

Oswald's Backyard



A Comic-Tragedy

by Leslie Bramm

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In his backyard, Leo Oscar is the United States of America. Naïve, petulant and ultimately violent. Leo is at the center of our national obsession—the search for identity. He battles between idealism and a desire for fame. The television, the media, is his ultimate confirmation.

The play is set in New Orleans, September of 1963, in and out of Leo Oscar's mind. He has managed to create a political commotion around himself that lands him a shot on a local TV talk show. It is the day the show airs, and it has become Leo's passion—his big break. However, Leo's story is complicated by a television that won't work, the arrival of some unexpected house guests, and the return of an old friend. Leo is frustrated and humiliated until it is inevitable that he lashes out.

While the events in this play may closely resemble the real life Lee Harvey Oswald, this is fiction. The play does not address or rebut any particular conspiracy, but instead explores the psychological landscape of a young American man, driven to extremely desperate actions.

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