

# THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE



prime  
stage

THEATRE CO

March 3 – 12, 2023

At The New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Clive Staples Lewis** was one of the most influential writers of the 20th Century. A brilliant and imaginative thinker, Lewis was a scholar and professor of English literature with positions at Oxford and Cambridge. Yet he became best known for his popular works of children's fantasy and his writings and talks on the Christian faith. His BBC radio broadcasts during World War Two gained widespread acclaim in England as Lewis explored "Right and Wrong, a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe."

Once an avowed atheist, Lewis's own intellectual and spiritual journey led him to the God of the Bible and ultimately to Christ. While he seldom spoke of his beliefs during university lectures, his Christian faith profoundly influenced his writing. C.S. Lewis wrote over thirty books, including the *Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Space Trilogy*, *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, *Surprised by Joy*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and *The Problem of Pain*.

Lewis was the President of the Socratic Club at Oxford University and a member of **The Inklings**, a literary group that included friends such as J.R.R. Tolkien and Charles Williams. While he rarely traveled outside of his homeland, his influence continues to be felt around the world today.

Lewis wrote more than thirty books, allowing him to reach a vast audience, and his works continue to attract thousands of new readers every year. C. S. Lewis's most distinguished and popular accomplishments include *Mere Christianity*, *Out of the Silent Planet*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and the universally acknowledged classics in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. To date, the Narnia books have sold over 100 million copies and been transformed into three major motion pictures. ([www.cslewisinstitute.org](http://www.cslewisinstitute.org))



## EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

*Please Give to Prime Stage and Support our Mission, Productions, Programs, and Staff.*

Your financial support will enable Prime Stage Theatre to inspire the imagination as we Bring Literature to Life on Stage.

- Online at <https://primestage.com/support/>
- Scan the QR Code
- By mail to Prime Stage Theatre, PO Box 99446, Pittsburgh, PA 15233



# Prime Stage Theatre

*Presents*

## THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Based on the Novel by C.S. Lewis

Dramatized by Joseph Robinette

Directed by

*Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.*

### **Featuring**

*Michael Barnett*

*Jill Buda*

*Trevor Buda*

*Jackson Conforti*

*Brooke Echnat*

*Molly Frontz*

*Andrew Lesnett*

*Eamonn McElfresh*

*Isaac Miller*

*Matt Henderson*

*Anthony Luisi*

*Rachel Pfenningwerth*

*Annabel Tew*

*Caitlin Young*

### **Production Manager**

*Kate Pieratt-Webb*

### **Technical Director**

*Alex Barnhart*

### **Fight Director**

*Michael R. Petyak*

### **Scenic Designer**

*M.K. Hughes*

### **Lighting Designer**

*Madeline Barber*

### **Sound Designer**

*Samantha Magill*

### **Costume Designer**

*Madeline Macek*

### **Makeup Designer**

*Laura R. Smith*

### **Properties Master**

*Alex Keplar*

### **Stage Manager**

*Britt Kolek*

### **Assistant Stage Manager**

*Lauren Scheller-Wolf*

***Produced by Special Arrangements with Dramatic Publishing Company***

# THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE

On a rainy day in London, four children step through a magical wardrobe and discover an enchanted kingdom filled with fantasy, mystical characters, and suspense as the world of Narnia based on C S Lewis' timeless book comes to life.

## THE CAST

*In Alphabetical Order*

Aslan.....	Michael Barnett
Wood Nymph Amanita .....	Jill Buda
Fenris Ulf .....	Trevor Buda
Peter Pevensie .....	Jackson Conforti
Wood Nymph Adaria .....	Brooke Echant
Lucy Pevensie.....	Molly Frontz
Tumnus .....	Andrew Lesnett
Edmund Pevensie.....	Eamonn McElfresh
Professor and Father Christmas.....	Isaac Miller
Dwarf.....	Matt Henderson
Mr. Beaver .....	Anthony Luisi
White Witch.....	Rachel Pfenningworth
Susan Pevensie.....	Annabel Tew
Mrs. Beaver.....	Caitlin Young

**Setting:** A Manor House in England during World War II and Narnia

**Run Time:** One hour and 15 minutes with one intermission

## ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF

Director .....	Wayne Brinda, Ed.D
Production Manager .....	Kate Pieratt-Webb
Technical Director .....	Alex Barnhart
Fight Director .....	Michael R. Petyak
Scenic Designer .....	M.K. Hughes
Lighting Designer .....	Madeline Barber
Sound Designer .....	Samantha Magill
Costume Designer.....	Madeline Macek
Makeup Designer.....	Laura R. Smith
Property Master.....	Alex Keplar
Carpenter .....	Michael Boone
Stage Manager .....	Britt Kolek
Assistant Stage Manager/Wardrobe .....	Lauren Scheller-Wolf
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Toni Woods
Voice Coach.....	Lisa Bansavage
Audio Descriptor .....	Nathan Ruggles
ASL Signed Interpreters .....	Jennifer Flaggs and Heather Gray
Master Electrician and Light Board Operator .....	Tony Clayton
Sound Board Operator.....	Laura Moeller
Box Office Coordinator .....	Nathan Wagner



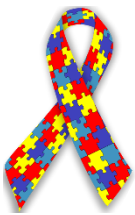
**Please note:** The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers, and watches.

**PRIME STAGE THEATRE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- John Clark
- Art DeConciliis
- Beth Lawry
- Daman Voss
- Douglas Education Center
- New Hazlett Staff & Ushers
- Shaler North Hills Library
- Ten Toes Shoe Store
- Techniques by Toni
- Prime Stage Staff and Volunteer

*thank you!*

**ACCESSIBILITY**



**SENSORY INCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE**

**Second Saturday of each production at 2:30 PM.** Our Sensory Inclusive Performance is a family experience. We provide a social story with pre-theater preparatory activities for the person with a sensory, social, or learning disability so the person begins to understand and anticipate what might happen at a performing arts experience.

For all performances, our patrons have access to Sensory bags designed to assist the needs of adults and children. The bags are filled with items that may help lessen sensory overload and engage. The bag items are also easily cleaned and sterilized for multiple uses.

Prime Stage Theatre staff is certified for Sensory Inclusive with KultureCity



**AUDIO DESCRIPTION PERFORMANCE**

**Second Sunday of each production with On-Stage Pre-Show, Actor Voice ID, and/or Touch Tour at 1:30 PM, Audio Pre-Show at 2:15 PM, and Performance at 2:30 PM**

**Audio Description (or AD)** helps to make visual imagery accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. Visual elements can include costumes, sets, and character appearances, along with action, gestures, facial expressions, and other visually important images. It's used to enhance understanding and enjoyment of the live performance.

*This equipment was made available to the community thanks to the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council through a grant from the Allegheny Regional Asset District.*



**ASL SIGNED INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE**

**Second Sunday of each production at 2:30 PM.**

We are pleased to offer American Sign Language interpreted performances with two certified interpreters. We also encourage students studying sign language to attend for observation.

**AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN AUDIO DESCRIPTION**

***Received by Prime Stage and Nathan Ruggles***

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) proudly announces this year Achievement Awards in Audio Description, an initiative of the Council's Audio Description Project (ADP).





# **ICEBOX CREAMERY**



## ***Ice Cream Shop***

IceBox Creamery & Cafe is a locally owned cafe and dessert shop specializing in homemade ice cream made with natural ingredients.

**114 S MAIN STREET  
ZELIENOPLE, PA 16063  
724-776-3300**

# MYSTERY THEATRE

## The Ælf In the Wardrobe

A new five-act mystery  
Written and performed by  
Lawrence C. Connolly



PRIME STAGE  
THEATRE

Strange sounds emanating from a locked cabinet will plunge you into an investigation involving an encrypted message, runic letters, and the legend of a medieval king. It all begins March 2, 2023 with "The Ælf in the Wardrobe," Chapter 7 of the Prime Stage Mystery Theatre--the podcast where you are part of the story.

*Prime Stage Mystery Theatre - the fiction podcast where you are part of the story.*

<https://primestagetheatre.libsyn.com/> or Scan here to listen!



# Steps to Suspense



prime  
stage

THEATRE CO

*Three Course Dinner Fundraiser to support  
Prime Stage Theatre and the production of 39 Steps*

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*

*at 6:30 PM*

*Revival on Lincoln*

*366 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue, PA 15202*

*\$130 per person*

*with Silent Auction, Mystery Trivia, Prizes, and Cash Bar*

*Reservations by April 18th*

*Steps to Suspense Reservation Form*

*if you are not able to attend, please consider making a donation*

*[primestage.com/support](http://primestage.com/support)*





**Wayne Brinda, Ed.D. (Director)**

Wayne is Co-founder and Producing Artistic Director of Prime Stage where he directed *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Treasure Island*, *The Outsiders*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* and *The Terezin Promise*, and the premiere of *The Giver*. He is an adjunct teacher at Duquesne University in the Spiritan Division after recently retiring as an Associate Professor of Secondary Education at the University of Pittsburgh Bradford where taught and conducts research on adolescent literacy. Prior to Pitt, he was Director of Playhouse Jr., Assistant Professor in the School of Education at Duquesne University, an instructor at The Oakland School, and Director of the Senior School Theatre Department at Sewickley Academy. As a Museum Teaching Fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, Wayne produces several Holocaust theatre productions and conducts presentations on using literature and theatre to teach the Holocaust. Wayne has written articles and delivered presentations on using theatre and literature to teach the Holocaust in Budapest, at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, and for universities. Locally, he has directed for Apple Hill Playhouse, Little Lake Theatre, Red Barn Theatre in Allison Park, and South Park Theatre.



**James Como (C.S. Lewis Consultant)**

As a lecturer, writer, teacher, and communication consultant, James Como is a founding member of the New York C.S. Lewis Society. His *Branches to Heaven: The Geniuses of C.S. Lewis* is a ground-breaking study of Lewis and his *Remembering C.S. Lewis* is a benchmark biographical anthology now in its third edition. These, along with his many articles on Lewis in such journals as *The Wilson Quarterly* and *The New Criterion* and on-air commentary for five biographical documentaries have established Dr. Como as one of the most highly-regarded C.S. Lewis scholars in the world. His most noteworthy book, from the Oxford University Press, is *A Very Short Introduction to C.S. Lewis*. His most recently published book is *Mystical Perelandra: My Lifelong Reading of C.S. Lewis and His Favorite Book*.



**Dr. David von Schlichten, D.Min., Ph.D., M.F.A.**

*(Special Guest for our Post-Show Discussion on March 4<sup>th</sup>)*

David is Dean of the School of Humanities, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, and the Coordinator of the Gender and Women's Studies Program at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. Before becoming a full-time professor, Dave served as the pastor of Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church in Youngstown, PA from 1997 until 2014. Dave has over 200 publishing credits in various genres, including articles on C.S. Lewis for the journal *Lectionary Homiletics*. His best-known book is *The Bible Out of the Pew: An Empowering Guide for the Spiritual But Not Religious* (Wipf and Stock, 2019). Dave is also the founder of Golden Rule Online Worldwide (G.R.O.W.), a Facebook page and YouTube channel working to reduce online harassment by 25% by the end of 2025. Dave lives in Greensburg with his wife Kim, his two young-adult children, and his seven-year-old granddaughter (as well as six cats).

# MEET THE ACTORS



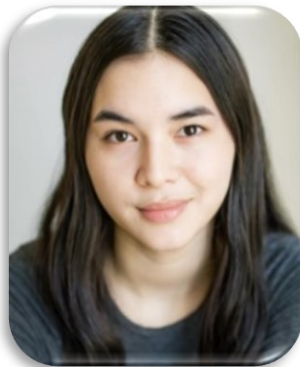
Michael Barnett  
*Aslan*



Rachel Pfenningwerth  
*White Witch*



Jackson Confori  
*Peter Pevensie*



Annabel Tew  
*Susan Pevensie*



Eammon McElfresh  
*Edmund Pevensie*



Molly Frontz  
*Lucy Pevensie*



Andrew Lesnett  
*Tumnus*



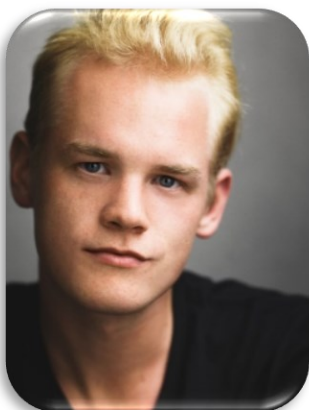
Anthony Luisi  
*Mr. Beaver*



Caitlin Young  
*Mrs. Beaver*



Trevor Buda  
*Fenris Ulf*



Isaac Miller  
*Professor & Father Christmas*



Jill Buda  
*Wood Nymph Amanita*



Brooke Echnat  
*Wood Nymph Adaria*



Matt Henderson  
*Dwarf*

## ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

### **Michael Barnett** (*Aslan*)

Michael is proud to once again work with the Prime Stage Theatre company. Michael is an American actor known for his impressive height and distinguished brows. Born in Northern Pennsylvania, he started acting in high school when he landed the role of (Big Jule) in *Guys and Dolls*. He returned to acting in 2016 thanks to the teaching and support of the wonderful Pittsburgh acting community. Michael's career has brought him to the stage and screen where he has acted in commercials, voice overs, theatrical productions, and films. He is known for the role of (Cross) in the feature film *Red Woods*, (The Killer) in the feature film *Little Mouse*, and (Darrel "Darry" Curtis) in Prime Stage Theatre's *The Outsiders*. When not in acting classes or trying to perfect a line, he can be found hunched over a computer reading opinions or trying to deadlift a small truck. Facebook/TikTok/Twitter/Instagram: @BrowsUnlimited

### **Jill Buda** (*Wood Nymph Amanita*)

Jill is so excited to be performing in a Prime Stage production for the first time! Some of her favorite recent roles include (Bridget) in *Nana Does Vegas* at Little Lake Theater, (Lydia) in *Pride and Prejudice*, (Marianne) in *Tartuffe*, and (Wendy) in *Peter Pan* with Arena Theater in Wheaton, Illinois. She would like to thank the entire team at Prime Stage Theatre for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful cast. She sends her love to her husband, Trevor, for his constant encouragement and support in all her artistic endeavors.

### **Trevor Buda** (*Fenris Ulf*)

Trevor is making his Prime Stage debut. He was most recently seen in Pittsburgh at Little Lake Theater in their production of *The Metromaniacs* (Damis). He is also an actor in the touring productions of Saltworks Theater Company. He previously worked with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival in many productions like *Romeo & Juliet* (Peter), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bertram), *Dracula* (John Seward), *As You Like It* (Silvius), and others. Additionally, he worked with Great Lakes Theater in productions of *A Christmas Carol* and *Hamlet*, as well as their school-residency program. He is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace University. He recently started recording his original music with his wife and friends under the band name Robin Hill. He sends love to his wife, Jill.

### **Jackson Conforti** (*Peter Pevensie*)

Jackson is an eighth grader at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School where he majors in Musical Theater. This is Jackson's first production with Prime Stage but his favorite past credits include Hermey in *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Jr*, Ren McCormack in *GTK Footloose*, Old Man Jenkins in *The SpongeBob Musical*, and many more. In his free time Jackson writes songs, and plays 5 instruments. He would like to thank the amazing cast and crew members for bringing this classic story to life in the beautiful and magical way that it did.

### **Brooke Echnat** (*Wood Nymph Adaria*)

Brooke is an Actor, Director, Theatre Arts Educator, Audition Coach, and Pittsburgh Native! She is thrilled to be making her onstage debut with Prime Stage after being a part of the Run Crew for *Frankenstein* this past fall! In 2022, Brooke was a part of the Opening Entertainment Teams for *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser* and the *Disney Wish*. She is also currently a Teaching Artist with City Theatre! Brooke has trained at the London Dramatic Academy as well as Bucknell University! You can catch Brooke again next month at Vigilance Theater's production of *The Crucible* as Rev. Hale. Brooke would like to deeply thank her family and friends for all of their love and support!

### **Molly Frontz** (*Lucy Pevensie*)

Molly is a sixth grade theater student at PPS CAPA and has been studying at CLO Academy since she was 6. She is excited to be playing the role of (Lucy) in her Prime Stage debut. Other recent roles include (Matilda) in CAPA's production of *Matilda the Musical* and assorted roles including (Belinda Cratchitt) in CLO's *A Musical Christmas Carol*. Molly would like to thank her family and teachers for their patience and guidance. "All shall be done, but it may be harder than you think." ~C.S. Lewis

## ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

### **Andrew Lesnett** (*Tumnus*)

Andrew is thrilled to be working with Prime Stage Theatre once again! He is a recent graduate of Point Park University with a BA in Theatre Arts: Performance and Practice. Previous credits include Prime Stage's *Frankenstein*, Pittsburgh Playlabs' *Stagestruck*, and Pittsburgh Playhouse's *Pippin*. He would like to thank his friends and family as well as the amazing cast and crew who have made this such an incredible experience.

### **Eamonn McElfresh** (*Edmund Pevensie*)

Eamonn is a theater major at CAPA, and is thrilled to be back on stage with Prime Stage Theatre! He was recently seen on stage in The Pittsburgh Public's production of *The Christmas Story*, in CLO Academy's *Into The Woods*, and in Front Porch Theatricals' *Grand Hotel*. You can catch Eamonn on stage soon in Pittsburgh CAPA's *The Prom* musical. He thanks his family, teachers, and coaches for their support and guidance.

### **Isaac Miller** (*Professor and Father Christmas*)

Isaac is thrilled to be performing at the New Hazlett again in his hometown of Pittsburgh. Recent Prime Stage performances include *Frankenstein* (Victor Frankenstein/Percy Shelley) and *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad* (Publisher, Master, Conductor). New York credits include *America's Favorite Newscaster* and *What Elsa's Knew in a Peril*. He has starred in shows such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Ragtime*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Isaac is also a musician. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2017 with a BFA Musical Theater.

### **Matt Henderson** (*Dwarf*)

Matt returns to Prime Stage after appearances in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Einstein, A Stage Portrait*, *Twelfth Night*, *Walk Two Moons*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The Westing Game*. He has worked with many other theatre companies throughout the Pittsburgh area. Quantum Theatre: *10 for 21*. Arcade Comedy Theater: *The Thanksgiving Play*. City Theatre: *The Young Playwrights Festival*. PICT Classic Theatre: *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Lion in Winter*. 12 Peers Theater: *Mythburgh*, *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*, *Thom Pain (based on nothing)*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, *Colorado*, *The Pittsburgh Monologue Project*. Bricolage: *Bazaar*, *B.U.S.*, *Midnight Radio, Jr. - Mad Science Lab*, *Underwater Voyage*, *Midnight Radio - Animated Holiday*, *Speech & Debate*, *Weightless*. Saint Vincent Summer Theatre: *Suite Surrender*. No Name Players: *Fixing King John*. Off the Wall: *boom*. Cup-A-Jo Productions: *Unhinged*, *Hospitality Suite*. Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The New Renaissance Theatre Company: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Tempest*. Up next: Prime Stage Theatre's production of *The Boxcar Children*, running June 16<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Anthony Luisi** (*Mr. Beaver*)

Anthony is excited to be making his debut at Prime Stage Theater as Mr. Beaver. He has also been recently seen as (Jacob Marley) in *A Christmas Carol* with The Wright Company, (Andy) in the one act play, *Gossip*, at the Pennsylvania State Thespian Conference and (Race/Jack Understudy) in Little Lake Theater's production of the *Newsies*. Anthony is a junior at Peters Township High School who also enjoys playing the baritone saxophone in the school marching band, singing with his a cappella group, and being a part of the wrestling team. He is proud to have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Anthony would like to thank his family for their support of his love of acting and hopes to pursue it in college.

*"The more imagination the reader has ... the more he will do for himself. He will, at a mere hint from the author, flood wretched material with suggestion and never guess that he is himself chiefly making what he enjoys."*

— C.S. Lewis

## ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

### **Rachel Pfennigwerth** (*White Witch*)

Rachel is thrilled to be performing with Prime Stage for the first time. It is also a dream to be performing in this space after having spent lots of time around the then Pittsburgh Public and Prime Stage as a child. When not performing, Rachel can be found teaching and directing at Act One Theatre School in the North Hills. It's at Act One where she was first introduced to Narnia in the musical production as (The Pink Poodle), a made up Narnian who becomes a statue in the Witch's courtyard. Years later, Rachel shed the collar in exchange for a mane to play (Aslan) in that same musical. It's been extremely fun going to the dark side...and the Witch's fashion is much more on point. Favorite credits include: (Electra), *Electra* Little Lake Theatre; (Kala), *Tarzan* China National Tour; (Sheriff/Shop Lady), *Bubble Boy the Musical*, Arcade Comedy Theater; (Logan), *The Thanksgiving Play*, Arcade. Most recently, Rachel appeared as (Katie) in the independent film *A Mother's Love*, for which she has received a Best Actress Award at the Catalano Film Festival. Come back to Prime Stage Theatre this season to see Rachel in *The 39 Steps*!

### **Annabel Tew** (*Susan Pevensie*)

Annabel is thrilled to be in her first Prime Stage production! She is a 10th grade musical theater major at Pittsburgh CAPA. Some of her favorite productions include *Seussical Jr.* (Mayzie), *I Love You, You're Perfect...* (Diane), *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Veruca Salt), and *Hairspray* (Lou Ann). She is a 3-time finalist for the Williams Sing-off and a 2-time finalist in PPT's Shakespeare Scene and Monologue Contest. She would like to thank her friends, family, and teachers for their support.

### **Caitlin Young** (*Mrs. Beaver*)

Caitlin is delighted to make her Prime Stage debut with this amazing team! A Pittsburgh local and Duquesne University graduate, she has performed with theaters around the area for over a decade. Favorite credits include: (Sister James) in *Doubt* at Iron Horse, (April) in *Company* at Riverfront, (Pickles) in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* at BMTG, (Panacea) in *Forum* at South Park, (Polly Peachum) in *Threepenny Opera* at Red Masquers, (Ensemble) in *Anything Goes* at Stage 62, and (Cast Choir) for *Candlelight Processional* at EPCOT from 2016-17. Later this spring, she will Assistant Direct *Godspell* at The Theatre Factory. Caitlin serves on the Riverfront Theatre Company's board and helps with their Marketing. Thank you to the entire Prime Stage team for this opportunity! "A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest." – C.S. Lewis



*"What would you like best to eat?" "Turkish Delight, please, your Majesty," said Edmund.*

## ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

### **Madeline Barber** (*Lighting Designer*)

Madeline Barber is happy to be back designing with Prime Stage! Recent credits include, with Prime Stage Theatre: *Arsenic and Old Lace*; with the Slippery Rock University Dance Theatre: the *2022 Faculty and Guest Artists Concert* as well as the *2022 and 2023 Emerging Artists Series*; and with the Dance Conservatory of Pittsburgh: the *2022 and 2023 Winter Concerts*. More of Madeline's work can be found at her website [mkbarberdesigns.com](http://mkbarberdesigns.com). Madeline currently works at Point Park University, where she is the Technical Coordinator for the George Rowland White Dance Complex, as well as an adjunct dance faculty member teaching technical production. When she's not lighting up the room or teaching the next generation of creators and doers, Madeline is at home cooking or out in the mountains with her girlfriend Jessica and their fur kids Ginger, Blanc, and Jinx.

### **Alex Barnhart** (*Technical Director*)

Alex is a theater artist and educator from Pittsburgh, PA. Alex is a graduate of Slippery Rock University's BA Theater-Design and Technology, class of 2014. Alex is also a graduate of Kent State University's MFA Theater-Design and Technology, class of 2021. Alex has been working as a Designer, Educator, and Technical Director for various companies and universities in Pittsburgh and beyond including Prime Stage Theater, Kinetic Theatre, 12 Peers Theater Company, Carnegie Mellon University, Kent State, and Wilkes University. Over the years, they've had the opportunity to work on a number of incredible solo and collaborative projects. Thriving on creative challenges and building long-term relationships with artists and students along the way, Alex is always leaving an impactful impression behind.

### **M.K. Hughes** (*Scenic Designer*)

M.K. is a graduate of Southern Illinois University with an MFA in Scenic Design for the Theater. She is currently a visiting artist in the scenic properties and design at the University of Pittsburgh. For the past 7 years, she has been working as a freelance set designer, props artisan, and scenic painter at various locations, including Point Park University in Pittsburgh (Design), Prime Stage Theatre in Pittsburgh (Props & Design), The New Hazlett Theater in Pittsburgh (Design), the Alabama and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals (Painting), McLeod Summer Playhouse in Carbondale, IL (Props & Design), and Kansas State University (Design). View some of her work at [www.mkhughesdesign.com](http://www.mkhughesdesign.com).

### **Alex Keplar** (*Properties Master*)

Alex is a Pittsburgh based scenic and properties designer. She is a recent graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and is excited to be working on her second production with Prime Stage! Some of her recent credits include *The Sunshine Boys* (Scenic Designer, South Park Theatre), *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* (Properties Master, Prime Stage Theatre), *Silent Sky* (Properties Master, South Park Theatre), *Angels in America* (Properties Master, The Pittsburgh Playhouse), and *Little Children Dream of God* (Scenic Designer, The Pittsburgh Playhouse). She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support!

### **Britt Kolek** (*Stage Manager*)

Britt is a graduate of the University of Mount Union (OH), where she earned bachelor's degrees in Theatre and English. She has previously worked with Prime Stage as the Assistant Stage Manager for *A Wrinkle in Time* and Stage Manager for *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Frankenstein*. They are thrilled to be back as Prime's resident Stage Manager and working with an incredible cast and a wonderful company that brings her loves of literature and theatre together. When she is not stage managing, she is creating her own literary catalog with several self-published books available at their website: [bekolek.weebly.com](http://bekolek.weebly.com). She, as always, would like to thank her family and friends for their unconditional support.

*"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending."*

— C.S. Lewis

## ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

### **Madeline Macek** (*Costume Designer*)

Madeline is a Costume Designer specializing in historical works. A born-and-raised Pittsburgher, she has previously designed *Frankenstein* with Prime Stage and *Spring Awakening* and *Everybody* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. Madeline graduated from Point Park University in 2022. She would like to thank everyone who has mentored her, her family and friends for their support, and her Mammaw for getting her started on this journey.

### **Samantha Magill** (*Sound Designer*)

Samantha is thrilled to be a part of another Prime Stage Theater production! Her previous works include: *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* (Sound Designer), *The White Rose* (Sound Designer), and *Harriett Tubman and The Underground Railroad* (Sound Designer) with Prime Stage Theater and *Perdita* (Sound Designer) with the New Hazlett CSA program. She is also a proud member of the SoundGirls' Pittsburgh chapter which promotes and inspires the next generation of women in audio. When she is not in the theater, she spends her time working as a full-time producer for KDKA News radio. She is extremely thankful for Prime Stage and her friends, family, and cat for their support.

### **Michael R. Petyak** (*Fight Director/Intimacy Coordinator*)

Michael is extremely thankful to be welcomed back into the Prime Stage family for yet another great production and is truly excited to be working on one of his favorite childhood stories. Holding a B.F.A. in Musical Theater (Magna Cum Laude) from Shenandoah University, Michael has performed, directed and choreographed nationally for stage, television and film. Some of his most notable credits include sword-fighting at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire & Powel Crosley Estate (Sarasota, FL), doubling *Across the Universe* star Joe Anderson in the locally filmed television series, *Outsiders*, as well as doubling Disney star Calum Worthy in *Replicate* on Netflix. He also has done fight direction locally for Pittsburgh CLO, Quantum Theater, Pittsburgh City Theater, Kinetic Theater, Prime Stage, Little Lake Theater and numerous high schools in the Greater Pittsburgh Area. Michael has taught master classes in stage combat/stunts at the University of Pittsburgh, Point Park University, Carnegie Mellon University, Westminster College, & WQED Film Academy (WQED). He has also stunt coordinated films such as *Juniper & Lamplight*, *Secret Santa*, and *Child Warfare*. Michael has also assisted numerous fight directors/stunt coordinators in the entertainment industry. Michael is the in-house Fight Director and Intimacy Coordinator at Seton Hill University. Michael is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, AEA, & IATSE. He would like to thank Kate Pieratt-Webb and Tina Cerny for welcoming him back to Prime Stage as well as for Connie & Wayne Brinda for their confidence in his fight direction abilities throughout the years.

### **Kate Pieratt-Webb** (*Production Manager*)

Kate holds a degree in Dramatic Arts and History from Centre College and holds an MBA in Sports, Arts, and Entertainment Management from Point Park University. She has worked with various theatre companies in Pittsburgh and around the country, including: Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, Front Porch Theatricals, Playhouse on the Square (Memphis, TN), and Actors Guild of Lexington (Lexington, KY). A few of her most memorable productions include *Caroline, or Change*, *The Curious Savage*, and Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Iron Horse Theatre Company in Ambridge, PA. All her love for Clark, Vera, and Zelda.

### **Lauren Scheller-Wolf** (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Lauren is thrilled to be serving as the assistant stage manager for this beautiful production! Lauren is a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate, where she earned a BPhil in Theatre Arts and English Writing, and where her favorite theatre credits included *Emilia* (Susan Bertie/Flora) and *Carrie and Francine* (Stage Manager). Previously at Prime Stage, Lauren has appeared onstage in *The Scarlet Letter* and *You Belong to Me*. Lauren has worked onstage or behind the scenes with several Pittsburgh theatre companies, including: Saltworks Theatre Company, Steel City Shakespeare Center, Gemini Children's Theater, and Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks. Much love and gratitude, as always, to her friends and family.

## ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

### **Laura R. Smith** (*Makeup Designer*)

Laura Smith is in her 4th semester at Tom Savini's Special Effects makeup program at Douglas Education Center. She aspires to work as a professional in the film industry, doing anything from special effects makeup to props work. She currently has experience doing makeup on a team led by Chris Patrick for a number of productions with PMT in Pittsburgh. She has also worked with Sutradhar Institute of Dance in Maryland as well as worked with many organizations doing face painting for local children. When she is not doing makeup, she is a veterinary technician of over 10 years and enjoys cuddling with her two cats and dog.

### **Toni Woods** (*Assistant Scenic Designer*)

Toni is a second-year student at Point Park University, where they are studying Technical Theatre Design. This is Toni's first time working with Prime Stage. Toni is extremely grateful to MK Hughes for giving them the opportunity to work with her on this show. Toni would also like to thank their parents for all the support they have shown her over the years.



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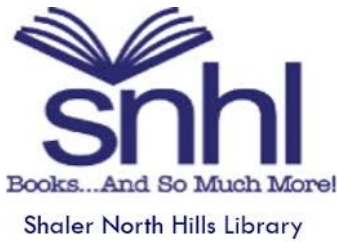
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## SUGGESTED READING LIST

If this play has piqued your interest, why not check out a book or movie and explore more? Your public libraries have many online resources you can access from home through Libby or Hoopla. Check your library's website for help in getting started: [Your Library From Home](#).

### Younger Children (ages 4-8)

#### ***Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak**

This Caldecott Medal-winning picture book is...one of the National Education Association's "Teachers' Top 100 Books for Children". Max's journey to the land of the wild things and a wild rumpus, meets up with him being drawn back to his parents and his supper, still hot.

#### ***Knight Owl* by Christopher Denise**

Since the day he hatched, Owl dreamed of becoming a real knight. He may not be the biggest or the strongest, but his sharp nocturnal instincts can help protect the castle, especially since many knights have recently gone missing.

#### ***Arthur and the Golden Rope* by Joe Todd-Stanton**

The first book in a four book series, *Brownstone's Mythical Collection*. Follow Arthur Brownstone as he grows up and continues his explorations of Norse, Egyptian, and Chinese mythology.

### Middle Grades (ages 10 and up)

#### ***Falling In* by Frances O'Roark Dowell**

A lovely introduction to the fantasy genre. When Isabelle opens a door to a supply closet at school, she enters a fairytale world where she must determine who or what is the 'witch' that the children fear. Isabelle has an adventure which ends satisfyingly as she reminds readers to just believe that "the doors are out there. Don't be afraid to turn the knob."

#### ***The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop**

When William learns that his favorite caretaker Mrs. Phillips is leaving, he is devastated. But then she gives him her parting gift--a mysterious model castle that has been in her family for years.

#### ***The Wolves of Willoughby Chase* by Joan Aiken**

Book one of eleven in the series, where wicked wolves and a grim governess threaten Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia. The girls are sent off to a prison-like orphan school from which they must escape and save their beloved home.

#### ***The Wild Folk* by Sylvia Linsteadt**

When the Star-Priest Brotherhood from the City threaten to ravage and destroy the land of the Wild Folk, their only hope rests with two young hares and their human companions – Tin, an orphan City boy with a passion for invention, and curious Country girl Comfrey. Book one of *The Stargold Chronicles*

#### ***The House With Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson**

All 12-year-old Marinka wants is a friend. But that's tough when your grandmother is a Yaga, a guardian who guides the dead into the afterlife. It's even harder when you live in a house that wanders all over the world...carrying you with it.

#### ***The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame**

Three animal friends (Badger, Ratty, and Mole) who try to help Mr. Toad and his misadventures. The beloved British classic is based on bedtime stories author Grahame told his son.

## Suggested Reading List

### ***The Wishing Spell*** by Chris Colfer

The first book in the number one New York Times best-selling Land of Stories series. Tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

### ***Spiderwick Chronicles Series*** by Tony DiTerlizzi

This series chronicles the adventures of the Grace children, twins Simon and Jared and their older sister Mallory, after they move into the Spiderwick Estate and discover a world of [fairies](#) that they never knew existed.

### ***Redwall*** by Brian Jacques

This enthralling tale is jam-packed with the things we long for in a great adventure: danger, laughter, escapes, tragedy, mystery, and a touch of wonder. The hero is Matthias, a young mouse who must rise above his fears and failures to save his friends at Redwall Abbey. (There are 22 novels in this series.)

### **Series to Share (middle grade ages up to adult)**

#### ***Over Sea, Under Stone*** by Susan Cooper

Book One of *The Dark is Rising series*, a series that explore dark/light good/evil themes. Three children discover an ancient map in the attic of the house that they are staying in. The map becomes the key to finding a grail, a source of power to fight the forces of evil known as the Dark.

#### ***The Golden Compass*** by Philip Pullman

The first book in *His Dark Materials* trilogy. A modern coming-of-age story featuring Lyra and Will who must travel parallel worlds, meeting armored bears, witches, and gobblers who snatch children. Asks deep questions about our souls, family, and religion. Made into an HBO original television series and a stand-alone movie.

#### ***A Wizard of Earthsea*** by Ursula LeGuin

First in the four books of the *Earthsea Cycle*. When Sparrowhawk casts a spell that saves his village from destruction at the hands of the invading Kargs, Ogion, the Mage of Re Albi, encourages the boy to apprentice himself in the art of wizardry.

#### ***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R. Tolkien

Tolkien's beloved classic, and the introduction to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, we follow the quiet hobbit Bilbo Baggins on his adventure with the wizard Gandalf and a band of merry dwarves heading to face Smaug the dragon.

### **Adult**

#### ***Phantastes*** by George MacDonald

C.S. Lewis said that upon reading this astonishing 19th-century fairy tale he "had crossed a great frontier." At times almost forthrightly allegorical, at other times richly dreamlike, this story of a young man who finds himself on a long journey through a land of fantasy is more truly the story of the spiritual quest that is at the core of his life's work, a quest that must end with the ultimate surrender of the self.

#### ***The Everlasting Man*** by G.K. Chesterton

What, if anything, is it that makes the human uniquely human? This, in part, is the question that G.K. Chesterton starts with in this classic exploration of human history. Responding to the evolutionary materialism of his contemporary (and antagonist) H.G. Wells, Chesterton in this work affirms human uniqueness and the unique message of the Christian faith.

## Suggested Reading List

### ***Screwtape Letters*** by C.S. Lewis

A Christian novel dedicated to J. R. R. Tolkien. It is written in a satirical style and the plot and characters are used to address Christian theological issues, primarily those to do with temptation and resistance to it.

### ***Mere Christianity*** by C.S. Lewis

*Mere Christianity* is C.S. Lewis's forceful and accessible doctrine of Christian belief. First heard as informal radio broadcasts and then published as three separate books — *The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality* — *Mere Christianity* brings together what Lewis saw as the fundamental truths of the religion.

### ***God in the Dock*** by C.S. Lewis

Here Lewis addresses himself both to theological questions and to those which Hooper terms "semi-theological," or ethical. But whether he is discussing "Evil and God," "Miracles," "The Decline of Religion," or "The Humanitarian Theory of Punishment," his insight and observations are thoroughly and profoundly Christian.

### ***Til We Have Faces: a Myth Retold*** by C.S. Lewis

Lewis' retelling of the story of Cupid and Psyche (originally from *Metamorphoses*), characterized by a highly developed narrator, with the reader being drawn into her reasoning and her emotions.

(Descriptions condensed from Amazon.com, Wikipedia, and GoodReads)



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Based on the Book

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# High School Drama Awards



Prime Stage is excited to present our 3rd Annual High School Drama Awards on April 24, 2023.

The Awards Ceremony will be presented on stage at the New Hazlett Theater Center for Performing Arts.

The drama awards recognize our area high school students in creating their non-musical productions, and shine a light on their accomplishments.

The participating schools this year are:

Avonworth, Carlynton, Deer Lakes, Fox Chapel North Allegheny, Penn Hills, Pine-Richland, Shady Side Academy, Thomas Jefferson.

Please consider making a donation to this important program. Every little bit will help to bring well-deserved recognition to our area students and their high schools.

[www.primestage.com/support Drama Awards](http://www.primestage.com/support Drama Awards)



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*The mission of Prime Stage is to entertain, inspire and enrich through professional theatre by bringing literature to life. Our vision is enriching lives through theatre and literacy with programs that delivers quantifiable results and benefits to the region.*

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*The Prime Stage Teen Advisory board is a group of young adults who are passionate about theatre and the arts, who have the desire to uphold the mission of Prime Stage, to serve and engage the Pittsburgh community, to connect to and encourage the minds of youth, and prioritize social relevance in the arts.*

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*We believe that literacy and the theatre can lift people up, inspire opportunities, and present new ways of seeing the world in positive ways. Effective teachers help students connect literature to their own world. Students discover literature, enjoy reading and vicariously "live in" the literature. Talented artists bring stories from the pages to life by providing multi-sensory experiences. Our adaptations of literature and historical figures and programs are selected and produced to meet those goals*

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