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Pittsburgh native, Hollywood actor returning home to play starring role in Prime Stage Theatre's *Of Mice and Men*, November 2 to 11

Pittsburgh, PA - September 20, 2018 — Prime Stage Theatre is pleased to announce that the lead role of George Milton—one of two friends traveling across California during the Great Depression in November's season opener, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*—will be played by western PA native and Allegheny College alumnus Corey Rieger.

Local audience members will remember Rieger from his many appearances on local stages before relocating to Los Angeles. Selected roles include *Mary Stuart* and *The Crucible* at Pittsburgh Public Theater, *Peer Gynt* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse and *Grease* at Pittsburgh Musical Theater.

A working film and television actor since 2009, Rieger acted in *Out Of the Furnace*, the 2013 crime drama shot in Pittsburgh starring Woody Harrelson and Christian Bale. He also played the featured role of Pony Joe on the 2013-2016 Cinemax series *Banshee* and a priest in the 2015 feature film *The Last Witch Hunter* with Vin Diesel and Michael Caine.

In 2009 Rieger acted in the film *The Bridge to Nowhere*, directed by Carnegie Mellon alum Blair Underwood, and played the lead role in a limited television series, *Neil in Therapy*. When not acting on screen or in theatrical productions in L.A., he writes, produces and directs short films.

Rieger's onstage traveling companion, Lenny Small, will be played by Daniel Pivovar, who was seen earlier this year as Sheriff Gillespie in Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater Company's production of *In the Heat of the Night*.

Prime Stage, which presents professionally produced plays based on works of classic and contemporary literature, is partnering with the National Steinbeck Center to present John Steinbeck's classic Depression-era story *Of Mice and Men*, the first of three plays during the season to feature "courage" as a central theme."

"We're thrilled to welcome Corey back to Pittsburgh, and are excited that he'll be playing George," said Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage's co-founder and artistic producing director. "In our production, which is directed by Scott P. Calhoon, audiences will share the desire for the American dream with two migrant workers in California who grasp for a place to call their own."

Prime Stage's production of *Of Mice and Men* commemorates the 80th anniversary of *Of Mice and Men* receiving the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play in 1938.

The production will run at the New Hazlett Theater Center for the Performing Arts, Allegheny Center, on the North Side. Tickets are available at www.primestage.com.

About Prime Stage Theatre

Prime Stage Theatre is a Pittsburgh theater organization that presents professionally produced plays based on works of classic and contemporary literature. Founded in 1996 by Wayne Brinda and Connie Brinda, the organization also presents a diverse variety of community and educational programs for students, teens and adults. More information is available at www.primestage.com.