

For Immediate Release

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Prime Stage Theatre to Present George Orwell's "1984" March 3-12, 2017; Orwell's Son, Richard Blair, to Visit Pittsburgh For Opening Weekend Event

(Note to media: We have begun scheduling media interviews for Richard Blair. Please email johnfries@comcast.net or call [412-760-2299](tel:412-760-2299) if you would like to speak with him by phone or in person.)

(Pittsburgh, PA - January 4, 2017) Prime Stage Theatre, a Pittsburgh organization that presents professionally produced plays based on works of literature, continues its 20th anniversary season on Saturday, March 3 with the opening of "1984", based on the book by George Orwell.

The production runs through Sunday, March 12 at the New Hazlett Theater Center for Performing Arts, Allegheny Square, on Pittsburgh's North Side. Show times are 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are available at www.primestage.com.

In the play, Orwell's timely novel comes to life as Winston, a young employee in the Ministry of Truth who corrects "errors," faces the consequences of falling in love and creating his own truth in a dangerous society of surveillance, identity and control by "Big Brother." The play was adapted for the stage by Robert Owens, Wilton E Hall, Jr., and William A Miles, and will be directed by Richard Keitel.

George Orwell's Son, Richard Blair, to Speak About His Father

To celebrate the opening weekend, George Orwell's son, Richard Blair, will make several appearances to discuss his late father's work. These include a discussion early Saturday, March 3 at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Cranberry and, later, at the theater, a pre-show VIP reception and post-show discussion and opening night reception. On Sunday, Blair will sign copies of his father's books prior to the 2:00 p.m. matinee performance.

About Richard Blair

Richard Blair, born in 1944, is the adopted son of Eric Arthur Blair, who wrote under the pseudonym George Orwell. Following the death of his mother in 1945 and his father in 1950, Blair was brought up on the west coast of Scotland by his father's younger sister, Avril, and her husband Bill Dunn. Initially a farmer, Blair later worked in the marketing and training department at Massey Ferguson, a tractor manufacturer. In 1986, he returned with his wife, Eleanor, to the west coast of Scotland and bought and developed a vacation complex.

Since selling the cottages in 2008, Blair and Eleanor have retired and now live in the midlands of England near Stratford-upon-Avon. has devoted his time to serving as patron of the Orwell Society and as a trustee to the Orwell Awards and Orwell Youth Prize main committee. He says that his intention is to continue to create awareness of the works of my father.

About Prime Stage Theatre

Established in Pittsburgh in 1996 by Wayne Brinda and Connie Brinda, Prime Stage presents professionally produced plays based on classic and contemporary works of literature and a diverse range of educational programs for students of all ages. Through its programs, talk-back sessions, panel discussions, and other offerings, the organization has been recognized for its promotion of literacy and for measurably improving literacy among its audience members and program participants.

Prime Stage's 20th anniversary season will commence with its stage production of the contemporary bestseller "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Pittsburgh native Stephen Chbosky in May.

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