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DATE: August 29, 2013
CONTACT: Samantha Stonebraker
Phone: 724-889-5247
Email: sstonebraker@primestage.com

NEWS RELEASE

Prime Stage Theatre Introduces the 2013-2014 Season *Three Great Shows - One Fantastic Season*

PITTSBURGH – Prime Stage Theatre is proud to announce the 2013-2014 season and the directors. The season includes *Turn of the Screw*, directed by Joe Warik, *The Importance of being Earnest*, directed by Rich Keitel and the world premiere adaptation of *The Devil's Arithmetic*, directed by Lisa Ann Goldsmith.

Opening the season is *Turn of the Screw*, adapted by Jeffery Hatcher, from the novella by Henry James. Directed by Joe Warik, the show hits the stage on November 2-10 at The Hazlett Theatre. With two actors plating all the roles, *Turn of the Screw* is “a total theatrical experience, a challenge for the imagination.” An old English Manor House is filled with secrets, strange movements flicker in the underbrush, unidentifiable cries are heard in the moonlight, and abrupt coldness and breezes touch your imaginations. Do the ghosts haunt the children? Or is it just her imagination?

Joe Warik is a professional actor/director with 200 plus credits from Broadway and many other venues across the country. He directed *A Place Without Mornings* Off-Broadway and at the American Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, CT. starring Dianne Wiest. Among 5 productions for the Caldwell Theatre in Boca Raton he directed the World Premiere of *Suite Surrender* and received a Carbonell Award (Florida's Tony Award) for his production of *Lend Me a Tenor*. He was the founding Artistic Director of the Oldcastle Theatre in Vermont where he directed ten productions including *Noises Off* and *13 Rue d'Amour*. Other theatres include the Barter Theatre where Joe directed the LORT Premiere of *Offstage Voices*, Centennial Theatre Festival, Cider Mill Playhouse, Open Stage's productions of *Black Comedy*, Stage 62's production of *Leading Ladies*, the Theatre 40 in Los Angeles production of *Room Service*, and for South Park Theatre *Vanities*, *The Last Romance*, and the Pittsburgh Premiere of *Suite Surrender*. In addition to acting on Broadway and many major theatres nationally, he's acted locally at the Public, PICT, Quantum, St. Vincent, and the Jewish Theatre. He's had the honor of working with such theatre notables as Katharine Hepburn, Robert Ryan, Bert Lahr,

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Jane Alexander, Edward Albee, and Sir Tyrone Guthrie. Joe received critical acclaim for his portrayal of Richard Burton in the one-man play, *Burton*, at Pittsburgh's Open Stage.

Audiences will be entertained on March 7-16 with *The Importance of being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, directed by Rich Keitel. Oscar Wilde called his play "a trivial comedy for serious people." Two young men, in order to impress their two young ladies, pretend that their names are "Ernest." But who is Ernest? Will the secret that has been hidden for years finally be revealed and what will happen? This comedy has entertained audiences for years!

Richard Keitel - A professor of Theatre at Point Park University, Rich received his MFA in Directing from University of Pittsburgh. He was the Associate Artistic Director for City Theatre 1997-98 and Head of Undergraduate Acting and Directing Program at the University of Pittsburgh 1991-97. Selected directing credits include *Collected Stories and American Buffalo* for City Theatre; *Wild Duck* for Quantum Theatre; *I'm Not Rappaport* and *Watching Fire, Watching Rain* for Jewish Theatre of Pittsburgh; the world premiere of Shirley Barasch's *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*; for Point Park he directed *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Ramona Quimby*, *Criminal Genius*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *A Flea in her Ear*, *Hot L Baltimore* and *Room Service*; For Prime Stage where he serves as Resident Director, Rich has directed *The Glass Menagerie* (which received recognition in The Post-Gazette), *Tuesdays With Morrie*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Great Expectations*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Twelve Angry Men*, and *The Great Gatsby*. Regionally, he directed *Communicating Doors* and *Dinner with Friends* at St. Michaels' Playhouse in Vermont. Rich's directing is regularly mentioned in the Pittsburgh newspapers' year-end top ten lists. A member of Actors Equity, he is currently performing with Pittsburgh Playback Theatre, where he serves as Associate Artistic Director.

Closing the season May 9-28 is the world premier of *The Devil's Arithmetic*, adapted by Barry Kornhauser, based on Newbery Award-winning novel by Jane Yolen, directed by Lisa Ann Goldsmith. In this story, "Hannah's journey grabs on and doesn't let go with its twists and turns." Hannah, a modern teenager, has to celebrate yet another Jewish holiday with her family – but this year will be different. Little does she know, her world is about to change. She is mysteriously transported back to the Holocaust. With Hannah, we become caught up in a world of deceit, discoveries, friendship, faith and family.

Lisa Ann Goldsmith – Lisa Ann's directing credits include *Walk Two Moons* at Prime Stage; the premiere of Amy Hartman's *Disinfecting Edwin*; *The Proposal/To Hell and Back*, *The Monkey's Paw/Happy Garden of Life*, and Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers* with The Microscopic Opera Company; *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* for Pittsburgh Public Theater's Summer Shakespeare Intensive; the East Coast premiere of Allison Moore's *Eighteen* at Pittsburgh Playwrights; *Hidden Hurts* for Pittsburgh Playhouse; along with *Blood Relations*, *The Tempest*, and *The House of Bernarda Alba* for Seton Hill University. In New York, Lisa Ann directed *Into the Woods* at the Fordham University and *Dark Lady of the Sonnets* for Protean Theatre Company at Primary Stages. Her regional credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Tulsa's Shakespeare in the Park; *The Butterfingers Angel* at the Tulsa Repertory Theatre; *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Centre Stage and *Pump Boys and Dinettes* for the Broadhollow Theatre.

Lisa Ann is the Resident Teaching Artist at the Pittsburgh Public Theater teaching Shakespeare First Folio Technique, Scene Study, Monologue Audition Technique, and Dialects. She has taught classes at Pittsburgh CLO, Carnegie Mellon University, Point Park Conservatory, the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Seton Hill University. She is a private acting coach in Pittsburgh and New York City where she has coached students to Broadway, TV, and major films. She is proud to be on the Executive Committee for the newly combined SAG-AFTRA. Lisa Ann was Casting Director for the upcoming full-length feature films *Progression* and *Origin*, will be the New York Casting Director for the feature film *We Are Champions*.

For more information on the season or to buy tickets, visit www.primestage.com.

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