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Prime Stage Theatre Announces their 2022-2023 Season of Suspense, Hope and Wonder

(Pittsburgh, PA – September 20, 2022) Prime Stage Theatre’s 26th season brings literature to life with new productions, continued partnerships, an expanded Prime Stage Sprouts program and a new installment of our interactive mystery podcast series.

“Our 26th season is designed so everyone can enjoy literature being brought to life at the New Hazlett Theater with our partnerships, mainstage performances, accessibility performances, the partnership with the Holocaust Center that reaches local, national and international audiences, and our special Sprouts Children’s Theatre Series for younger audiences and families,” said **Wayne Brinda**, Prime Stage Theatre, Producing Artistic Director.

Early in November with Halloween still in the air, the new season opens with a classic tale with a new twist. This world premiere production of Mary Shelley’s ***Frankenstein*** follows the epic chain of events that led to the creation of life and asks who really is the monster?

Adapted by Pittsburgh’s own **Lawrence C. Connolly**, an acclaimed sci-fi/mystery author, you will see eighteen-year-old Mary Shelley create one of the most horrifying and suspenseful stories ever written as Dr. Frankenstein brings the Creature to life.

This vivid imaginative science fiction story is perfect for Connolly whose stories have 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.

Eighteen-year-old Mary Shelley is one of five friends that take shelter in a Swiss mansion as a storm rages. Before the night is over you will see her conceive one of the most horrifying and suspenseful stories ever written.

Connolly also writes and performs the Mystery Theatre podcasts for Prime Stage Theatre. The new chapter podcasts will be released during the run of *Frankenstein*. Listeners become part of the story as they follow the clues providing feedback to the author to contribute to the story as it is created.

The production is directed by **Liam Macik**, a Pittsburgh native and graduate of Mount Lebanon High School and a BA in Theatre Arts from Catawba College in Salisbury, NC.

Macik served as the founding Artistic Director of Throughline Theatre Company for seven years, where his directing credits include productions of *Judgement at Nuremberg*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Macik directed last season's production of Prime Stage Theatre's *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Frankenstein

Based on the novel by Mary Shelley
Adapted by Lawrence C. Connolly
Directed by Liam Macik

November 4 - 13, 2022

- Preview- Friday, November 4th
- Opening Night- Saturday, November 5th
- Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm / Sundays at 2:30 pm
- Sensory Inclusive performance is on Saturday, Nov 12 at 2:30.
- Audio Described and ASL Signed performance is on Sunday, Nov 13 at 2:30 PM
- Suitable for ages 13 through adult.

In January, to begin the second **Prime Stage Sprouts Series** we are presenting **Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad**. Based on the true events of her life and woven through with powerful spirituals, you discover the courageous journey and heartwarming adventures of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad as she freed herself and others from the world of slavery. She is best known as "The American Moses"

Harriett Tubman and the Underground Railroad

Based on her true story
Adapted by Douglas Jones
Directed by Linda Haston

January 20 – 29, 2023

- Preview- Friday, January 20th
- Opening Night- January 21st
- Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm / Sundays at 2:30 pm
- Sensory Inclusive performance is on Saturday, January 28 at 2:30.
- Audio Described performance is on Sunday, January 29 at 2:30 PM
- Suitable for all ages.

In March ***The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe*** comes to life on stage. On a rainy day in London four children step through a magical wardrobe and discover an enchanted kingdom filled with fantasy, mystical characters and suspense as the world of Narnia based on C.S. Lewis' timeless book comes to life.

The Lion, Witch, and the Wardrobe

Based on the novel by C.S. Lewis

Dramatized by Joseph Robinette
Directed by Wayne Brinda

March 3 – 12, 2023

- Preview- Friday, March 3rd
- Opening Night- Saturday, March 4th
- Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm / Sundays at 2:30 pm
- Sensory Inclusive performance is on Saturday, March 11 at 2:30.
- Audio Described and ASL Signed performance is on Sunday, March 12 at 2:30 PM
- Suitable for all ages.

April brings the world premiere of ***Perseverance*** to the stage - a powerful memoir of healing and renewal. Few visitors to the G&S Jewelry Store in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood during the 1960s and '70s were aware that the cheerful proprietor, Melvin Goldman, had spent his teens enduring the horrors of Auschwitz before arriving as a penniless refugee in postwar Pittsburgh intent on reshaping his family's destiny. Adapted for the stage by L.E. McCullough from the book by Melvin Goldman and Lee Goldman Kikel, *Perseverance: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey from Poland to America* depicts Goldman's irrepressible spirituality, unflagging love for humanity, and perseverance as he worked to replace Darkness with Light, one shop patron at a time.

Each year through the power of theatre and partnerships Prime Stage Theatre and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh **enGAGE** the world in education, understanding and actions against the atrocities of genocide. *Perseverance* is this year's **enGAGE** production

Perseverance

- April 15 – 16, 2023
- Saturday, April 15, 8 pm and Sunday, April 16, 2:30 pm
- April 24 – May 7 – streaming
- Suitable for ages 13 through adult.

In May Prime Stage Theatre presents **39 Steps**. A man trapped in a boring life, encounters a woman who claims to be a spy. Soon, she is murdered and he gets entangled in a nationwide manhunt. Hitchcock's suspenseful thriller becomes a fast-paced spy experience with intrigue and nonstop laughs as four actors bring 15 zany characters to life.

39 Steps

Based on the novel by John Buchan
Adapted by Patrick Barlow
Directed by Scott P. Calhoon

May 5 – 4, 2023

- Preview- Friday, May 5th

- Opening- Saturday, May 6th
- Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm / Sundays at 2:30 pm
- Sensory Inclusive performance is on Saturday, May 3 at 2:30.
- Audio Described and ASL Signed performance is on Sunday, May 4 at 2:30 PM
- Suitable for ages 13 through adult.

June brings another **Prime Stage Sprouts** production – **The Boxcar Children**. Four orphaned children are running away from their grandfather who they believe is cruel. They find an abandoned boxcar in the woods, then decide to call it home where they can survive suspenseful mysteries and stay together.

The Boxcar Children

Based on the novel by Gertrude Chandler

Adapted by Barbara Field

Directed by Laura Wurzell

June 16 – 25, 2023

- Preview- Friday, June 16th
- Opening Night- Saturday, June 17th
- Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm / Sundays at 2:30 pm /
- Weekday Public Matinees Wednesday, June 21st, and Thursday, June 22nd at 10 am
- Sensory Inclusive performance is on Saturday, June 24 at 2:30.
- Audio Described and ASL Signed performance is Sunday, June 25 at 2:30 PM
- Suitable for all ages.

All Prime Stage performances are accessible to everyone. To ensure quality with our Sensory Inclusive performances, Prime Stage Theatre is the region's only theater company to attain Certified Sensory Inclusive status through KultureCity, a leading nonprofit recognized nationwide for using its resources to affect change for those with sensory needs. The Hazlett Theater, where Prime Stage Theatre presents its production, is ADA accessible.

All Prime Stage Theatre productions take place at the New Hazlett Theater on the Northside.