

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prime Stage Theatre Brings the World of Narnia to Life As Part of Their Season of Suspense, Hope and Wonder

(Pittsburgh, PA – February 10, 2023) 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.

"C.S. Lewis stated, 'The more imagination the reader has ... the more he will do for himself.' With **Prime Stage's** focus on literature coming to life on stage, ***The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*** was selected as the perfect blend for stimulating the imagination, working together, believing, and achieving amazing goals.

As Lucy says in the book and the play, 'We just had the most amazing experience!' And we plan for audiences to have the same reaction.

We are pleased to have **James Como**, an international scholar and author of **C.S. Lewis** endorse the production. The staff, cast and designers met virtually with **Mr. Como** during the rehearsal process and he shared amazing insights on why certain characters were created in the story.

We are also honored to have **Dr. David von Schlichten, D.Min., Ph.D.**, Dean of the School of Humanities Seton Hill University, enrich the experience by leading a **post-show audience discussion on March 4, opening night.**

As the director, I'm excited to bring ***The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe*** to life and engage audiences of all ages as we stimulate their imaginations and make this a wonderful experience at the theatre," said **Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre Producing Artistic Director.**

There is something in the story that appeals to everyone. Narnia, the land beyond the wardrobe door is a secret place frozen in eternal winter waiting to be set free, sibling rivalry, a vivid portrayal of evil, temptation, adventure, and above all, the lion, Aslan, who makes the ultimate sacrifice to restore harmony in the land.

The actual wardrobe that prompted the story was one made by **Lewis's** grandfather and was in the family home in Belfast. One of **C.S. Lewis's** cousins remembered occasions when various cousins along with **'Jack' (C.S. Lewis)** and his brother Warren, would climb into the wardrobe while young Jack would tell them stories he had invented. The wardrobe is such a vivid image that one Oxford boy, after reading the book, chopped a hole in the back of the family wardrobe trying to get to Narnia.

The director is **Wayne Brinda**, who is also the co-founder and Producing Artistic Director for Prime Stage Theatre. Celebrating their 26th season, Prime Stage Theatre has been a mainstay of the Pittsburgh arts community. With over 90 productions they have been executing their mission to entertain, inspire and enrich through professional theatre by bringing literature to life.

Brinda has local, national, and international recognition from actors, directors, producers, and playwrights as he continues to produce regional and world premieres.

As a producer and director, **Brinda** believes that the impact of theatre is when it not only entertains, but also educates and enriches the lives of people. Throughout his career, **Brinda** has shown an unwavering commitment and passion to connect live theater with literature to teach reading and advance literacy. The productions stimulate individuals to read literature and make a connection to life. Over the years he has shown an unending willingness to give his time and energy to developing an education program reaching out to the community to touch many.

Under **Brinda's** leadership **Prime Stage Theatre** is passionate about making the arts accessible to all. He set the standards high with a goal of achieving inclusiveness with the belief that through inclusion comes the development of a more diverse audience which leads to educating people about special needs individuals and promoting acceptance.

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.

MORE ON DR. DAVID VON SCHLICHTEN, D,MIN., PH.D., M.F.A. WHO IS LEADING THE POST-SHOW AUDIENCE DISCUSSION ON MARCH 4, OPENING NIGHT

Dr. David von Schlichten, D.Min., Ph.D., M.F.A. is Dean of the School of Humanities, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, and the Coordinator of the Gender and Women's Studies Program at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. Dave has over 200 publishing credits in various genres, including articles on C.S. Lewis for the journal *Lectionary Homiletics*. His best-known book is *The Bible Out of the Pew: An Empowering Guide for the Spiritual But Not Religious* (Wipf and Stock, 2019). Dave is also the founder of Golden Rule Online Worldwide (G.R.O.W.), a Facebook page and YouTube channel working to reduce online harassment by 25% by the end of 2025.

All Prime Stage Theatre productions take place at the New Hazlett Theater Center for the Performing Arts on the Northside.

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**
- We are honored to have **Dr. David von Schlichten, D.Min., Ph.D.**, Dean of the School of Humanities Seton Hill University, enrich the experience by leading a **post-show audience discussion on March 4, opening night.**
- 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 Sunday, March 12 at 2:30 PM**
- Suitable for all ages.

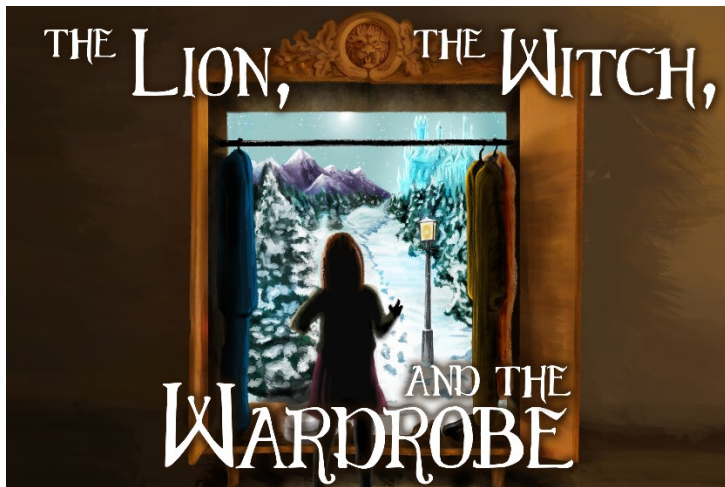


Actors: Rachel Pfennigwerth (White Witch) and Eamonn McElfresh (Edmund)

Photographer: Laura Slovesko



Actors: Michael Barnett (Aslan) Molly Frontz (Lucy)
Photographer: Laura Slovesko



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