

For Immediate Release

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Steinbeck, Shakespeare and an NEA Big Read production: Prime Stage Theatre announces 22nd season, opening in November 2018

(PITTSBURGH, PA - July 18, 2018) Prime Stage Theatre, a Pittsburgh theater organization that presents professionally produced stage plays based on works of classic and contemporary literature, announces its 2018–2019 season of productions, all of which will be presented at the New Hazlett Theater Center for the Performing Arts on the North Courage.

“The theme for the 2018–2019 season is ‘Courage,’” says co-founder and artistic producing director Wayne Brinda. “Each of the plays depicts different ways in which courage is admirably demonstrated by various characters as they employ it in an effort to achieve specific objectives.”

The season runs as follows:

November 2–11, 2018

Of Mice and Men

Written by John Steinbeck

Directed by Scott P. Calhoon

The season of Courage opens as the audience shares the desire for the American dream with two migrant workers in California who grasp for a place to call their own. Audiences are invited to join Prime Stage as we partner with the National Steinbeck Center to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the play being honored with the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award.

March 8–17, 2019

In the Time of the Butterflies

A play by Caridad Svich Based on the novel by Julia Alvarez

Directed by Ricardo Vila-Roger

Prime Stage is proud to produce this play as part of the NEA Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. The Big Read’s objective, as stated by the NEA, is to “broaden our understanding of the world, our communities and ourselves through the sharing of a good book.”

Audiences will experience the spirit, passions and courageous acts of the four Mirabal sisters, nicknamed the “Butterflies,” who inspired a fight for freedom in the Dominican Republic during a time in the 1960s when the country was oppressed by murderous dictator Rafael Trujillo. The sisters’ legacy led to the United Nations creating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The *Burlington Free Press* has called Julia Alvarez' novel “as lovely as a butterfly at rest, and as moving as one in flight.”

May 3–12, 2019

Twelfth Night

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Andy Kirtland

Match wits with one of Shakespeare's most dynamic heroines in this hilarious tale of love, music and courage. Set in the colorful world of Portugal, *Twelfth Night* tickles the imagination as Viola disguises herself as a page boy to find her twin brother but finds herself at the center of a crazy love triangle.

Tickets for all performances, as well as season subscriptions, are available now at www.primestage.com.

About Prime Stage Theatre

Now beginning its twenty-second consecutive season, Prime Stage Theatre is a Pittsburgh theater company and educational organization, unique in the region for presenting professionally staged, family-friendly productions based on works of classic and contemporary literature. In addition, the organization offers an ongoing schedule of innovative educational classes and programs for students and participants of all ages. Its efforts have been demonstrated to measurably improve literacy. Founded by Wayne Brinda and Connie Brinda, Prime Stage has been honored with numerous accolades, including *Pittsburgh City Paper's* 2017 Best Local Stage Production award for the regional premiere of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.