



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Mystery Theatre Podcast Returns with “The Play’s the Things”**

(Pittsburgh, PA – February 17, 2021) Pittsburgh’s own **Lawrence C. Connolly** brings us Season 2 of Prime Stage Theatre’s Mystery Theatre with “The Play’s the Things.” With a format similar to the classic old time radio shows **Connolly** reunites the cast of eccentric characters featured in the previous season’s five-act podcast “A Knavish Piece of Work.”

"As Prime Stage continues to explore ways of entertaining and engaging audiences of all ages, **Lawrence Connolly's** Mystery Theatre podcast really sparks the imagination as ‘You’ try to solve each mystery," said **Wayne Brinda**, Prime Stage Theatre Producing Artistic Director.

Starting February 25 listeners will once again become part of the story of an all-new mystery theatre. It’s opening night, and a player is missing. Now it’s up to our listeners to follow the clues, find him, and deliver him backstage before his all-important scene.

Each 10-minute episode presents clues and complications as the listeners try to solve the mystery. With the interactive format, listeners can insert their own plot twists on the way to the eventual climax.

“Larry is a wonderful storyteller and not with just his voice. The writing he has brought us has been a breath of fresh air. It’s wonderful to have something light and fun to listen to,” said **Tina Marie Cerny**, Operations Director, Prime Stage Theatre, “It’s such a change of pace from what you will see him bring to the stage as the playwright of our first show next season, *Frankenstein*.”

“I’m having a great time putting these shows together. In the first season, I worked with one of my favorite sub-genres – the locked-door-who-done-it. This time around, it’s a missing-person adventure set backstage during an opening night performance. Again, I had a blast writing it, and I’m looking forward to sharing it on Prime Stage Mystery,” said **Connolly**.

An acclaimed sci-fi/mystery author and Pittsburgh native, **Connolly** began writing professionally in the early 1980's. His stories appeared in the magazines *Amazing Stories* and *Rod Serling's Twilight Zone*, some of which were reprinted in volumes of *Year's Best Horror Stories*, edited by **Karl Edward Wagner**. In addition to writing and voicing *A Knavish Piece of Mystery*, **Connolly** — an accomplished musician and composer — scored background music and effects.

“We’re hoping these stories appeal to both mystery fans and theatre lovers,” said **Connolly**, “Indeed, the mystery featured in season two incorporates a dilemma sometimes called “the actor’s nightmare,” in which a performer steps on stage and suddenly can’t remember a single line of dialogue. Incorporating that nightmare into the mystery was one of the fun things about writing Episode 2, and I’m hoping it will encourage some of our listeners to respond by sharing real-life theatre nightmares of their own.”

For centuries readers have loved a classic “who done it.” The opportunity to analyze the psychological makeup and inducement of the characters to do what they do contributes to the excitement of the unsolved puzzle. For this podcast listeners are invited to comment on the stories by proposing solutions and possibly even share scenarios of their own.

“Last season, we received some terrific responses, some of which we shared on the podcast. One listener from Yonkers, NY, reached out to us with a real-life mystery like the one posed in the story. We featured his adventure in the final episode of season one. A fun example of the intersection between life and art,” said **Connolly**.

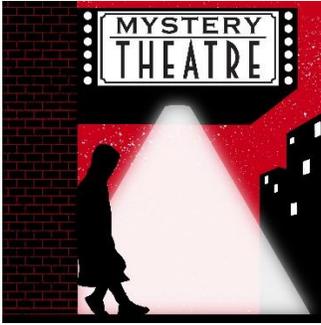
Beginning February 25, a new episode will be released every Thursday for a total of 5 episodes.

Free event. Donations welcome.

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Lawrence C. Connolly



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