



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Prime Stage Theatre Launches
2012-2013 Season of Creative Premieres
with Fahrenheit 451**

Pittsburgh, PA – Prime Stage Theatre launches its 16th season with the regional premiere of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* (**November 2 through November 11, 2012**). The stage adaptation of this legendary sci-fi masterpiece will be directed by Justin Fortunato.

"Fahrenheit 451 tells us that you don't have to burn books to render them useless, you just have to stop reading them." – Justin Fortunato, Director

Coming shortly on the heels of Bradbury's death this year at 91, this provocative production serves as a tribute to the vision of one of the 20th century's most important and revered authors. Bradbury's own adaptation his timeless dystopian novel is set in a world where the future is now.

The tale of a future where firemen burn books and hunt down anyone who takes the risk of reading them comes chillingly to life on the stage of the New Hazlett Theater. Free thought and intellectualism are discouraged; to question authority puts you in danger.

Montag, a fireman in charge of burning the forbidden volumes, befriends a young woman who dares to go against authority and reads books. Montag must choose between safety and intellectual freedom in this insane world that bears some alarming resemblance to our own.

"It's not the books that worry the dystopian government, it's the ideas within the pages. And once a society stops asking questions, and reading and researching, the books might as well burn themselves." -- Justin Fortunato, Director

MORE ABOUT THE DIRECTOR AND CAST

Justin Fortunato, Director, is a graduate of Point Park University where he earned his BFA in musical theatre. He has worked as both an actor and director for companies such as the CLO, The REP, Prime Stage Theatre, and St. Vincent REP. He is also the Co- Founder and Artistic Director of Carnivale Theatrics, who recently produced *Next to Normal* this summer at the New Hazlett Theatre. In January, Justin will be making his Pittsburgh Public Theater debut in the

musical *1776*. He is currently also the Artistic Director for West Allegheny High School and will be directing their musical coming up in the Spring.

The cast includes **Monteze Freeland** (Beatty), who recently performed in Quantum Theater's *The Electric Baby*, as well as the Prime Stage Theatre production, *Of Mice and Men*.

Justin Patrick Mohr (Guy Montag) has performed in the locally-produced film, *Vulnerability*, and *The Last*, a film that was part of the 2012 Pittsburgh 48-Hour Film Project.

Daina Michelle Griffith (Mildred Montag) has appeared in many regional theatrical productions, including *Next to Normal* by Carnivale Theatrics. She has also had roles in several films, most recently, *Dark Knight Rises* and *Love and Other Drugs*.

Magan Dee Yantko (Clarisse) has made many appearances including the recent Carnivale Theatrics' production of *Next to Normal*.

Ken Lutz (Faber) has appeared in many Prime Stage Theatre productions, most recently, *The Scarlet Letter*, and productions with Proudly Presents Productions, Grand Dream Productions, Artscape and South Park Theatre.

Tracey Turner (Mrs. Hudson) was named Actress of the Year in 1997 by In Pittsburgh Newsweekly for her portrayal of Prosperon in the Timespace production of *The Tempest*, and has appeared in theatrical productions with Kuntu Repertory Theatre, and Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. Tracey has directed for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company, The August Wilson Center for African-American Culture, and won Best Director for *Harriet Tubman Loved Somebody* for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre. Most recently, she was involved in the production of *Strata* and has also had roles in several films.

Marlaina Guido (Alice) has many appearances on stage as well as in film, including her recent film credits in *Won't Back Down* and *The Next Three Days*. She will also appear as a featured dancer in the second season of Nickelodeon's *Supah Ninjas*.

Kaitlin Kerr (Helen) has appeared in *Balm in Gilead*, *The Goat*, or *Who is Sylvia?* and *The Water Children* and, most recently, produced and directed *Hungers—True Experiences of Eating Disorders*.

Derek Bingham (Black) has had many appearances with the Rita Morgenthau Theater and The Neighborhood Playhouse, both in New York City, in *Breakdown*, *Dancers*, *Lone Star*, *Reason to be Pretty*, *The Red Address* and *Keely and Du*.

Ryan Kearney (Holden) has appeared in the Prime Stage Theatre production of

Antigone and productions with Stage 62 and Pittsburgh New Works Festival 2011.

MORE ON THE 2012-2013 SEASON

The next production, ***The Great Gatsby* (Mar 1 - Mar 10, 2013)**, is a United States premiere adapted from F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel by Peter Joucla of Tour de Force Theatre, UK and will be directed by Richard Keitel.

The third production of the season is an area premiere of ***Walk Two Moons* (May 10 - May 19, 2013)**. The adaptation by Tom Arvetis, based on the book by Sharon Creech and will be directed by Lisa Ann Goldsmith.

DETAILS

WHO: Prime Stage Theatre

WHAT & WHEN: ***Fahrenheit 451***
Nov 2 - Nov 11, 2012

The Great Gatsby
Mar 1 - Mar 10, 2013

Walk Two Moons
May 10 - May 19, 2013

Fridays & Saturdays @ 8:00 PM / Sundays @ 2:30 PM

WHERE: New Hazlett Theater
6 Allegheny Square E
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

TICKETS: \$10 - \$20 in advance / \$15 - \$25 at the door
Online at: primestage.showclix.com
By phone: 1.800.718.4253 x1

WEBSITE: www.primestage.com

2012 GALA ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

In addition, Prime Stage Theatre will hold its annual fundraiser on Thursday, November 8, 2012 — 6:30-9:30 pm at the New Hazlett Theater. This year's event, ***All That Jazz ... at the New Hazlett*** will honor Rich Keitel, Prime Stage's Director-in-Residence for the past 8 years, and director of the upcoming production of *The Great Gatsby*. Prime Stage will also honor Darlene Harris, President of Pittsburgh City Council, District 1 will also be honored for her support of the arts in Pittsburgh. Most recently, She was instrumental in funding a joint project between Prime Stage Theatre and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, *Monologue and Movement*. The unique theater and dance camp was created to inspire creativity, self-confidence, and clarity in students who are entering grades 5 through 10.

The family event will feature the extraordinary talents of *Pittsburgh's First Lady of Jazz*, Etta Cox along with New Orleans cuisine and an auction. Jeff Calhoun, Tony-nominated director of *Newsies*, will serve as guest emcee.

Tickets: Adults \$100 – Students \$50

Online at: www.showclix.com/event/AllThatJazz

By phone: 1.724.773.0700

MORE ABOUT PRIME STAGE THEATRE

Prime Stage Theatre is a non-profit organization committed to producing high-quality, artistic experiences for adults, families, students, and educators as they discover the fusion of live theatre and literature. With education as the cornerstone of its mission and vision, the Company offers unique programs designed to support educators and families in the sharing and appreciation of great literature, and that encourages both literacy and a love of theatre.

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