

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Debi Sciranka, PR Director
Prime Stage Theatre
Phone: 412.965.0563
Email: dsciranka@primestage.com

Prime Stage Theatre presents *The Boxcar Children*

(Pittsburgh, PA – May 31, 2023) June brings another **Prime Stage Sprouts** production – the brave, adventuresome and uplifting story **The Boxcar Children**.

“The Boxcar Children is a perfect way to end our season of Suspense, Hope and Wonder with this inspiring story that brings literature to life,” said Wayne Brinda, Producing Artistic Director.

The Boxcar Children tells the moving story of four orphaned children who are running away from their grandfather who they believe is cruel. Fearful of being separated, they find an abandoned boxcar in the woods, then decide to call it home where they can survive suspenseful mysteries and stay together. It’s a wonderful story that promotes clear values of loyalty, resourcefulness, and love.

“The Boxcar Children has remained a mainstay of libraries and bookstores for over 90 years. The stage version brings this beloved story to life, allowing the audience to meet the Alden children as they are presented with a life altering situation that threatens to split them apart. Please come join our actors as they create the magic and charm of the Boxcar. It is a classic story of resiliency and hope for all ages,” said Laura Wurzell, Director.

The production is based on the The Boxcar Children Series, the first book of which was written in 1924 by first-grade teacher Gertrude Chandler Warner. More than a hundred books followed the iconic original, most devoted to the Boxcar kids as mystery solvers.

As well as her books in *The Boxcar Children* series, Warner wrote many other books for children, including *The World in a Barn* (1927), *Windows into Alaska* (192), *The World on a Farm* (1931) and *Peter Piper, Missionary Parakeet* (1967). For adults she wrote *Life's Minor Collisions* to help adults solve the hard things the adults were going through.

“The secret to The Boxcar Children series of children’s books longevity is the inherent theme that Henry introduces through the line, ‘We Aldens stick together like glue.’ We all spend our life seeking family and friends that we can have lasting, healthy relationships with. We begin this story with the children becoming orphans through the sudden death of their parents. The story unfolds with very simple lessons about how we can deal with challenges of loss by relying on those people around us that we identify as our “glue.” The children show us how to focus on the needs of their siblings, not themselves. In taking care of each other, they begin to move forward through their loss, ultimately finding new relationships to celebrate,” said Laura Wurzell, Director.

The Boxcar Children

Based on the novel by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Adapted for the stage 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 /
- 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
- Recommended for 3rd grade students, families and adults.

Purchase tickets: www.primestage.com/tickets

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. Sensory Inclusive, Audio Described and ASL Signed performance are also available on selected dates.

Prime Stage productions are presented at the New Hazlett Theater Center for Performing Arts and is ADA accessible.

More About Laura Wurzell, Director

Laura began working in theater over 35 years ago. She was a dancer in her much younger days, and quickly moved to the other side of the production table as a choreographer and director, working in many theaters and schools in the Pittsburgh area. She most recently directed Kinky Boots for Split Stage Productions, choreographed Shrek, Jr. for Penn Middle School, and will be choreographer for Once Upon a Mattress at The Theatre Factory after opening Boxcar Children.

Prime Stage Theatre is pleased to have the opportunity to partner with The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum for this production.



Photo credit: Laura Slovesko



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