

Prime Stage Sprouts:

Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad

By Grace Reid-Vensel

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Next weekend, young theatergoers have the unique opportunity to experience *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman* in Prime Stage Sprouts' *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad* by Douglas Jones. The play runs around 45 minutes, with no intermission, and is the perfect length for children's play.

Audience members are welcomed by a rustic and minimalist set design by **Alex Barnhart**, which represents each setting within the play artfully while allowing the actors' room to fill it with life.

The play's ensemble of actors, Anne Rematt, Issac Miller, Maame Danso, Michele Renee Bankole, and Sam Lothard brought Harriet Tubman's journey to the stage in a vibrant, accessible, and collaborative way. **Maame Danso**, who plays Harriet Tubman, immersed audience members in Tubman's story by gracefully displaying her grit, strength, perseverance, and struggle. Her energy carried audience members through her emotional journey: they laughed, advocated, and commiserated with her.

Michele Renee Bankole and **Sam Lothard**, who played multiple supporting roles, commanded the stage with their joyful, energetic, and beautiful presences. They brought such life to the story and worked together to support Harriet in her storytelling.

Anne Rematt and **Issac Miller**, who played Sarah Bradford and Publisher (among others), respectively, displayed the true impact of empathy and understanding. Sarah (Rematt), the advocate and author, would not rest until the Publisher (Miller) heard Harriet's entire story before deciding whether he should publish *Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman*. Rematt's spirit and Miller's display of the transition from ignorance to compassion captured the message perfectly.

With direction by **Linda Haston**, this story of persistence through injustice is told with compassion, collaboration, and joyful togetherness. The addition of a cappella singing brought rhythm, electricity, and the feeling of community to the stage. Most importantly, *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad* both tells the ever-important story of one of the bravest women in our history and calls the audience to action, to join the fight in the war against ignorance. At the New Hazlett this weekend on Friday, January 27th at 7 pm; Saturday, January 28th at 2:30 (Sensory Inclusive) and 7 pm; and Sunday, January 29th at 2:30 pm; enjoy a beautiful insight to Tubman's story for only \$24 for adults and \$14 for students. *Tickets and more information at www.primestage.com*