

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prime Stage Theatre presents *The 39 Steps*
Award-winning play packed with nonstop laughs

(Pittsburgh, PA – April 20, 2023) Prime Stage Theatre is excited to present *The 39 Steps*, adapted by Patrick Barlow and directed by Scott P. Calhoon. The production is based on the book by John Buchan.

The critically acclaimed 2007 Oliver Award winner for Best New Comedy is a retelling of the Alfred Hitchcock movie which is a retelling of the novel. A favorite of director Alfred Hitchcock, *The 39 Steps* would influence the famous filmmaker long before he adapted it to his film of the same name.

Hannay, 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 high-speed spy experience with intrigue and nonstop laughs.

"Mystery, mayhem, murder...have never been absolutely so much fun! Four incredible actors recreate an entire movie on stage. You'll laugh until you cry," said Scott P. Calhoon, Director.

This fast-paced whodunit is perfect for the magic of live theater. This production is a celebration of theater in its purest form because it centers so much around the actors with minimalist sets and props to make locales, places and adventures come to life.

The four actors are in constant motion with lots of scene and costume changes as they bring 150 zany characters to life. This theatrical experience includes you solving the mystery as you watch, chases across a fast-moving train, an airplane chase from Hitchcock's movie *North by Northwest*, and some good old-fashioned romance with a dash of Monty Python.

"Comedian Victor Borge said, 'Laughter is the shortest distance between two people.' The *39 Steps* will bring everyone together through this fun-filled theatrical experience," said Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre Producing Artistic Director.

Actors switch from playing spies to a milkman, a professor and a policeman with minimal props. Prime Stage Theatre's creative team have found new and ingenious ways to stage the implausible and impossible.

This is a fantastic, hilarious and inventive show for comedy fans. Youngsters love it, older people love it, film goers love it. There is something here for everyone!

Accessibility

All Prime Stage Theatre 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. An Audio Described and ASL Signed performance is also available. The Hazlett Theater, where Prime Stage Theatre presents its production, is ADA accessible.

More About Scott Calhoon, Director

Years ago, Calhoon was Artistic Managing Director for Wisconsin's Northern Lights Playhouse and Pinewood Dinner Theatre where he directed/choreographed dozens of shows. Locally, he has held artistic/administrative positions with Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, The Pittsburgh Playhouse, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, CalMcIre Productions, Canterbury Dinner Theatre and The Theatre Factory. Prime Stage directing credits include *The Crucible*, *Of Mice and Men*, *To Kill A Mockingbird* and the Post-Gazette 'Best of Year' mentioned *All Quiet on the Western Front*. For Front Porch Theatricals, he directed the highly acclaimed *The Last Five Years* and *Grand Hotel*. *The Secret Garden* and *Company* both garnered him Best Director, Suburban Theatres Awards from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and, as the designer, a best set award for the latter. Scott loves working on new works and has received the Outstanding Director Award for *Pump*, which also achieved the Outstanding Production Award from PNWF and his direction has been nominated for Donna Awards several times over the years.

39 Steps

Based on the novel by John Buchan

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

Directed by Scott P. Calhoon

May 5 – 14, 2023

- Preview- Friday, May 5 (Pay what you can)
- Opening- Saturday, May 6
- Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm / Sundays at 2:30 pm
- Sensory Inclusive performance is on Saturday, May 13 at 2:30.
- Audio Described and ASL Signed performance is on Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 PM
- Suitable for ages 13 through adult.

Purchase tickets: [AudienceView Professional \(ovationtix.com\)](https://www.ovationtix.com)



Left to right: Trevor Buda, Kendall Mason

Photo credit: Laura Slovesko



Top row: Trevor Buda, Rachel Pfennigwerth, Ryan Warsing

Bottom: Kendall Mason

Photo credit: Laura Slovesko

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