

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Prime Stage Theatre Opens their 25<sup>th</sup> Season with *KARLOFF The Man and The Monster* on November 5, 2021**

(Pittsburgh, PA – October 18, 2021) Prime Stage Theatre is eager and excited to get back to live performance again at the New Hazlett Theater on November 5<sup>th</sup> with ***KARLOFF The Man and The Monster*** written by **Randy Browser**, directed by **Art DeConciliis** and starring **David Nackman** as **Karloff**.

As a proactive measure to limit staff and actors to exposure to the COVID-19 coronavirus Prime Stage has decided to once again produce a one-actor production. This multi-media one-act experience traces the origins of Karloff's career and carries the audience into his rise as one of the most renowned movie monsters.

The production explores **Karloff's** illustrious 60-year career in the entertainment industry and his enduring legacy. Of all the stars of the 1930's and 40's, few can claim to have the continued following in the 21st Century that **Boris Karloff** has.

"When we made the decision to open our 25th Season with Karloff, a one-actor play and hold off another year with *Frankenstein*, I was pleased to learn that we would be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the first *Frankenstein* movie starring *Boris Karloff* which opened on November 21, 1931. We are thrilled to bring *KARLOFF The Monster and The Man* to you live on stage and streaming this November 2021. This is a 'must see' performance for all **Karloff** fans, horror fans, and younger audiences to discover this incredible person and his wit. **Karloff** was the true icon of horror movies as 'the monster' and the original voice of *The Grinch*," said **Wayne Brinda**, Producing Artistic Director for Prime Stage Theatre.

William Henry Pratt, better known by his stage name **Boris Karloff**, was an English actor who starred as *Frankenstein's* monster in the horror film *Frankenstein*. He also appeared as Imhotep in *The Mummy*, and voiced the Grinch, as well as narrated the animated television special of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, which won him a Grammy Award.

**Boris Karloff** was best known for his roles in horror films, especially the *Frankenstein* movies which made him a star. **Karloff** rose to the challenge by playing the unloved creature with both tenderness and menace. Despite the fact that his face was hidden by makeup, his powerful performance earned him critical acclaim and made him a sensation.

Karloff had a lifelong passion for verse and was known to gleefully recite classic poems on movie sets. During the 1950s and 1960s, he read various Rudyard Kipling stories for a series of children's albums, which caught the ear of **Chuck Jones**, director of the 30-minute television special *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1966). Karloff was hired to be the show's narrator. It was one of his signature roles, an inspired performance captured just three years before his death.

He brought humanity and vulnerability to all his performances, but especially in his portrayal as Frankenstein's monster. **Karloff** was able to communicate a powerful sense of yearning in the creature, hoping for a gesture of human warmth from his creator. He conveys its forlorn sense of confusion through his extraordinary eyes without dialogue.

"KARLOFF is a deeply personal look into **Boris Karloff's** life. In theatre we often want to play against our type. This is a person who knew his type, embraced it, and shared it with the world. Today, not many people know who he is, but they know the Grinch. I am beyond excited to show how much he is ingrained into our cinematic and theatrical history," said **Tina Marie Cerny**, Managing Director for Prime Stage Theatre.

**Art DeConciliis**, Director of *KARLOFF*, has been acting and directing with a number of Pittsburgh theater companies, including Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater, Duquesne University, The Theater Factory, Little Lake Theatre Co., Prime Stage Theatre and LHRT for more than 36 years. He was a long-standing Board member and former Artistic Committee Chair for Little Lake, where he has been a part of over 160 productions and was an instructor of that theater's acting class program for 23 years. Art was a 2007 Post-Gazette Performer of the Year and is also an active voice-over artist in both the U.S. and Canada. Favorite roles include Vanya in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*; Kerr in *Chesapeake*; Marc in *Art and Malvolio* and Sir Toby in *Twelfth Night*.

*KARLOFF* is an engaging night of storytelling, covering the life of horror film star and icon, **Boris Karloff**. From the high points of his movie career to the challenges of his personal life, the play is a roller coaster ride that is both humorous and heartfelt, providing the audience with an honest view of the man behind the monsters," said **Art DeConciliis**, Director of *KARLOFF The Man and The Monster*.

**David Nackman**, who plays **Karloff**, has spent over two decades serving as co-founder and creative director of Performance of a Lifetime, a boutique consulting firm in New York City that engages leaders and entire organizations in discovering, creating, and acting on new and uncharted possibilities.

An accomplished actor, director, designer, writer, performer, and professional coach, **Nackman** specializes in visual design and presentation delivery. His unique expertise leverages the director's craft in developing powerful brand performances, and he has helped drive creative breakthroughs for a global portfolio of clients.

**Nackman** has performed with The Theatre Factory, PA; Birmingham Theatre, Birmingham MI; 1st National Tour BIG Theatre Co./FringeNYC; Hangar Theatre, NY; and Castillo Theatre, NY.

“Working on this production has been a high point of my career as an actor. Playing Karloff is an exhilarating challenge — **Randy Bowser’s** script reveals much more about the man than most of us ever knew, and the work of bringing him (back) to life has been filled with surprise and delight (along with so many lines to learn!). And I can’t say enough about the Prime Stage production team, led by the amazing, consummate “actors director” **Art DeConciliis**. Their work to put on an amazing show has been breathtaking. It’s going to be a thriller,” said **David Nackman**, starring actor in *KARLOFF The Man and the Monster*.

The production has the distinction of being endorsed by Sara Jane Karloff, the only child of Boris Karloff, who is famously protective of her father’s legacy.

### ***KARLOFF The Man and the Monster***

**November 5 – 14, 2021**

Written by Randy Bowser

Authorized by Sara Karloff

Directed by Art DeConciliis

#### **All Accessibility ALWAYS!**

Audio described performance      Friday, November 12, 2021

Interpreted performance            Saturday, November 13, 2021

Sensory inclusive performance      Available through Streaming November 15 – 28, 2021

**More info and tickets:** [primestage.com/events/](http://primestage.com/events/)

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**David Nackman**



**Art DeConcillis**

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