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***The Perks of Being a Wallflower: Prime Stage Theatre Brings
Pittsburgh Author's New York Times Bestseller to Life on the New Hazlett Stage***

Actors' preparations include visiting popular locations featured in the book

(PITTSBURGH, PA - April 12, 2017) For the past several weeks, Jeffrey Cordell has been leading a group of Pittsburgh teenage actors through a series of rehearsals for the regional premiere in which they'll play -- Pittsburgh teenagers.

As director of Hailey Rohn's stage adaptation of the New York Times bestselling novel "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Upper St. Clair native (and screenwriter of the current hit film *Beauty and the Beast*) Stephen Chbosky, Cordell is coaching his cast members as each creates the fictional characters first introduced in the 1999 book.

"Each of the actors in this cast has significant stage experience, so they all relish the challenge of building their performances based on the distinctive personality each character possesses," said Cordell.

During the play, which runs from May 5 to 14 at the New Hazlett Theater, audience members will join the characters on a journey through the highs and lows of adolescent life as seen through the eyes of Charlie, the story's protagonist.

More information and tickets are now available at primestage.com.

Cordell, a veteran Pittsburgh theatrical director with several Prime Stage credits to his name, sought to bring the book's characters to life with a total commitment to honesty

"Because the novel was inspired by Chbosky's own teenage years in Pittsburgh, I believed it was important for the actors to visit places alluded to in the play," said Cordell. These include Eide's Comics in the Strip District, key spots in the South Hills and even the Fort Pitt Tunnels, which provided the setting for a pivotal scene featured in the 2012 film based on the book, filmed in Pittsburgh and directed by Chbosky's himself.

Special Events

On Friday, May 12, and audio description performance will be offered for those who are blind or visually impaired, followed by a post-show virtual chat with Stephen Chbosky.

On Saturday, May 13 at 1:00 p.m., a sensory-friendly performance will be provided, accessible for those on the autism spectrum and with sensory sensitivities.

About Prime Stage Theatre

Founded in 1996 by Wayne and Connie Brinda, Prime Stage is celebrating its 20th season of presenting professionally produced plays based on literary works and a wide variety of education programs for participants of all ages. In June, the organization will offer a summer camp for youth during which it will provide training in acting, movement and more.