



**PRIME STAGE
THEATRE**

“Where Literature Comes to Life”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- **Prime Stage Theatre presents “Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance”**
 - **May 5 staged reading at New Hazlett Theater celebrates America’s EMS pioneers**
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PITTSBURGH — On May 5 Prime Stage Theatre will premiere a new stage work that tells a uniquely Pittsburgh story of innovation, compassion and civic empowerment.

[Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance](#) by playwright **L.E. McCullough** dramatizes the 1967 creation of Freedom House Ambulance Service, America’s first mobile emergency medical unit staffed by professionally-trained paramedics.

During its 8-year lifespan, Freedom House served as the foundational model for today’s paramedic profession and modern EMS departments around the world.

Initiated in the heart of Pittsburgh’s Hill District, Freedom House was an extraordinary experiment in community medicine and workforce development involving physicians from the University of Pittsburgh, social activists from Freedom House Enterprises, philanthropists from Maurice Falk Medical Fund and hospital staff of Mercy and Presbyterian hospitals, from where the Freedom House ambulances operated.

Crucial to the program’s success were the Hill District men and women whose dedication and skill transformed themselves, their community and the nation.

Directed by **Scott Calhoun**, tickets to the May 5 staged reading are pay-what-you-can (starting at \$10) and are available by calling New Hazlett Theater at (412) 320-4610 x10 or by reserving online at <https://tinyurl.com/yhr5rb9e>.

The cast of **Michael Barnett, Cynthia Davis, John Dolphin, Linda Haston, Wali Jamal, Kerry McGrath** and **DeVaughn Robinson** perform multiple roles.

Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance is the first-ever stage production of the Freedom House story, and it portrays a topic that couldn’t be more timely, as America’s public health resources face an ongoing wave of new challenges.

“The Freedom House story is an important story of resourcefulness and collaboration, and it’s a story we believe our community wants to see dramatized onstage,” says [Prime Stage Theatre](#) artistic director **Dr. Wayne Brinda**.

Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance is L.E. McCullough’s most recent commissioned work for Prime Stage Theatre. In 2023, his play [Perseverance](#) about a Pittsburgh Holocaust survivor received a National Endowment for the Arts production grant as a co-production with Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

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 concludes May 2-11 with *Twelve Angry Men*.

For more information on Prime Stage Theatre’s current season of Strength, Voices & Hope, contact Connie Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre General Manager at (724) 773-0700 or cbrinda@primestage.com.

WHAT: Prime Stage Theatre presents a staged reading of ***Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance***; written by L.E. McCullough, directed by Scott Calhoon

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

WHEN: Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

TICKETS: pay-what-you-can; purchase at <https://tinyurl.com/yhr5rb9e> or (412) 320-4610 x10

OFFICIAL MEDIA SPONSOR: [SLB Radio](#)

* For more information on ***Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance*** please contact Connie Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre General Manager at (724) 773-0700 or cbrinda@primestage.com

* Prime Stage Theatre promotes accessibility for [special needs audiences](#). Prime Stage Theatre audio describer Nathan Ruggles has won a national Achievement Award in Audio Description from the American Council of the Blind.

Upcoming: Prime Stage Theatre

May 2-11, 2025 – *Twelve Angry Men*

Adapted by Sherman L. Sergel; 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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