

# NEWS RELEASE: Pittsburgh's Prime Stage Theatre Selected as One of 77 Organizations Nationwide to Participate in 2016 NEA Big Read

## For Immediate Release

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### **Pittsburgh's Prime Stage Theatre Selected as One of 77 Organizations Nationwide to Participate in the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) 2016 Big Read**

*Events related to season opener "To Kill a Mockingbird" scheduled in Pittsburgh area through November 13*

(PITTSBURGH, PA, - September 26, 2016) Pittsburgh's Prime Stage Theatre is honored to be one of only 77 organizations nationwide selected to receive an NEA Big Read grant to support its 20th anniversary season kickoff production of the stage version of Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," which will be presented at The New Hazlett Theatre on the North Side during November 4-13, 2016.

As part of the Big Read, Prime Stage is partnering with local libraries, schools and other organizations to present a series of book discussions, seated readings with actors from the cast, movie screenings, and more related to "To Kill a Mockingbird" that the public may attend at no charge. The events are scheduled to take place in and around Pittsburgh through November 13.

A list of the event locations is available on the organization's website at [primestage.com](http://primestage.com).

"We look forward to bringing this classic work to the stage in November, and are grateful to the NEA for providing opportunities to discuss it in our local communities," said Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage founder and artistic director. "The themes that are explored in 'To Kill a Mockingbird' continue to be as timely and relevant as ever. We urge Pittsburghers to take part in the Big Read activities and see the play when it comes to life on the Hazlett Stage."

The play was adapted from Lee's 1960 novel by Christopher Sergel and is being directed by Scott P. Calhoon, whose work is very familiar to Pittsburgh audiences.

In addition to the above-mentioned events, Mary Badham, the Academy Award-nominated actress who played Scout, through whose eyes the story takes place, in the classic 1962 film with Gregory Peck, will take part in a pre-performance reception and post-performance discussion at the New Hazlett a Theater on Saturday, November 12.

### **About Prime Stage**

Prime Stage, founded in 1996, enriches the lives of western Pennsylvania audiences through a unique, effective mix of innovative, literature-based theatrical, educational and outreach initiatives. Over the past two decades, the organization's productions and programs have been shown to measurably improve literacy among participants.

### **About the NEA Big Read**

The NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with Arts Midwest that was created to broaden the public's understanding of our world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. The NEA Big Read aims to build communities through innovative arts programming that engages a diverse audience and connects individuals and organizations through reading and sharing stories. The NEA Big Read supports innovative reading programs in selected cities and towns, provides comprehensive resources for discussing classic literature, and features an extensive website that provides information on our titles and their authors.

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