

For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

John Fries

Phone: [412.760.2299](tel:412.760.2299)

Email: [johnfries@comcast.net](mailto:johnfries@comcast.net)

**Prime Stage Theatre to present a theatrically stunning depiction of the Western Front for audiences attending "All Quiet on the Western Front" November 3-12**

(Pittsburgh, PA - October 9, 2017) Audience members attending Prime Stage Theatre's 21st season opener—the U.S. premiere of Robin Kingsland's stage adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque's 1929 World War I novel, "All Quiet On the Western Front"—will feel like they're on the battlefield as they're immersed in the sights and sounds of trench warfare created by the actors and an effects crew using Foley devices.

For this professionally staged production, which opens on November 3 and runs through the 12th at the New Hazlett Theater Center for the Performing Arts, the play provides Prime Stage with the opportunity to pull out all the stops and immerse audiences in the story's beauty and brutality using the power of theatre.

Director Scott P. Calhoon, who helmed Prime Stage's acclaimed production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" last season, has cast several actors as soldiers and other characters, and is working with veteran set designer Johnmichael Bohach, sound design wizard Angela Baughman and a crew of lighting and special effects professionals to tell the story Calhoon describes as "young German men, still in their teens, who immediately went from the comfort of high school to grueling conditions on the battlefield."

He notes that, "Effects include the use of Foley sound, rather than recorded audio, performed live at each show to heighten the auditory experience."

The play tells the story of Paul Bäumer, who is inspired by his teacher to join the Germany Army shortly after the start of The Great War. Once enlisted, Paul and his friends encounter an older soldier named Stanislaus Katczinsky, nicknamed Kat, who becomes Paul's mentor. While fighting at the front, Bäumer and his comrades have to engage in frequent battles and endure the treacherous and filthy conditions of trench warfare.

To make the production as historically accurate and realistic as possible, Prime Stage has been working closely with Michael Kraus, curator and historian at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum. A noted military consultant to Hollywood films, Kraus has deep knowledge of World War I, according to Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage's co-founder and artistic producing director.

"In addition," Brinda notes, "local World War I re-enactor David Hockenberry has spent time with the cast and crew to provide insights on everything from the uniforms they wore to the items they used while living and fighting in the trenches.

Brinda notes that, during the show's run, tribute will be paid to Pittsburgh-area veterans, current members of the military and their family members. A Vietnam Veteran Honor Guard will open the Saturday evening performances on November 4 and 11.

To support the production as well as further Prime Stage's objective to connect history and literature, the organization has created a website that details the region's many connections to World War I. Now online at [www.pghconnectionswwi.com](http://www.pghconnectionswwi.com), the site also asks Pittsburghers to submit their own stories and photos for inclusion.

"All Quiet on the Western Front" runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available via Prime Stage's main website, at [www.PrimeStage.com](http://www.PrimeStage.com).

**About Prime Stage Theatre**

Prime Stage Theatre is committed to entertaining, inspiring and enriching the lives of Pittsburghers by bringing literature to life through a proprietary combination of professional theater productions and a wide and diverse range of educational programs. Since the organization was founded in 1996, the work produced by Prime Stage has been essential to the cultural life in Pittsburgh and surrounding regions, reaching more than 12,000 people each year and measurably improving literacy among audiences and participants. More information is available at [PrimeStage.com](http://PrimeStage.com).