



**PRIME STAGE  
THEATRE**

*“Where Literature Comes to Life”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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- **Prime Stage Theatre presents new play featuring Edgar Allan Poe “live”**
  - **“*Mr. Edgar A. Poe Presents*” runs Nov. 7-16 at New Hazlett Theater**
  - **Nov. 8 opening night post-show explores Poe’s final doomed romance with lady poet**
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PITTSBURGH — The year is 1849, you’re strolling through New York City on a brisk autumn evening and decide to take in a lecture by a rising young author and literary critic named Edgar A. Poe.

What would that have been like?

A new Prime Stage Theatre play by Pittsburgh sci-fi/horror fiction writer **Lawrence C. Connolly** offers a glimpse of Poe’s celebrated magnetism in [\*Mr. Edgar A. Poe Presents: Tales of Mystery, Horror & Imagination\*](#).

The world premiere production runs for seven shows Nov. 7-16, 2025 at New Hazlett Theater, 6 Allegheny Square East, on Pittsburgh’s Northside.

Opening Night Nov. 8 features a post-show discussion with Poe literary scholar [Brett Rutherford](#), author of *Last Flowers: The Romance and Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe and Sarah Helen Whitman*, the definitive book detailing Poe’s final romantic rejection and its role in his spiraling demise.

Tickets (adult \$40, artist/educator \$25, groups \$25, student \$20) are available by calling (412) 320-4610 x10 or ordering online at <https://newhazletttheater.org/events/mr-edgar-a-poe-presents-tales-for-horror-mystery-and-imagination>.

Directed by Art DeConciliis, *Mr. Edgar A. Poe Presents: Tales of Mystery, Horror & Imagination* recreates the dark genius of Poe in his prime performing a selection of favorite tales before a spellbound live audience.

The 5-member cast includes **Alex Blair, Justin Mohr, Jenn Rian, Jess Uhler** and **Sam Lander** as Edgar Allan Poe.

The Poe play is the first production in Prime Stage Theatre’s 2025-26 season of world premiere plays by Pittsburgh playwrights that includes *Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance* by L.E. McCullough (Jan. 23-Feb. 1, 2026) and *Speak* by Tammy Ryan (May 1-10, 2026).

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Poe playwright [Lawrence C. Connolly's writing](#) has appeared in fantasy, horror and science fiction journals around the world from *Amazing Stories* and *Rod Serling's Twilight Zone Magazine* to the *Nightmare Cinema* anthology film and the [Veins Cycle novel series](#) set in Western Pennsylvania.

His latest novel, *Minute Men: Execute and Run*, touted as Mission Impossible meets X-Men, hit bookstores Oct. 14, 2025 on the Arc Manor imprint.

In *Mr. Edgar A. Poe Presents: Tales of Mystery, Horror & Imagination*, Connolly presents an insightful portrait of an author who was often as mysterious as the characters in his stories.

“Poe was the son of professional theatre actors,” says Connolly. “He was a natural performer who gave lively readings and lectures to packed auditoriums across the Eastern U.S.”

Poe's personality permeates his stories, adds Connolly, and the resulting eccentricities aren't always conducive to dramatization. “It's the reason why so many Poe adaptations are more ‘inspired by’ than ‘based on’ his stories. But from the start, I wanted to stay as true as possible to the works and to what we know of the writer himself.”

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.

“Three years ago, we commissioned Lawrence Connolly to create a stage play offering a new take on Mary Shelley's [original Frankenstein tale](#),” says Prime Stage artistic director **Dr. Wayne Brinda**. “That was a very exciting dramatic recasting of a well-known story, and we believe audiences will find *Mr. Edgar A. Poe Presents: Tales of Mystery, Horror & Imagination* just as dynamic and thought-provoking.”

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**WHAT:** Prime Stage Theatre presents [Mr. Edgar A. Poe Presents: Tales of Mystery, Horror & Imagination](#) written by Lawrence C. Connolly, directed by Art DeConciliis

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

**WHEN:** 7 shows running Nov. 7-16, 2025

- Fri. Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview Night, pay-what-you-can admission)
- Sat. Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. (Opening Night; post-show discussion with Poe scholar Brett Rutherford)
- Sun. Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m.
- Fri. Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 15 at 2:30 p.m. (Sensory Inclusive, pay-what-you-can admission)
- Sat. Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sun. Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. (Audio Describe and Live Caption, sponsored by Downtown Pittsburgh Lions Club); On-Stage Pre-Show, Actor Voice ID and/or Touch Tour at 1:30 p.m., Audio Pre-Show at 2:15 p.m.; Performance at 2:30 p.m. Real Time Live Caption Performance by Advanced Realtime Captioning Solutions)

**TICKETS:** <https://newhazletttheater.org/events/mr-edgar-a-poe-presents-ales-for-horror-mystery-and-imagination>

**MORE INFO:** <https://primestage.com/productions/mr-edgar-a-poe-presents/>

\* Prime Stage Theatre offers [student matinee performances](#), as well as an array of [teacher workshops](#) demonstrating how theatre enhances literacy and classroom learning.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Prime Stage Theatre has 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 2025-26 Season**

**Nov. 7-16, 2025. *Mr. Edgar A. Poe Presents: Tales of Mystery, Horror & Imagination***

**By Lawrence C. Connolly; directed by Art DeConciliis**

popular sci-fi and horror fiction writer **Lawrence C. Connolly** recreates the dark genius of Edgar Allan Poe performing a selection of favorite tales before a live audience in the 1840s.

**Jan. 23-Feb. 1, 2026 – *Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance***

**By L.E. McCullough; directed by Scott Calhoon**

Historical 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 from Pittsburgh's Hill District.

**May 1-10, 2026 – *Speak***

**By Tammy Ryan; directed by Dana Hardy Bingham**

Resident New Dramatists playwright Tammy Ryan brings to the stage Laurie Halse Anderson's acclaimed young adult novel *Speak*, the contemporary story of a teenage girl who uses art to find her voice and redefine her identity after the trauma of rape.

## \* **Upcoming Prime Stage Theatre Special Events**

**Nov. 10, 2025, 7:30 p.m. – *Divina: A Fantasy Cabaret***

**By Regina Gibson; directed by Stephanie Cunningham**

New York actor/singer Regina Gibson performs [Divina: A Fantasy Cabaret](#), her hilarious one-woman show with pianist Douglas Levine infused with comedy, storytelling, arias and the inevitable appearance by opera legend Maria Callas.