



**PRIME STAGE  
THEATRE**

*“Where Literature Comes to Life”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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- **Prime Stage Theatre presents “Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story”**
  - **Saga of New Orleans civil rights trailblazer runs Jan. 17-26 at New Hazlett**
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PITTSBURGH — The year is 1960. A shy, smart 6-year-old named Ruby Bridges becomes the first African American student to attend a formerly whites-only grade school in New Orleans.

Escorted to class by U.S. Marshals through a hostile segregationist mob, the youngster and her family are instantly cast into the national spotlight as symbols of America’s ongoing efforts to ensure equality and justice for all, starting with its public schools.

Bridges’ remarkable journey of resilience and eventual triumph is told in **Prime Stage Theatre’s** presentation of [\*Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story\*](#) running for seven shows Jan. 17-26, 2025 at New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, on Pittsburgh’s Northside.

Tickets (adult \$39, artist/educator \$24, student \$19) are available by calling (412) 320-4610 or by reserving online at <https://tinyurl.com/mwm432kx>.

Directed by **Linda Haston**, *Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story* was written in 2021 by **Natalia Temesgen**, an associate professor of Creative Writing at Columbus State University and a writer/producer for the TV series *Reasonable Doubt* (Hulu), *Julia* (HBO Max) and *Dear White People* (Netflix).

On the play’s opening night (Jan. 18), renowned Louisiana storyteller [\*\*Robin Kitson\*\*](#) shares the impact of her own life-changing childhood encounter with Ruby Bridges.

The 10-member cast includes **John Dolphin, Sarah Kobuck, Daniel LaMond, Richard McBride, Eric Molina, Stacia Paglieri, Joylette Portlock, DeV Vaughn Robinson, Savannah Wiles** and **Saniya Lavell** as Ruby Bridges.

*Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story* fits squarely with Prime Stage Theatre’s 2024-2025 season theme of Strength, Voices and Hope, says Prime Stage Theatre artistic director **Dr. Wayne Brinda**. “People may know the general story of Ruby Bridges,” he notes, “but seeing this pivotal historical moment portrayed onstage shows the true heroism of her actions.”

Since its founding in 1996, Prime Stage Theatre has presented over 100 plays that introduce student and family audiences to classic and contemporary works of world literature.

The theatre's current season includes *Great Expectations*; *Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story*; *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* and *The Terezin Promise*; *Twelve Angry Men*.

Prime Stage also presents a series of one-night performances titled Monday Night Specials at New Hazlett:

- Jan. 20 – *How I Learned What I Learned*. Pittsburgh Actor of the Year Wali Jamal performs playwright August Wilson's riveting theatrical biography.
- Mar. 3 – *Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance*. A staged reading of a new play by L.E. McCullough on the birth of America's first EMS units in 1960s Pittsburgh.
- May 5 – *Speak*. A staged reading of a new Prime Stage Theatre adaptation by Tammy Ryan of Laurie Halse Anderson's powerful young adult novel presented in partnership with Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

For more information on Prime Stage Theatre's current season, contact Connie Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre General Manager at (724) 773-0700 or [cbrinda@primestage.com](mailto:cbrinda@primestage.com).

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**WHAT:** Prime Stage Theatre presents *Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story*; written by Natalia Temesgen, directed by Linda Haston

**WHERE:** New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, Pittsburgh PA 15212

**WHEN:** 7 shows running Jan. 17-26, 2025

- Fri. Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview Night, pay-what-you-can admission)
- Sat. Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. (Opening Night, special post-show discussion via Zoom with Louisiana storyteller Robin Kitson)
- Sun. Jan. 19 at 2:30 p.m.
- Fri. Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 25 at 2:30 p.m. (Sensory Inclusive with pay-what-you-can admission: sponsored by Autism Pittsburgh)
- Sat. Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sun. Jan. 26 at 2:30 p.m. (Audio Describe and Live Caption, sponsored by Downtown Pittsburgh Lions Club)

**TICKETS:** Adult \$39, artist/educator \$24, student \$19; purchase at <https://tinyurl.com/mwm432kx>

**OFFICIAL MEDIA SPONSOR:** [SLB Radio](#)

**MORE INFO:** <https://primestage.com/productions/ruby-bridges-story/>

\* For more information on *Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story* please contact [Connie Brinda](#), Prime Stage Theatre General Manager at (724) 773-0700 or [cbrinda@primestage.com](mailto:cbrinda@primestage.com)

\* Prime Stage Theatre has also made a special commitment to promoting accessibility for [special needs audiences](#). In 2022, Prime Stage Theatre audio describer Nathan Ruggles won a national Achievement Award in Audio Description from the American Council of the Blind.

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## **Prime Stage Theatre “Season of Strength, Voices and Hope”**

**Jan. 17-26, 2025 – *Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story***

**By Natalia Temesgen; directed by Linda Haston**

The year is 1960. An extraordinary 6-year-old named Ruby Bridges becomes the first African American student to attend an all-white grade school in New Orleans. Experience her remarkable journey as she discovers the true promise of America while blazing a trail for generations to come. On Opening Night, Louisiana storyteller Robin Kitson shares her own life-changing childhood encounter with Ruby Bridges.

**Feb. 28-Mar. 9, 2025 – *I Never Saw Another Butterfly and The Terezin Promise***

**By Celeste Raspanti; directed by Wayne Brinda**

In the Terezin concentration camp, Austrian artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis teaches Jewish children to make poems and drawings in secret art classes. Witness her passion, the children’s creativity and the irrepressible power of Art to bring hope and healing into the darkest hours of the Holocaust. These two plays honor the 80th anniversary of the Terezin Camp Liberation and are produced as part of the enGAGE genocide education program in partnership with Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

**May 2-11, 2025 – *Twelve Angry Men***

**Adapted by Sherman L. Segel; directed by Shane Valenzi**

A jury of twelve ordinary men are charged with deciding the fate of a teenager on trial for murdering his father. Can they overcome their own backgrounds and biases as they struggle to render a fair life-or-death verdict? A new take on an American theatre classic, based on the Emmy award-winning 1954 television movie by Reginald Rose. Directed by attorney Shane Valenzi, a post-show discussion looks at our judicial system and its challenges.

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## **Prime Stage Theatre “Monday Night Special Series”**

**Jan. 20, 2025 – *How I Learned What I Learned*.** Pittsburgh Actor of the Year Wali Jamal performs playwright August Wilson’s riveting theatrical biography.

**Mar. 3, 2025 – *Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance*.** A staged reading of a new play by L.E. McCullough on the birth of America’s first EMS units in 1960s Pittsburgh.

**May 5, 2025 – *Speak*.** A staged reading of a new Prime Stage Theatre adaptation by Tammy Ryan of Laurie Halse Anderson’s powerful young adult novel presented in partnership with Pittsburgh Action Against Rape.

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**PRIME STAGE THEATRE presents**

**Look Forward:  
The Ruby Bridges Story**

**Jan. 17-26, 2025 @ New Hazlett Theater**  
**6 Allegheny Square E. / Pgh PA 15212**