

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wrinkle in Time

Adapted from the novel by **Madeleine L'Engle**
by **Brian Wongchaowart** and **Wayne Brinda**

March 4 – 13, 2022

(Pittsburgh, PA – February 1, 2022) ***A Wrinkle in Time*** runs **March 4 – 13, 2022** and is adapted from the novel by **Madeleine L'Engle** by **Brian Wongchaowart** and **Wayne Brinda**.

Prime Stage Celebrates the 60th anniversary of *A Wrinkle In Time*

“With our season slogan ‘Beyond the Imagination’ this production takes you on a journey through space reflecting light and dark, good and evil, along with growth and inspiration. This is the 60th anniversary of the book being published,” said **Wayne Brinda**, Prime Stage Theatre, Producing Artistic Director.

Sunny Disney Fitchett 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.

“The *plot* of the story is about a girl's journey through the wrinkles of time and space to rescue her father from **IT** and the powers of the Darkness but the *heart* of the story is about family--Meg, and Charles Wallace, and Calvin, and Mr. and Mrs. Murry, all *real*, with flaws and eccentricities and powerful, true love for one another. Although the journey that launches Meg through the universe is compelling, it is her journey of authentic self-discovery that I find most courageous and heroic. And the three *Ws*--Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs Which--who guide and protect the children throughout their rescue mission must certainly be three of the strongest, wisest, boldest, quirkiest and most forthright characters ever written. I keep wishing one of these marvelous guardian angels would tumble into my life,” said **Sunny Disney Fitchett**, Director.

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, ***A Wrinkle in Time*** was first published in 1962 and received the Newbery Award. The story has endured finding new readers in each generation. Madeleine L'Engle loved the theater as an actress and writer. Prime Stage is excited to engage audiences when bringing her characters and story to life by blending theatre and dance to create the fantastical journeys.

“Our production of *A Wrinkle in Time* is a unique look at how to bring sci-fi to the stage without major technology. Prime Stage is branching out in ways we haven't before by using dance and puppetry and I am beyond excited to share the heart of this story in a way it hasn't been told before,” said **Tina Marie Cerny**, Managing Director.

The cast includes **Chelsea Bartel** (Aunt Beast), **Colin J. Bozick** (Charles Wallace Murray), **Piper B. Bozick** (Meg Murry), **John Dolphin** (Mr Murray), **Jayden Greening** (Calvin O'Keefe), **Heather Irwin** (Ms Murray), **Ponny Conomos Jahn** (Mrs Which), **Mary Meyer** (Mrs Whatsit) and **Joyce Miller** (Mrs Who/Ensemble).

During rehearsals, the production team had a unique opportunity to meet with **Charlotte Jones Voiklis**, Madeleine L'Engle's granddaughter. As Ms. Voiklis shared insights into the novel and characters, the cast shared how the story means so much to them. biography of **L'Engle** entitled *Becoming Madeline*. Prime Stage is delighted that Ms. **Voiklis** will be doing a virtual post show discussion with audiences (included with admission) on March 11th.

As with all Prime Stage productions we make our performances accessible to everyone. Our productions are available with **audio description** and **interpretation**. The performances are **Sensory Inclusive** and a social story is posted on the web site. Prime Stage Theatre is the region's only theater company 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.

In the book about her grandmother, *Becoming Madeleine*, Ms. Voiklis wrote "She always said that her stories knew more than she did, that she wrote to find out what she thought about things. This Prime Stage production of Madeleine L'Engle's "A Wrinkle in Time" will take you on a thrilling theatrical discovery of ideas, love, and family.

TICKET INFORMATION

Purchase tickets: <https://primestage.com/events/a-wrinkle-in-time/>

March 4 – 13, 2022

Friday, March 11	Audio Described Performance (includes post show with Charlotte Jones Voiklis)
Saturday, March 12	ASL Interpreted Performance
March 14 – 27, 2022	Sensory Inclusive Performance – Recorded Streaming Link

Unable to attend a live performance? Purchase a recorded streaming link.

Recorded Link 24-hour Access Pass March 14-27, 2022 \$10

Audio Description and Closed Caption are available with recorded links

Save money with a Flex Membership: <https://primestage.com/events/a-wrinkle-in-time/>

Classroom Registration for Student Matinees: To register your classroom for our In Person or Streaming Student Matinees contact studentmat@primestage.com

Additional Information:

Actor Bios – A Wrinkle in Time

Chelsea Bartel (Aunt Beast/Happy Medium/Ensemble) Chelsea is delighted to finally be back on stage again with Prime Stage Theatre! You may have seen her on the New Hazlett stage

before in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mrs. Van Daan), *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Joseph Behm/Recruit), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Stephanie Crawford), and *Animal Farm* (Clover). She is also thrilled to be working with director, Sunny Fitchett, again after *Morning's at Seven* (Myrtle) with South Park Theatre. She has worked with many other theatre companies around the Pittsburgh area over the years, like The Theatre Factory, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, and more! Favorite credits: *Next to Normal* (Diana Goodman), *American Idiot* (Whatsername), *Billy Elliot* (Mrs. Wilkinson), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak), *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Suzy), *Legally Blonde* (Vivienne), *Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Peretti), *The Addams Family* (Alice Beineke). Chelsea is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and performed in many shows with Scotch'n'Soda Theatre, including *Moon Over Buffalo* (Charlotte Hay). Chelsea wishes to thank everyone who has given her a chance to shine, and like the late Mary Tyler Moore, "she's gonna make it after all". chelseabartel.com

Colin J. Bozick (Charles Wallace Murray) Colin is a ten-year-old fifth grade student at Markham Elementary School in Mt. Lebanon. He started acting in 2020 and is a regular performer at South Park Children's Theatre having performed in *Jingle Bell Jukebox* (Nicholas), *My Sister the Dragon* (Prince Marcus), and *The Lights of Jingle Bell Hill* (Mayor). Colin is currently studying American Sign Language for his upcoming performance in *Captain Louie, Jr.* at Little Lake Theatre in conjunction with the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. He is excited to make his debut with Prime Stage Theatre playing the little brother, Charles Wallace, alongside his real big sister, Piper. His hobbies outside of acting include baseball, football, chess, and any game someone will play with him. He'd like to thank his family for all of their love and support!

Piper B. Bozick (Meg Murry) Piper Bozick is a fourteen-year-old freshman at Mt. Lebanon High School. She started acting in 2019 and is thrilled to be playing Meg in *A Wrinkle in Time* - her first production with Prime Stage Theatre! Her past productions include *Madeline's Christmas* (Regine), *Pan!* (Smee), *The Princess and the Ogre* (Nurse Josepine), *Jingle Bell Jukebox* (Ruby), *My Sister, The Dragon* (Quenton), and *Puss in Boots* (Gabrielle). She loves everything about performing and especially enjoys it when she is able to act with her brother and sister onstage! A regular at South Park Theatre and Little Lake Theatre, she is currently working on a project partnering with the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Little Lake's production of *Captain Louie, Jr.* When not acting, Piper enjoys spending time with her family, reading, singing, and skiing. She would like to thank her family for all of their love and support and the cast and crew for this amazing opportunity!

John Dolphin (Mr Murray, Man with the Red Eyes, Ensemble) John's acting career has come full circle in recent months. He spent the first half of his life working as an actor before taking a 23-year stint as a high school English teacher and is now back in front of the lights with *Wrinkle*. Most recently, John appeared in the Young Playwrights Festival at City Theatre where he was seen as The Old Man in *Bird Without a Nest* and Tom in *A Boring Street in the Middle of Nowhere*. Prior to that he was seen at the Pittsburgh New Works Festival where he performed the role of Warren in *Warren and the Polar Bear*. Previous credits include productions at the Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, where he also worked as a teaching artist, as well as productions at the Off-Center Theatre, The New Theatre, and the American Folk Theatre in NYC. He would like to thank Prime Stage for this exciting opportunity.

Jayden Greening (Calvin O'Keefe) Jayden is an 8th-grade Theatre major at Pittsburgh's Creative and Performing Arts Middle School. Jayden is also a student at Pittsburgh Musical Theater where he has performed in multiple productions including *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Footloose*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and more. He is thrilled to be joining the cast of *A Wrinkle in Time* for his first Prime Stage production.

Heather Irwin (Ms Murray) Heather is delighted to be working with Prime Stage Theatre and this collection of talented artists for *A Wrinkle in Time*. This is her fourth Prime Stage production after *Mockingbird* (Mrs. Johnson), *Scarlet Letter* (Goodwife 1) and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Meip Gies). Recent Pittsburgh credits include Myra in Hiawatha Project's *My Traveling Song*, City Theatre's *Young Playwrights Festival* and *12 Peer's Mythburgh*. Chicago credits include *Heddatron* and *Strangerland* (Sideshow Theatre Co), *The Lady's Not For Burning* and *Private Eyes* (NEIU Center Stage) and *Night Caps* (Lincoln Square Theater). She has performed in two national tours with The Hampstead Stage Company (Barnstead NH). Heather is the Associate Artistic Producer for Hiawatha Project and was part of the creative production team for *My Traveling Song* at Carnegie Stage in 2019 and *JH: Mechanics of a Legend* at the August Wilson Center 2017. You can also catch her recent film and commercial work with Red Slate's *Straight & Narrow*, UPMC, MedExpress, and GetGo. Heather is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and mom of three.

Ponny Conomos Jahn (Mrs Which) is a proud Pittsburgh native who has worked professionally as an actor, instructor, and stage director for 26 years. She is thrilled to make her Prime Stage debut with one of her favorite stories from childhood. Ponny has had many theatre adventures tessering all over the globe – including performing with Prague Ensemble Theatre (which she co-founded as Producing Director), Buffalo Theatre Ensemble in Chicago, Player's Theatre Columbus, and Pittsburgh Public Theater. Television credits include ABC's Emmy-Award winning *ANNE FRANK – THE WHOLE STORY*. She is a passionate teacher and director who has been commissioned as a theatre artist-in-residence for schools both in the US and Eastern Europe. Locally, she has taught for Act One Theatre School, CCAC, Center for Theatre Arts, and for Little Lake Theatre. Ponny holds a Master's Degree in Theatre Performance and Dramatic Literature from Northwestern University and further trained at Circle in the Square in NYC. She was also fortunate enough to study with her professional idol during the summer of 1997: the magnificent Uta Hagen. Love and thanks to Arne, Chris, Kella & Sofia. Break legs to this wonderful cast and crew!

Mary Meyer (Mrs Whatsit) Mary is delighted to be performing with Prime Stage! In addition to Mrs Whatsit, some of her favorite roles in the area have been Sonia in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*; Sarah Goodwin in *Time Stands Still*; and Claire in *Proof*, at Little Lake Theatre. Prior to moving to Pittsburgh, Mary performed in several theatres in Chicago and Michigan. She has a BA in Theatre Performance and is also a graduate of The Second City Conservatory Program in Chicago. Mary is thankful to David, Will and Ben for their love and support!

Joyce Miller (Mrs Who/Ensemble) Joyce is grateful to be returning for her fifth production with Prime Stage having appeared previously as Mrs. Boyle in *The Mousetrap*, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, Mrs. Dubose/Court Stenographer in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Goodwife #5 in *The Scarlet Letter*. She enjoys working with a number of local theater companies including Little Lake Theatre, South Park Theater, Old Schoolhouse Players,

Thoughline Theater Company, and Pittsburgh New Works Festival. Favorite roles include *The Glass Menagerie* (Amanda Wingfield), *Arsenic & Old Lace* (Martha Brewster), *Love, Loss & What I Wore* (Gingy), *Romeo & Juliet* (the Nurse), and *A Comedy of Tenors* (Maria). She'd like to thank our gifted director, Sunny Disney Fitchett, for the opportunity to work with our exceptional cast and crew!



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