert Mathews mistress, gives birth to Mathews' daughter (Emerant) near Laramie, Wyoming. Zillah has two sons by a prior marriage (Dustin, age 10 and Caleb age 3).
- October 18, 1984            Federal agents uncover documents revealing the command structure of The Order, along with a huge cache of weapons and explosives, including the gun used to murder Alan Berg.

Chronology continued . . .

Chronology continued.

- November 24, 1984 Thomas Martinez leads the FBI to Mathews and Yarbrough at the Capri Motel in Oregon. Yarbrough is captured, while Mathews is wounded and escapes.
- December 8, 1984 Robert J. Mathews is killed during a two-day siege on Whidby Island in Washington State.
- April 12, 1985 Federal racketeering indictments are filed naming 23 Order members and sympathizers. Three agree to testify for the prosecution and ten plead guilty before coming to trial.
- July, 1985 The Order is brought to trial in Seattle on racketeering charges.
- December 30, 1985 A verdict is reached in the case against The Order. The jury finds the members guilty.
- February 6, 1986 The Order members receive prison sentences of from forty to one hundred years each.

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# Director's Notes

I was first introduced to Steven Dietz's powerful play, *God's Country* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 1989. The play had an enormous impact on me and I knew that this was a play that a university audience should see.

For those who might question whether the University of Victoria's Department of Theatre should be doing a play based on an American racist group, I would answer that this play addresses important universal issues including freedom of speech and the rights of the individual in relationship to the good of society.

In the lobby you will see a display that documents various Canadian racist incidents that have occurred in the last five years. Perhaps the most publicized Canadian cases since 1984 were those involving Jim Keegstra, the former Alberta school teacher, and Ernst Zundel, the pro-Nazi publisher from Ontario, who were brought to trials emanating from their racist beliefs. Both men were defended by Doug Christie, a longtime Victoria resident.

As a teacher of directing, I tell students that it is critical that they care deeply about the plays they choose to direct. This play confronts the racism that we can no longer ignore nor deny.

In his book, *Web of Hate: Inside Canada's Far Right Network*, Harper Collins, Warren Kinsella writes,

"When confronted by the growing web of hate, it is the inclination of many Canadians - too many - to avert their eyes and cross to the other side of the street. Unaware, and in some cases uncaring, they persist in the belief that it is too dangerous to turn back the rising tide of hate and that it is too dangerous to get involved.

But, the simple fact is that, whether we like it or not, we are involved. The haters *are* here, and they are not going to go away."

In October, the Department of Theatre was honored to have the playwright, Steven Dietz, as our visiting Lansdowne Scholar. At his public lecture, Mr. Dietz challenged us to consider the theatre as a social forum. He spoke about his play.

". . . *God's Country* is an attempt to use the ritual of the theatre event to reflect upon some disturbing facts, some insidious fears . . . The Theatre is a necessary place for a society to confront itself. It is a place for reasoning and rage, recognition and discussion."


Everyone involved in this production thanks you for attending tonight's performance.

*"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi*

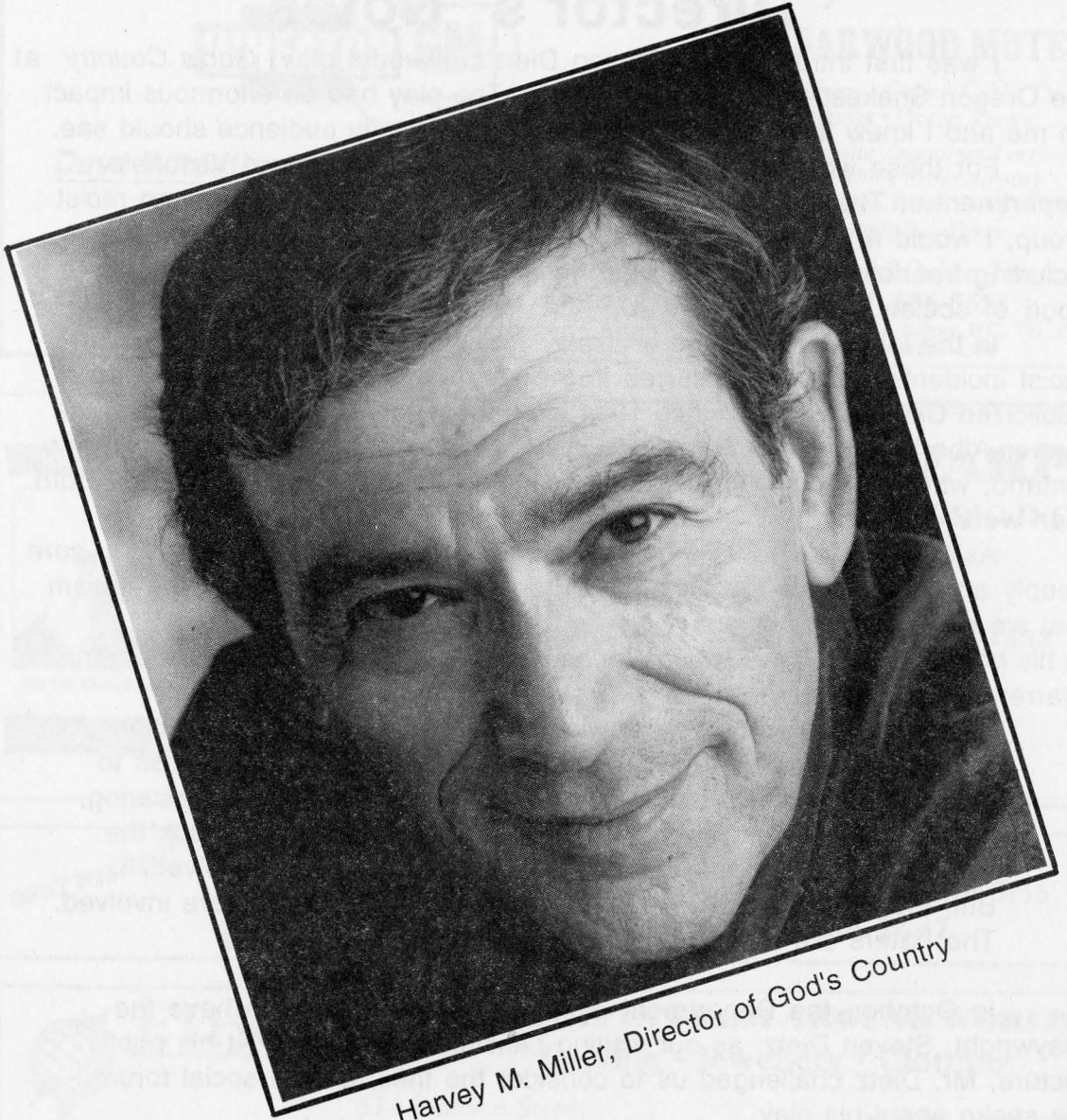
*Best Wishes*

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Harvey M. Miller, Director of God's Country

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# HARVEY M. MILLER

## DIRECTOR OF *GOD'S COUNTRY*

Harvey M. Miller is a member of ACTRA and both Canadian and American Actor's Equity. For the past 25 years he has worked professionally as an actor and director in both Canada and the United States. His diverse directing credits include New York productions of *Talley's Folly* and *Chapter Two* for the Westchester Theatre Ensemble and *Ten Little Indians* for the Provincetown Repertory Company. He has also directed productions of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* for The Guild Theatre in White Horse.

A former co-artistic director of the University of Victoria's Phoenix Summer Theatre he has directed many productions at the University of Victoria's Phoenix Theatre including, most recently, *As You Like It* and Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* which was produced as part of the University of Victoria's 1996 Beckett Festival.

As an actor, Harvey has appeared onstage in various North American regional theatre productions including *Luv* for Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon; *Social Security* for Stage West, Edmonton; *Julius Caesar* for the Clarence Brown Company, Tennessee; and *Two for the Seesaw* for the Delano Playhouse, New York. On television he has appeared in episodes of *Air Wolf II* and *Bordertown*; feature films include *The Journey of Natty Gann*, *Harry Tracy* and *The Glitterdome*.

In addition, he has conducted numerous workshops for Theatre BC, the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival-Northwest Drama Conference and American Alliance for Theatre & Education. He has served as a Directing consultant on various productions and adjudicated drama festivals in the United States and Canada.

Harvey is an Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of Victoria and teaches directing to both undergraduate and graduate students.



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# STEVEN DIETZ

Author of *God's Country*

Steven Dietz, professional director, has worked extensively with new American plays. He is an award-winning playwright whose more than 15 plays, have been seen at over eighty regional theatres across the United States, as well as in many countries around the world.

Steven's recent work has included his adaptation of Shusaku Endo's novel, *Silence*, which he presented in Tokyo and at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in 1995. Some of his other stage adaptations are Joyce Cheeka's *The Rememberer* for the Seattle Children's Theatre (1994), and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* for the Arizona Theatre Company (1995).

His play *Lonely Planet* which premiered in Evanston, Illinois in 1993 and has received many productions, won the 1994 PEN USA West Literary Award in Drama. The Off-Broadway production of his play, *Trust*, was named one of the Top Ten Plays of 1995 by New York's *Backstage*.

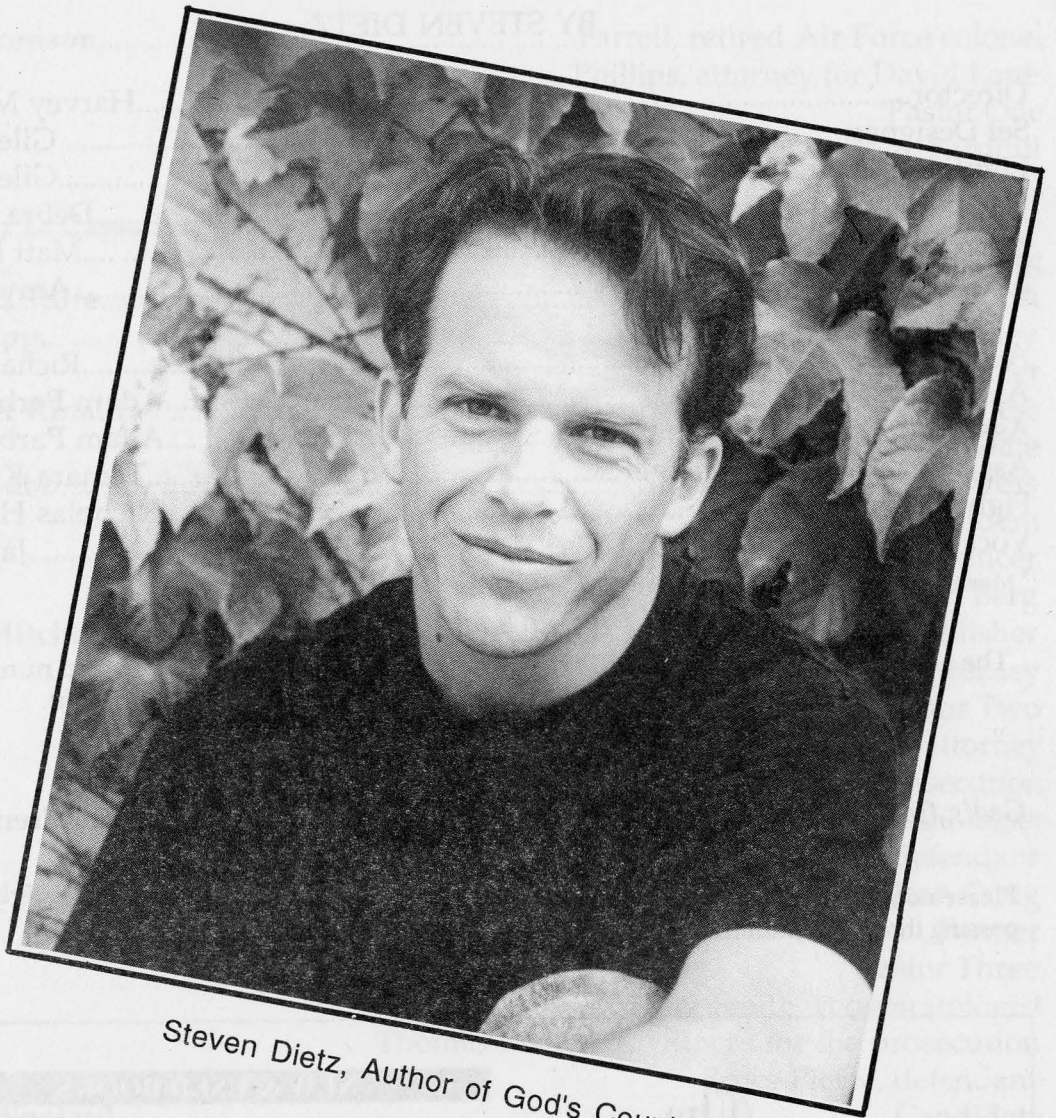
His latest work includes *Handing Down the Names* (ACT, 1995), *Private Eyes*, which recently premiered at the Arizona Theatre Company; *Still Life with Iris*, written for the Seattle Children's Theatre; and *The Nina Variations* which premiered this past summer at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival in West Virginia and will have its New York debut in the Fall of 1997, where it will be directed by Steven at the Classic Stage Company.

In addition to directing numerous productions of his own work, Mr. Dietz has directed over twenty world premiere productions, including John Olive's *The Voice of the Prairie*, Jon Klein's *T Bone N 'Weasel*, Jim Leonard Jr.'s *Gray's Anatomy*, Doris Baizley's *Tears of Rage*, Tom Williams' *New Business*, and several plays by Kevin Kling -- including *Home and Away*, *Lloyd's Prayer*, *21-A*, and *Auguste Moderne*. He has lectured and taught at numerous universities across the United States, including his alma mater Northern Colorado State University. His writings on the theatre have appeared in *American Theater Magazine*, *Subtext*, *Callboard*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Steven's play *God's Country*, which he wrote in 1987, has had over 100 productions in professional and university theatres throughout the United States, and it has also been seen in Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa. The University of Victoria's production will be the Canadian premiere of this play.

Steven Dietz's plays have been seen at over eighty regional theatres across the United States, as well as Off-Broadway. Steven Dietz lives in Seattle.





Steven Dietz, Author of God's Country

*"Anyone who has the power to make you believe absurdities has the power to make you commit injustices." -- Voltaire*

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# GOD'S COUNTRY

BY STEVEN DIETZ

Director.....Harvey M. Miller  
 Set Designer..... Giles Hogya  
 Lighting Designer.....Giles Hogya  
 Costume Designer.....Debra Hanson  
 Sound Designer.....Matt Hussack  
 Stage Manager .....Amy Benson

Assistant Director.....Richard Stille  
 Assistant Set Designer.....Adam Parboosingh  
 Assistant Lighting Designer.....Adam Parboosingh  
 Assistant Costume Designer.....Tamara Kucheran  
 Fight Master.....Nicholas Harrison\*  
 Vocal Coach.....Jan Wood

\* Member of the Society of Canadian Fight Directors

## TIME AND PLACE

The action takes place in a Seattle courtroom, a Denver radio station, and numerous other locations across the United States from 1983 to the present.

**There will be one 15 minute intermission.**

*God's Country* is "Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc."

**Please note:** The atmospheric effect used during the show is a mixture of water and glycerine passing through a humidifier. There may also be the use of stage fog.



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# THE COMPANY

- Paul Donison**.....Farrell, retired Air Force colonel  
 Phillips, attorney for David Lane  
 Pastor One  
 Savage, attorney for Andrew Barnhill  
 David Lane, defendant
- Jennifer L. Cassidy**.....Leatherman, attorney for Randy Duey  
 Judith Berg
- Richard Stille**.....Alan Berg, radio talk show host
- Stacy Epp**.....Mueller, prosecuting attorney  
 Wife of the Farmer
- Michael Rinaldi**.....Denver Parmenter, prosecution witness  
 Candidate
- Mairi Babb**.....Zillah Craig, mistress  
 Student  
 Anath White, radio producer  
 Ms. Wiggins, neighbor of Alan Berg
- Jason Mitchell** .....Elliot, publisher  
 Ward, prosecuting attorney  
 Pastor Two  
 Robinson, prosecuting attorney  
 Randall Rader, witness for the prosecution  
 Dr. Ogura, coroner's pathologist  
 Gary Lee Yarbrough, defendant
- Charles Stuart Ross** .....Chappel, attorney for Jean Craig  
 Farmer  
 Pastor Three  
 Mister Smith, conspiratologist  
 Thomas Martinez, witness for the prosecution  
 Bruce Pierce, defendant
- Lance Woolard**.....Candidate  
 Greg Withrow  
 Patrick Connor, promotion assistant  
 Ruark, attorney for Bruce Pierce
- Peter Balkwill** .....Robert Jay Mathews  
 Skinhead
- Morgan Collins**.....Candidate  
 Mister Jones, conspiratologist  
 Halprin, attorney for Ardie McBrearty
- Matthew Coulson** .....Boy
- John Krich\*** .....Father  
 Voice of the Court
- Aaron Martin, Andrew McCaw,**  
**Jamie Upton, Peter Abrams**.....Actor /Technicians

\* by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity



## PRODUCTION TEAM FOR GOD'S COUNTRY

Production Manager.....	Gysbertus Timmermans*
Technical Director.....	Steve Vrooman*
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Jessica Rapp, Jennifer Swan
Electrician.....	Brendan Keith
Lighting Board Operator.....	Orion Eastland
Sound Board Operator.....	Andrew Tugwell
Properties Supervisor.....	Misha Koslovsky
Properties Team.....	Erin Macklem, Nicola Schicchi, Cam Stewart, Jeremy Gordaneer, Margaret Handford, Sarah Korzan
Head of Scenic Construction.....	Charles Procure*
Assistant Carpenter.....	Colin Heal
Scenic Artists .....	Jeremy Gordaneer, Sarah Korzan, Misha Koslovsky, Erin Macklem, Adam Parboosingh
Head of Wardrobe/Cutter.....	Karla D. Stout*
Costume Construction Assistants.....	Connie Beel, Alison Bottomley, Doris Canfield, Lana Manuel, Carrie Costello, Amber MacGregor
Hair Dresser.....	Doris Canfield
Wardrobe Supervisors.....	Om Mogerman, Shanaray Langdon
Co-ordinating Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Marlis Schweitzer
Dressers .....	Valerie Houle, Elton Plunk, Krista McKeachie, Heather Young
Technical Crew for Set, Props, Costumes, Lighting and Ushering.....	Theatre 105 Students
Theatre Manager.....	Bindon Kinghorn*
Assistant Theatre Manager.....	Sandra Guerreiro*
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Graphic Design.....	Adam Sawatsky
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Opening Night Reception.....	Brooke Comfort, Shendah Sebel
Opening Night Bar.....	University Food Services

\* Theatre Department

Phoenix Phact: *God's Country* was commissioned by and received its world premiere at A Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, opening August 18, 1988.