



The 39 Steps

prime
stage

THEATRE CO

May 5 - 14, 2023

At The New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts

PARODYING THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE

ALFRED HITCHCOCK

Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) was considered among the greatest film directors of the twentieth century. He directed more than fifty feature films during a career that spanned an incredible sixty years. He was nominated for the Best Director Academy Award (Oscar) five times, although he never took the award home. However, his films were nominated forty-six times and won six awards. His film *Vertigo* is widely considered to be one of the greatest film achievements of all time.



Known as the “Master of Suspense,” Hitchcock utilized very specific and unexpected film angles and tight framing to convey anxiety and fear to the audience. Some of Hitchcock’s best-known films (and parodied in the play version of *The 39 Steps*) are *Strangers On a Train*, *Rear Window*, and *North By Northwest*.

The 39 Steps novel by John Buchan was very loosely adapted into a film directed by Hitchcock in 1935. Some of the significant changes from the novel to the film version included: the introduction of strong female characters (Pamela) and the change of location from the Scottish Highlands to the London Palladium during the most critical scene. The film was billed as a “spy thriller” and much of the plot of the film is also used in the play version.

The film is also notable for the introduction of one of Hitchcock’s signature stylistic choices: the Hitchcock Blonde. The Hitchcock Blonde was characterized as the female hero or anti-hero who presents as very cool and elegant, and almost always with a secret. The actress Madeline Carroll originated the Hitchcock Blonde in *The 39 Steps*. In *North by Northwest*, the Hitchcock Blonde was portrayed by Eva Marie Saint, and in *Rear Window*, Grace Kelly.

Hitchcock also fully developed the thriller concept of the “Man on the Run” - usually a case of mistaken identity where the wrong man is being dangerously pursued, not unlike Richard Hannay. Cary Grant in *North by Northwest* is probably the most famous example of the Hitchcock “Man on the Run.”

The 39 Steps play is a loving parody mash-up of several Hitchcockian themes and styles: the Hitchcock Blonde, the Man on The Run, the Spy as the Next Door Neighbor, and the Chase Sequence to name a few. It also has many sly references to other Hitchcock films.

EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Please Give to Prime Stage and Support our Mission, Productions, Programs, and Staff.

Your financial support will enable Prime Stage Theatre to inspire the imagination as we Bring Literature to Life on Stage.

- Online at www.primestage.com/support
- Scan the QR Code
- By mail to Prime Stage Theatre, PO Box 99446, Pittsburgh, PA 15233



Prime Stage Theatre

Presents

The 39 Steps

Based on the novel
by John Buchan

Adapted by
Patrick Barlow

Directed by
Scott P. Calhoon

Featuring
Trevor Buda
Kandall Mason
Rachel Pfenningwerth
Ryan Warsing

Production Manager
Erin Barnhart

Technical & Scenic Director
Alex Barnhart

Fight Director
Michael R. Petyak

Lighting Designer
Hope Debelius

Sound Designer
Samantha Magill

Costume Designer
Madeline Macek

Properties Master
Alex Kepar

Dialect Coach
Lisa Bansavage

Stage Manager
Britt Kolek

Assistant Stage Manager
Lauren Scheller-Wolf

Produced by Special Arrangements with Concord Theatricals

The 39 Steps

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 fast-paced spy experience with intrigue and nonstop laughs as four actors bring 150 zany characters to life!

THE CAST

In Alphabetical Order

Clown and Other Roles Trevor Buda
Clown and Other Roles Kendal Mason
Pamela, Anabella, and Margaret Rachel Pfenningwerth
Richard Hannay Ryan Warsing

Setting: London and across the moors of Scotland between the World Wars
The cast will take you to vaudeville houses, spy mansions, farms, speech halls, hotels, chases on trains, through city streets, and countless other places.

Run Time: Two hour with one intermission.

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF

Director Scott P. Calhoon
Producing Artistic Director Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.
Production Manager Erin Barnhart
Technical & Scenic Director Alex Barnhart
Fight Director Michael R. Petyak
Dialect Coach Lisa Bansavage
Lighting Designer Hope Debelius
Sound Designer Samantha Magill
Costume Designer Madeline Macek
Property Master Alex Keplar
Carpenter Michael Boone
Stage Manager Britt Kolek
Assistant Stage Manager Lauren Scheller-Wolf
Stage Crew Jill Buda and Joseph Ettner
Audio Describer Nathan Ruggles
ASL Signed Interpreters Heather Gray and Nick Miller
Master Electrician and Light Board Operator Madelyn Messmer
Sound Board Operator Laura Moeller
Box Office Manager Nathan Wagner



Please note: The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers, and watches.

PRIME STAGE THEATRE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

John Clark
Linda Haston
Beth Lawry
Little Lake Theatre
Sean Martin
New Hazlett Staff & Ushers
Janella Sands
Shaler North Hills Library
South Park Theater
Techniques by Toni
Prime Stage Staff and Volunteer

thank you!

ACCESSIBILITY



SENSORY INCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE

Second Saturday of each production at 2:30 PM. Our Sensory Inclusive Performance is a family experience. We provide a social story with pre-theater preparatory activities for the person with a sensory, social, or learning disability so the person begins to understand and anticipate what might happen at a performing arts experience.

For all performances, our patrons have access to Sensory bags designed to assist the needs of adults and children. The bags are filled with items that may help lessen sensory overload and engage. The bag items are also easily cleaned and sterilized for multiple uses.

Prime Stage Theatre staff is certified for Sensory Inclusive with KultureCity



AUDIO DESCRIPTION PERFORMANCE

Second Sunday of each production with On-Stage Pre-Show, Actor Voice ID, and/or Touch Tour at 1:30 PM, Audio Pre-Show at 2:15 PM, and Performance at 2:30 PM

Audio Description (or AD) helps to make visual imagery accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. Visual elements can include costumes, sets, and character appearances, along with action, gestures, facial expressions, and other visually important images. It's used to enhance understanding and enjoyment of the live performance.

This equipment was made available to the community thanks to the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council through a grant from the Allegheny Regional Asset District.



ASL SIGNED INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE

Second Sunday of each production at 2:30 PM.

We are pleased to offer American Sign Language interpreted performances with two certified interpreters. We also encourage students studying sign language to attend for observation.

AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Received by Prime Stage and Nathan Ruggles

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) proudly announces this year Achievement Awards in Audio Description, an initiative of the Council's Audio Description Project (ADP).





May 19 - 28, 2023
at the New Hazlett Theater
Director Rob James
Musical Director Deana Muro
Choreographer Ashley Harmon



August 18 - 27, 2023
at the New Hazlett Theater
Director Daina Michelle Griffith
Musical Director Douglas Levine
Choreographer Alex Manalo

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
visit frontporchpgh.org

MYSTERY THEATRE

A
Cipher
IN THE
DUST

A new five-act mystery
Written and performed by
Lawrence C. Connolly

prime
stage

THEATRE CO

PRIME STAGE
THEATRE



Prime Stage Theatre is proud to announce the students who received Awards on April 24, 2023 at our 3rd Annual High School Drama Awards Ceremony

Best Student Sound Design

Payton Sciere & Brandon Smidl
The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe by Avonworth High School

Best Student Prop Design

Mary Skundrich
Clue by Pine-Richland High School

Best Student Lighting Design

Brady Bandik
The Election by Thomas Jefferson High School

Best Student Costume Design

Sofia Liberto
Arsenic and Old Lace by Fox Chapel Area High School

Best Student Crew

The Team From
Sandbag, Stage Left by Carlynton High School

Best Student Stage Manager

Ayli Davidson
Puffs by Shady Side Academy Senior School

Best Student Director

Kiera Waldo
Check Please by Penn Hills High School

Best Supporting Actor

Morgan Adams
Our Town by Deer Lakes High School

Best Supporting Actress

Brianna Thel
Clue by Pine-Richland High School

Best Actor

Jack Exline
Clue by Pine-Richland High School

Best Actress

Madison Emekter
A Little Princess by North Allegheny Intermediate High School

Best Overall Production

Clue by Pine-Richland High School

DIRECTOR

Scott P. Calhoon

Years ago, Scott was Artistic Managing Director for Wisconsin's Northern Lights Playhouse and Pinewood Dinner Theatre where he directed/choreographed dozens of shows, including; *Forever Plaid*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Cabaret*, *A Tuna Christmas* and *Mister Roberts*. 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*. Other directing favorites include; *Next to Normal*, *Big Fish*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *Steel Magnolias*. *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. (cut here if too long) In addition to his direction work, he has designed dozens of sets and has performed locally with The Pittsburgh Playhouse, Front Porch Theatricals, Prime Stage, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre and at Hartwood Acres, singing during the holiday seasons with two of his favorite friends. Regional performance credits include the Northern Lights Playhouse (WI), WV Public Theatre, Candlewood Playhouse (CT) and Gateway Playhouse (NY). Scott also toured regionally in *Big Bad Burlesque* and nationally in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and is a partner in *PerfectFifthBooks.com* where one of their audio children's books was nominated for a Grammy! Scott wishes to thank God, family and friends for their love and support.

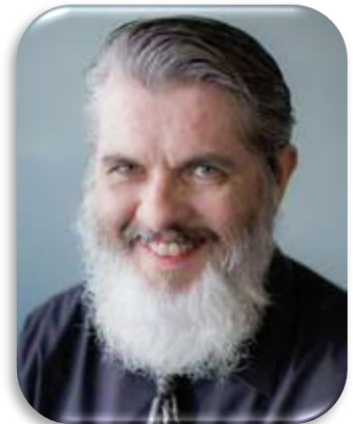
DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Patrick Barlow's *The 39 Steps* (the play) was a crackingly cheeky adaptation of a previous play by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon...which was based on an infamous 1935 Alfred Hitchcock classic English thriller film...which was based on an adventure novel written by John Buchan in 1915. I dare say, I could go on but I think that you get the picture.

Converting a novel to film has its challenges. Mr. Hitchcock made numerous changes to the original story including plot twists, new locations and, of course, adding love interests for the leading man to give the film a broader appeal to both sexes. His film version included many of his trademark elements; a man on the run for a mistaken deed, a MacGuffin, a cameo or two and it was immediately hailed as a classic and even a masterpiece. So, certainly some bloke needed to convert it to a live stage production. How dodgy!

Converting a film and its dozens of locations and hundreds of characters to a stage play is rather, shall we say, a tad more difficult. So, how does one accomplish this task? Well, hmm, brilliantly, of course. Let's have all the characters played by four actors and all the locations depicted with some found objects that we had lying about and then add a pinch of daft outlandishness, creativity, talent, sleight of hand and the pure magic of theatre! Easy, right? Let's check in with the costumer, the actors, the crew and....perhaps we should skip that part (no one threw a wobbly, at least) and just proclaim...I'm bloody gobsmacked!

Great fun, great performances and great design abound. Come along and see!



MEET THE ACTORS



Trevor Buda
Clown and Other Roles



Kendall Mason
Clown and Other Roles



Rachel Pfenningwerth
Pamela, Anabella, and Margaret



Ryan Warsing
Richard Hannay

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Trevor Buda (Clown and several roles)

Trevor is happy to return to Prime Stage Theatre after appearing in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Fenris Ulf). He is currently an actor in the touring productions of Saltworks Theater Company. Other credits include *The Metromaniacs* (Damis) at Little Lake Theater, *Hamlet* (Horatio), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bertram), *Dracula* (John Seward), *As You Like It* (Silvius), and others with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival. He is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace University. He sends love to his wife, Jill.

Kendall Mason (Clown and several roles)

Kendall is excited to be making her Prime Stage Theatre debut with *The 39 Steps*. She is a recent graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she graduated with a degree in Performance and Leadership in the Arts through the interdisciplinary studies program, with a minor in screenwriting. She has also studied classical acting at London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. Her favorite past credits include *The Skin of Our Teeth* (PlayMakers Repertory Company), *Girls Like That* (Paper Lantern Theatre), *Antony and Cleopatra* (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts), and *Colored* (Kenan Theatre Company). Kendall would like to thank the cast and crew as well as her parents for their support throughout this wonderful experience.

Rachel Pfennigwerth (Pamela, Anabella, and Margaret)

Rachel is excited to be with Prime Stage Theatre for a second production. Favorite credits include The White Witch in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* (Prime Stage) Electra in *Electra* (Little Lake Theatre) Kala in *Tarzan* (China National Tour), Sheriff/Shop Lady in *Bubble Boy the Musical*, (Arcade Comedy Theater), and Logan in *The Thanksgiving Play* (Arcade). Next up, Rachel is co-directing *Matilda* at Act One Theatre School. www.rachelpfennigwerth.weebly.com

Ryan Warsing (Richard Hannay)

Ryan is glad to be making his Prime Stage debut. He is predominantly an improviser and can commonly be seen at the Steel City Improv Theater, Arcade Comedy Theater, and other stages that will have him. A native Pittsburgher, Ryan has performed with the Virginia Shakespeare Company and various theaters throughout Chicago. He is a graduate of the Second City Conservatory and a former house improviser at Chicago's iO Theater. He has written and produced several of his own shows, and in his spare time continues to write plays, sketches, essays, and paragraphs that could go anywhere. Ryan is a graduate of the College of William and Mary with a degree in Theatre. He would like to thank his personal friend, Alfred Hitchcock, without whom this production would not be possible.



The Birds 60th Anniversary

Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* is an unforgettable masterpiece that is considered one of the most terrifying films from the Master of Suspense. When beautiful, blonde Melanie Daniels (Tippi Hedren) travels to Bodega Bay in pursuit of eligible bachelor Mitch Brenner (Rod Taylor), she is inexplicably attacked by a seagull. Suddenly, thousands of birds begin to flock into town, preying on schoolchildren and residents in a terrifying series of attacks. Mitch and Melanie must fight for their lives against a deadly force that cannot be explained or stopped in this film that makes you want to "hold onto something and watch!"

(Leonard Maltin's *Classic Movie Guide*).

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa Bansavage (*Dialect Coach*)

Lisa is delighted to be working on her sixth production with Prime Stage Theatre. As an actor, her career spans Broadway, Off Broadway, regional theatre, film, television and national commercial credits including *Master Class*, *Sideman*, *Turn of the Screw*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Grace & Glorie*, *Mastergate*, *Red Scare on Sunset*, *The Changeling*, *The Country Wife*, *A View from the Bridge*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Sisters Rosenweig*, *Night of the Iguana*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Married to the Mob*, *Three Men and a Baby*, *The Fisher King*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Loman Family Picnic* and a third of the full Shakespearean canon as well as a role opposite Sir Anthony Quayle in the BBC-London production of *An Exchange of Gifts*. She is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University's theatre conservatory and holds a Masters from The University of Pittsburgh where she was the Merrill Fellow. Her most recent New York performance was as Elizabeth Jackson, Rebekah Baines Johnson and Virginia Clinton in *First Mothers: The Women Who Raised America's Presidents*.

Alexander Barnhart (*Technical & Scenic Director*)

Alex is a Theater artist and educator from Pittsburgh, PA. A graduate of Slippery Rock University's BA Theater-Design and Technology, class of 2014. Graduate of Kent State University's MFA Theater- Design and Technology, class of 2021. Alex has been working as a Designer, Educator, and Technical Director for various companies and universities in Pittsburgh and beyond including Prime Stage Theater, Kinetic Theatre, 12 Peers Theater Company, Carnegie Mellon University, Kent State, and Wilkes University. Over the years, they've had the opportunity to work on a number of incredible solo and collaborative projects. Thriving on creative challenges and building long-term relationships with artists and students along the way, Alex is always leaving an impactful impression behind.

Erin Barnhart (*Production Manager*)

Erin is a Pittsburgh based Production Manager and a theatre management graduate of Kent State University. She worked as a Resident Stage Manager and Production Stage Manager in Scranton, Pennsylvania before returning back to her hometown of Pittsburgh. Erin is excited to be working on her second production as Production Manager here at Prime Stage Theater, and as always, she would like to thank her friends and family for their continued support!

Jill Buda (*Stage Crew*)

Jill is so excited to be involved in her second production at Prime Stage Theater, and her first production as a member of the stage crew! She was last seen in Prime Stage's *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, as Wood Nymph Amanita. Some of her favorite roles in past productions include Bridget in *Nana Does Vegas* at Little Lake Theater, Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice*, and Marianne in *Tartuffe* with Arena Theater in Wheaton, Illinois. She would like to thank the entire team at Prime Stage Theater for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful production. She sends her love to her husband, Trevor, for his constant encouragement and support in all her artistic endeavors.

Hope Debelius (*Lighting Designer*)

Hope is a Pittsburgh based lighting designer and recent graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts. Recent design credits include *Rapunzel* with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, *IN/BETween* with Shana Simmons Dance, *Frankenstein* with Prime Stage Theatre, the *Fall Dance Concert* and *Spring Awakening* at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. She has also recently had the pleasure of being the assistant lighting designer for *The Wanderers* at City Theatre and *A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem* at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre. Website: hopedebelius.com

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Alex Keplar (*Properties Master*)

Alex is a Pittsburgh based scenic and properties designer. She is a recent graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and is excited to be working on her fourth production with Prime Stage! Some of her recent credits include *The Prom* (Scenic Designer, Pittsburgh CAPA), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Properties Master, Prime Stage Theatre), *Harriet Tubman* (Properties Master, Prime Stage Theatre), *The Sunshine Boys* (Scenic Designer, South Park Theatre), *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* (Properties Master, Prime Stage Theatre), *Silent Sky* (Properties Master, South Park Theatre), *Angels in America* (Properties Master, The Pittsburgh Playhouse), and *Little Children Dream of God* (Scenic Designer, The Pittsburgh Playhouse). She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support!

Britt Kolek (*Stage Manager*)

Britt is a graduate of the University of Mount Union (OH), where she earned bachelor's degrees in Theatre and English. She has previously worked with Prime Stage as the Assistant Stage Manager for *A Wrinkle in Time* and Stage Manager for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Frankenstein*, and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. They are thrilled to be back as Prime's resident Stage Manager and working with an incredible cast and a wonderful company that brings her loves of literature and theatre together. When she is not stage managing, she is creating her own literary catalog with several self-published books available at their website: bekolek.weebly.com. She, as always, would like to thank her family and friends for their unconditional support.

Madeline Macek (*Costume Designer*)

Madeline is a Costume Designer specializing in historical works. A born-and-raised Pittsburgher, she has been sewing and designing all over the city! At the Pittsburgh Playhouse, she has designed *Spring Awakening* and *Everybody*. She is also the resident costume designer at Prime Stage Theater for their 2022-2023 season. She is so excited to work on this production of *Sense and Sensibility*! Madeline graduated from Point Park University in 2022. She would like to thank everyone who has mentored her, her family and friends for their support, and her Mammaw for getting her started on this journey.

Samantha Magill (*Sound Designer*)

Samantha is thrilled to be a part of another Prime Stage Theater production! Her previous works include: *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* (Sound Designer), *The White Rose* (Sound Designer), *Harriett Tubman and The Underground Railroad* (Sound Designer), *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* (Sound Designer), and *Perseverance* (Sound Designer) with Prime Stage Theater as well as *Perdita* (Sound Designer), and *Morning Reckoning* (Sound Designer) with the New Hazlett CSA program. She is also a proud member of the SoundGirls' Pittsburgh chapter which promotes and inspires the next generation of women in audio. When she is not in the theater, she spends her time working as a full-time producer for KDKA News radio. She is extremely thankful for Prime Stage and her friends, family, and cat for their support.

Madelyn Miessmer (*Master Electrician, Light Board Operator*)

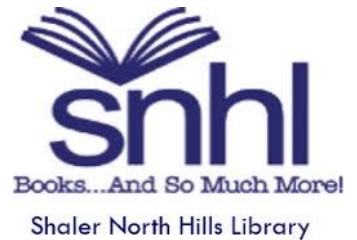
Madelyn is a current Theatre Production major at Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts focusing in Lighting Design. She is very excited to be a part of her first show with Prime Stage Theatre and would like to thank her friends and family for all their support.

Lauren Scheller-Wolf (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Lauren is thrilled to be serving as the assistant stage manager for this beautiful production! Lauren is a recent University of Pittsburgh graduate, where she earned a BPhil in Theatre Arts and English Writing, and where her favorite theatre credits included *Emilia* (Susan Bertie/Flora) and *Carrie and Francine* (Stage Manager). Previously at Prime Stage, Lauren has ASM'd *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and appeared onstage in *The Scarlet Letter* and *You Belong to Me*. Lauren has worked onstage or behind the scenes with several Pittsburgh theatre companies, including: Saltworks Theatre Company, Steel City Shakespeare Center, Gemini Children's Theater, and Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks. Much love and gratitude, as always, to her friends and family.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

If this play has piqued your interest, why not check out a book or movie and explore more? Your public libraries have many online resources you can access from home through Libby or Hoopla. Check your library's website for help in getting started.



Children Books

***Who was Alfred Hitchcock?* by Pam Pollack**

Known as one of the most influential filmmakers of all time, Alfred Hitchcock's unique vision in movies like Psycho and The Birds sent shivers down our spines and shockwaves through the film industry. His innovative camera techniques have been studied for decades and his gift for storytelling cemented his place in history.

***The Mysterious Benedict Society (series)* by Trenton Lee Stewart**

Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it, they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. So, if you're gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse Code, they could probably use your help.

***The Mystery of the Moon Tower (Pathfinder series)* by Francesco Sedita**

Summer camp just became a whole lot more interesting when five curious kids accept a mysterious project-work together as a team to uncover a series of strange clues, reveal a secret path--and follow its twists and turns to a legendary treasure!

***39 Clues (series)* by Rick Riordan**

Grace is the last matriarch of the Cahills, the world's most powerful family, yet the source of the family power is lost. 39 clues hidden around the world will reveal the family's secret, but no one has been able to assemble them. Now the clues race is on, and young Amy and Dan must decide what's important: hunting clues or uncovering what REALLY happened to their parents.

***Book Scavenger (series)* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman**

Racing against time, Emily and James rush from clue to clue, desperate to figure out the secret at the heart of Griswold's new game—before those who attacked Griswold come after them too.

***The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity* by Mac Barnett**

When Steve borrows the wrong book from the library, he finds himself involved in a treasonous plot that pits him against helicopter-rappelling librarians, has him outwitting a gaggle of police, and sees him standing off against the mysterious Mr. E. And all his Bailey Brothers know-how isn't helping at all!

Teen Books:

***The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud**

Dive into the first book of this frightfully fun series and join the ghost-hunting gang as they defend our world from the most fearsome phantoms!

***Stormbreaker (Alex Rider series)* by Anthony Horowitz**

They said his uncle Ian died in a car accident. But Alex Rider knows that's a lie, and the bullet holes in the windshield prove it. Yet he never suspected the truth: his uncle was really a spy for Britain's top-secret intelligence agency. And now Alex has been recruited to find his uncle's killers . . .

SUGGESTED READING LIST

I'd Tell You I Love You, but Then I'd Have to Kill You (series) by Ally Carter

Cammie Morgan is a student at the Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women, a fairly typical all-girls school -- that is, if every school taught advanced martial arts in PE and the latest in chemical warfare in science, and students received extra credit for breaking CIA codes in computer class. The Gallagher Academy might claim to be a school for geniuses but it's really a school for spies.

The Last Thing I Remember (Homelander series) by Andrew Klavan

Charlie West just woke up in someone else's nightmare. He's strapped to a chair. He's covered in blood and bruises. He hurts all over. And a strange voice outside the door just ordered his death. The last thing he can remember, he was a normal high-school kid doing normal things--working on his homework, practicing karate, daydreaming of becoming an air force pilot, writing a pretty girl's number on his hand. How long ago was that? Where is he now? Who is he really?

Adult

The Thirty-Nine Steps by John Buchan

Checkout the novel that inspired the play and movie adaptation!

In *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, the best-known of his thrillers (made into a popular movie by Alfred Hitchcock), John Buchan introduces his most enduring hero, Richard Hannay, who, despite claiming to be an "ordinary fellow," is caught up in the dramatic and dangerous race against a plot to devastate the British war effort.

Strangers on a Train by Patricia Highsmith

Here we encounter Guy Haines and Charles Anthony Bruno, passengers on the same train. But while Guy is a successful architect in the midst of a divorce, Bruno turns out to be a sadistic psychopath who manipulates Guy into swapping murders with him. "Some people are better off dead," Bruno remarks, "like your wife and my father, for instance." As Bruno carries out his twisted plan, Guy is trapped in Highsmith's perilous world, where, under the right circumstances, anybody is capable of murder.

The Riddle of the Sands by Erskine Childers

Two amateur sailors-sleuths are pitted against the secret forces of mighty Germany, before World War I. Powers of deduction and navigational skills prove important in uncovering a plot which threatens personal and national security.

N or M? by Agatha Christie

Set during the dark days of World War II, Tommy and Tuppence Beresford are put on the trail of a pair of Nazi spies who have murdered Britain's top agent. World War II is raging, and while the RAF struggles to keep the Luftwaffe at bay, Britain faces a sinister threat from "the enemy within"--Nazis posing as ordinary citizens. Their mission: to seek out a man and a woman from among the colorful guests at Sans Souci, a seaside hotel. But this assignment is far from an easy stroll along the promenade--N and M have just murdered Britain's finest agent and no one can be trusted.

Logo



CHECK OUT THESE FILMS

Alfred Hitchcock's: The Thirty-Nine Steps (1935) directed by Alfred Hitchcock

An innocent Canadian while visiting England is implicated in the theft of national secrets and murder.

The 39 Steps (2010 BBC version) directed by James Hawes III

Rupert Penry Jones headlines this tale of intrigue based on the bestselling novel by author John Buchan.

London, 1914: Richard Hanney (Jones) has just returned from a stint in Africa, and he's already bored with life back home. That is, until he crosses paths with a man named Scudder (Eddie Marsan). Shortly after revealing himself to be a British spy, Scudder winds up dead in Hanney's flat, and it appears that Hanney is about to take the fall for the murder.

The Lady Vanishes (1938) directed by Alfred Hitchcock

While traveling by train in continental Europe, a rich young playgirl realizes that an elderly lady seems to have disappeared into thin air. The young woman then turns investigator and finds herself drawn into a complex web of mystery and high adventure.

North by Northwest (1959) directed by Alfred Hitchcock

While having lunch at the Plaza Hotel in New York, advertising executive Roger O. Thornhill (Cary Grant) has the bad luck to call for a messenger just as a page goes out for a "George Kaplan." From that moment, Thornhill finds that he has stepped into a nightmare -- he is quietly abducted by a pair of armed men out of the hotel's famous Oak Room and transported to a Long Island estate; there, he is interrogated by a mysterious man (James Mason) who, believing that Roger is George Kaplan, demands to know what he knows about his business and how he has come to acquire this knowledge.

The Most Dangerous Game (1932) directed by Irving Pichel

The most dangerous game: The sole survivor of a yachting accident swims to a mysterious island to save himself, where he is welcomed by the Count and introduced to two other survivors. The Count is a big game hunter and the three guests soon find that he has grown bored with hunting animals and is after a new prey

(Descriptions condensed from Amazon.com, Wikipedia, and GoodReads)



FUNDERS

WE OFFER OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS WHO SUPPORT OUR MISSION WITH THEIR GENEROSITY

Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD)
Jack Buncher Foundation
Eden Hall Foundation
The Fine Foundation
Henry C. Frick Education Fund of the Buhl Foundation
The Grable Foundation
The Heinz Endowments
Elsie H. Hillman Foundation
King Family Giving Fund
The Kosciuszko Foundation, Headquarters in New York City
The Kosciuszko Foundation, Pittsburgh Chapter
Massey Charitable Trust
National Endowment for the Arts
Opportunity Fund
W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
The Philip Chosky Charitable and Educational Foundation
Nora Roberts Fund of PNC Charitable Trust
Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation
State Farm
TEPCO Trombold Equipment Company



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Maryna & Samuel Alt	Lynne & Steve Franks	Graham McIntosh	Jessica Walker
Bonnie Anderson	Heather Gray	Brenda Meli	Suzanne Ward
Ken Bado	Marcia Geary	Jenna & Jim Mersereau	Deb Wirth
Megan Baltruzak	Mary E. Gibson	Joyce & Jim Miller	Maureen Wirth
Lisa Bansavage	Michelle Gibson	Cara & Justin Nagel	Nancy Zions
Enrique Bazan-Arias	Sharon Gilliland	Anne Marie Nelson	Julia & Oliva Zoratto
Ann & Brad Bozick	Suzanne Gilliland	Dennis O'Connell	Sueanne & Enzo Zoratto
Wayne & Connie Brinda	Leslie Goldstein & Margie Bachman	Rev. & Mrs. A. David Paul	
Erin Brooke	M.K. Hughes	Mike Perry	In Memory of:
Bonnie Brown	Ada Kallio	Douglas Riethmuller	Margie Cypher
Allison M. Cahill	Curtis Kaminski	Elizabeth Reitz	Dale & Bettie Gilliland
Brian Ceponis	Maria Kautter	Chelle Robinson	Elaine Krasik
Christina Cerny	Mary Kenney	Nathan Ruggles	
Donna & Bob Chapel	Christine King	Marty Schiff	Other Donations
Gary Chuutorich	Randall & Lisa King	Lynda Schuster	Facebook Birthday
Lawrence Connolly	Karey Klusner	Debra & David Sciranka	Teen Board Fundraiser
Rene S. Conrad	Carl Krasik	Howard Seamens	Perseverance Books
Kathy & Jerry Coyne	Matthew & Laura Kresock	Mara Steinmetz	Steps to Suspense
Bob & Judy Cunningham	Kristen & Geoffery Kurland	Danielle Stonehirsch	In-Kind
Art DeConciliis	Ray & Ann Marie Kuyler	Clarissa Suppermam	
Madeline Delesio	Hazel Carr Leroy	Robin Timo	
Mary & Dale Dalesio	Julie Leslie	Kathy Trapauzzano	
John & Louanne Dolphin	Wendy Lomicka	Paul & Martha Trombold	
Molly Dunning	Ken & Sharon Lutz	Robert & Deborah Trombold	
Mary Lou Ellena	Macia Lynne	Amber Vala	
Dr. & Mrs. David English	Ruth Marlowe	Shane & Eleanor Valenzi	
Lisa Erb	Kathy Marion-Wood	Renee Vandall	
Anna Fitz	Lawrence McCullough	Deborah Walker	

PRIME STAGE THEATRE

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Wayne Brinda, Ed.D..... Producing Artistic Director
Linda Haston.....Education Director
Connie Brinda..... Finance Director
Debra Sciranka PR and Accessibility Director
John Dolphin..... Education Consultant and Drama Awards Director
Ponny Conomos Jahn Education Coordinator
Jason Kmetic..... Prime Stage Rehearsl Studio Manager
Nathan Ruggles Audio Describer
Michael R. Petyak.....Intimacy Coordinator
John Clark Web Designer
Matt Henderson Social Media Director
Veda Laine Data Base Manager
Brandon Pierce Marketing Intern

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The mission of Prime Stage is to entertain, inspire and enrich families, students, and educators through professional theatre by bringing literature to life. Our vision is enriching lives through theatre and literacy with programs that deliver quantifiable results and benefits to the region.

Martha Trombold, President
Mary Lou Ellena, Vice President
Suzanne Gilliland, Secretary
Connie Brinda, Treasurer

Enrique, Bazán
Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.
John Dolphin
Richard Garland, MSW

Mary E. Gibson, Esq.
Lawrence McCullough, Ph.D.
Cara Nagel
Amber Vala, Esq.

Shane Valenzi, Esq.
Deborah Wirth
Sueanne Zoratto

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

The Prime Stage Teen Advisory board is a group of young adults who are passionate about theatre and the arts, who have the desire to uphold the mission of Prime Stage, to serve and engage the Pittsburgh community, to connect to and encourage the minds of youth, and prioritize social relevance in the arts.

TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL

We believe that literacy and the theatre can lift people up, inspire opportunities, and present new ways of seeing the world in positive ways. Effective teachers help students connect literature to their own world. Students discover literature, enjoy reading and vicariously "live in" the literature. Talented artists bring stories from the pages to life by providing multi-sensory experiences. Our adaptations of literature and historical figures and programs are selected and produced to meet those goals.

AMBASSADORS

They encourage conversations with patrons which will result in continued patronage and support and promote Prime Stage Theatre throughout the Pittsburgh region.

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN



prime
stage

THEATRE CO

prime
stage

sprouts

JUNE 16 - 25, 2023

Announcing our 27th Season at Prime Stage Theatre

The Miracle Worker

Directed by Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.

November 3 – 12, 2023

Rosa Parks

and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Directed by Linda Haston

January 19 – 28, 2024

And Then They Came for Me:

Remembering the World of Anne Frank

Directed by Art DeConciliis

March 1 – 10, 2024

Witness for the Prosecution

Directed by Ponny Conomos Jahn

May 3 – 12, 2024



Bringing Literature to Life on Stage!