

**Prime Stage Theatre to observe a moment of silence for Tree of Life Synagogue shooting victims, family members and congregation this Saturday, November 3 prior to opening of *Of Mice and Men***

**Pittsburgh, PA – October 29, 2018** — Prime Stage Theatre will observe a moment of silence this Saturday, November 3 to honor the victims of Saturday’s tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill.

The silence will be observed by cast members, crew and audience prior to the 8:00 p.m. opening night performance of John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men* at the New Hazlett Theatre Center for the Performing Arts on the North Side. “Our opening night performance will be dedicated to the memory of those we lost on Saturday, and we join all of Pittsburgh in standing firmly against hate, violence and persecution of every kind.”

“This sincere expression of love and support for—and solidarity with—our dear Jewish brothers and sisters will honor the memories and lives of those whose lives were lost during the horrible events of this past Saturday,” said Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage co-founder and producing artistic director who is a Museum Teaching Fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. “We also plan to thank the first responders for their heroism in the face of violence brought on by extreme prejudice.”

“We’ve declared this, our 22<sup>nd</sup> season, as *The Season of Courage*, by selecting plays that reflect that theme. It’s appropriate that *Of Mice and Men*, a story of friendship and courage, is our opening production as we honor the courage and heroism of the first responders and those who helped the victims, their families and friends.”

Prime Stage’s production of *Of Mice and Men*, which is being produced in association with the National Steinbeck Center, also commemorates the 80th anniversary of *Of Mice and Men* receiving the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award. Directed by Scott P. Calhoun, the play will preview this Friday, November 2, then run November 3 through 11. More details are available at [www.primestage.com](http://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](http://www.primestage.com)