

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Prime Stage Theatre Presents Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad**

(Pittsburgh, PA – January 7, 2023) **Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad** is based on her true story adapted by **Douglas Jones** and directed by **Linda Haston**. The production runs January 20 – 29, 2023 with evening performances at 7:00 pm and matinees at 2:30.

**Prime Stage Sprouts**, introduced in 2022, brings literature to life for elementary students and their families. The productions are accessible for children as young as 5 years old. This theatrical experience with music shares the joys, sorrows, and challenges **Harriet Tubman** faced while courageously freeing herself and hundreds of others from the bonds of slavery.

*“With our **Sprouts Series**, this production is the perfect opportunity for children and families to be inspired by this story of an American hero - **Harriet Tubman** - as Prime Stage brings history to life with this inspirational play filled with music. We are honored to have the cast and production staff meet with **Ernestine Wyatt**, the great-great-great-grandniece of **Harriet Tubman**, to ensure the authenticity and accuracy of her great aunt’s life and legacy,” said **Wayne Brinda**, Producing Artistic Director of Prime Stage.*

This **Prime Stage Sprouts** production brings to life the faithful and inspirational story of this courageous woman woven throughout with powerful spirituals. Follow her brave and heartwarming adventures as she freed herself and others from the world of slavery with a strong faith and commitment to her dream.

*“This play is a true story about a woman, **Harriet Tubman**, who during the late 1800’s committed herself unselfishly to rescuing people enslaved. The play by **Douglas Jones** will engage as it educates audiences about the life of **Harriet Tubman** and keeps the conversations alive. With a minimal set, the actors are going to inspire with harmony and love to ‘update’ this particular piece of history so it does not continue to repeat itself but moves forward,” said **Linda Haston**, Director.*

Best known as “The American Moses,” **Harriet Tubman** during a ten-year span made 19 trips into the South and escorted over 300 slaves to freedom. And, as she once proudly pointed out, in all of her journeys she “never lost a single passenger.”

The **Underground Railroad** gave freedom to thousands of enslaved women and men and hope to tens of thousands more. According to some estimates, between 1810 and 1850, the Underground Railroad helped to guide one hundred thousand enslaved people to freedom.

Southwestern PA, and especially Pittsburgh, played a significant role during the **Underground Railroad** which was broad in its reach encompassing the United States and beyond. There were many important stops on the way north for many fleeing slaves on their journey toward freedom. Along the way, abolitionists provided them with safety, food, and shelter. People

opened their homes, schools, and churches to help the slaves succeed in their bid for freedom.

The cast features **Maame Danso** as **Harriet Tubman** and **Annie Rematt, Michele Renee Bankole, Sam Lothard,** and **Isaac Miller** who play many characters and sing spirituals to give us a close look at this brave woman whose determination changed the world.

Our production is available with a **Sensory Inclusive performance** on Saturday, January 28 with a social story posted on the website. 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. An **Audio-described performance** is available on Sunday, January 29. The New Hazlett Theater, where Prime Stage Theatre presents its productions is **ADA-accessible**.

### **Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad 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.

Link for tickets: AudienceView Professional ([ovationtix.com](https://www.ovationtix.com))

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



Actors: Maame Danso (Harriet Tubman) and Anne Rematt (Sarah Bradford)  
Photographer: Laura Slovesko



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