

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prime Stage Theatre Announces Their 25th Anniversary Season Exploring the Theme of Beyond the Imagination

(Pittsburgh, PA – July 12, 2021) After a successful series of one-actor plays during the pandemic that were presented to a limited and safely-spaced audience and live streamed as far away as Rwanda and South Africa, **Prime Stage Theatre** is eager to get back to live performance again at the New Hazlett Theater. The 25th Anniversary season will explore the theme of **Beyond the Imagination**.

“It has been a challenging year and a half for the arts and we are so excited to make our way back into the theatre. This season we are returning to the stage with shows to stretch your imagination. Spine tingling intrigue, a mystery with voyages to unknown worlds, and some sweet but misguided aunts are all on stage this season,” said **Tina Marie Cerny**, Managing Director, Prime Stage Theatre.

The first production is a world premiere of ***Frankenstein***. The production is adapted by acclaimed sci-fi/horror novelist **Lawrence C. Connolly** and will be directed by **Art DeConciliis**. ***Frankenstein*** will run **November 5 - 14, 2021**.

A storm rages as five travelers invent ghost tales to pass the long night. Audiences watch **Mary Shelley** create a masterpiece of gothic terror, undying love and eternal revenge that still shocks today. **Connolly** takes this literary classic to a new level of fright and passion.

Connolly, a Pittsburgh native, 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**.

Connolly also brought us 2 seasons of **Prime Stage Theatre's *Mystery Theatre*** podcast with a format similar to classic old-time radio. He sparks the imagination of listeners to solve each mystery and contribute to the evolving story. In addition to writing and voicing *Mystery Theatre*, *A Knavish Piece of Mystery*, **Connolly** — an accomplished musician and composer — scored background music and effects.

A Wrinkle in Time runs **March 4 – 13, 2022** is adapted from the novel by **Madeleine L'Engle** by **Brian Wongchaowart** and **Wayne Brinda**. The story was first published in 1962 and we are celebrating its 60th anniversary. **Sunny Disney** is the director of this fantastical journey that blends science fiction with family themes and spiritual growth re-imagined for our day. Join three youngsters as they experience a riveting adventure through space and time to rescue their father and help Good triumph over Evil.

As an adult **L'Engle** found herself drawn to concepts of cosmology and non-linear time after picking up a book about Albert Einstein. She adamantly believed that any theory of writing is also a theory of cosmology because "one cannot discuss structure in writing without discussing structure in all life." The idea that religion, science, and magic are different aspects of a single reality and should not be thought of as conflicting is a recurring theme in her work.

Surprisingly, ***A Wrinkle in Time*** is one of the most frequently banned books of all time and has been accused of being both too religious and anti-Christian.

Arsenic and Old Lace by **Joseph Kesselring** runs **May 6 – 15, 2022** and is directed by **Liam Macik**. When ***Arsenic and Old Lace*** made its Broadway debut in 1941, a New York Times review said it was "so funny none of us will ever forget it."

In 1941, New Yorkers were looking for entertainment to take their minds off of the war in Europe and the growing fear that America would be pulled into it. On January 10, Broadway gave them exactly what they were looking for in the form of this hilarious new play. The play became an immediate critical and popular success, running for 1,444 performances. Eighty-one years later, this madcap comedy mixing young newlyweds and whimsical seniors still delights audiences.

"I am excited for our first ever production in our new series, **Prime Stage Sprouts**. We have been known for our middle school and high school matinees, but this year we are expanding our performances for elementary age students. What better way of capturing the love of theatre and learning than with shows for our youth and their families," said **Tina Marie Cerny**, Managing Director, Prime Stage Theatre.

The final production of the 2021-2022 season, **The Amazing Lemonade Girl**, is a regional premiere. The true story by **James DeVita** was inspired by the life of **Alexandra Flynn Scott**. The production will be directed by **Allison Weakland** and will run **June 16 - 19, 2022**.

Alex Scott wasn't going to let her rare childhood illness get her down. Her illness inspired her to start a front yard lemonade stand to raise funds to help other kids. Based on the book written by her parents, this regional premiere shows how a single person can change the world one act or even one cup at a time. Watch as her noble efforts inspire donations of over \$1 million dollars and a foundation that has raised \$200 million and funded over 1,000 medical research projects for children's health.

This will be the premiere production of the new **Prime Stage Sprouts** series which will feature productions for elementary school aged children and their families.

"As we celebrate our 25th anniversary season with ***Beyond the Imagination***, I'm pleased that we are returning to in-person theatre with 3 fantastic shows, along with the beginning of our new phase with **Prime Stage Sprouts**, featuring the regional premiere of ***The Amazing Lemonade Girls***. We are also pleased to continue our accessibility program that brings literature and theatre to life for everyone," said **Wayne Brinda**, Producing Artistic Director.

As with all Prime Stage productions we strive to make our performances accessible to everyone. Our productions will be available with **audio description** and **interpretation**. The performances are **Sensory Inclusive** and a social story will be posted on the web site. Prime Stage Theatre is the only theater company in the Pittsburgh area to attain Certified Sensory Inclusive status through KultureCity, as a leading nonprofit recognized nationwide for using their resources to affect change for those with sensory needs.

TICKET INFORMATION

[Events | Prime Stage](https://primestage.com/events) <https://primestage.com/events>