

*I Never Saw
Another Butterfly
and
The Terezin Promise*



February 28 - March 9, 2025

at the New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts



Welcome to the Third Production of Our 28th Season

“Strength, Voices, and Hope”



We hope you will experience the magic of storytelling on stage as we continue to fulfill our mission to entertain, engage, and inspire, and remain dedicated to bringing literature and history to life in ways that only live theatre can offer.

Each production this season will feature unique elements to enhance your visit, including lobby displays and special guest appearances. They are designed to spark meaningful conversations with your family and friends, creating positive memories that will enrich your theatre experiences.

One part of the Prime Stage experience is producing adaptations of literature and historical events that can impact today. We also secure partnerships and special guests to ensure accuracy and enrich the experience for our artists and for you, our audiences. We are proud to partner with The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh on this production to commemorate the end of World War II and the liberation of concentration camps. We are also pleased to include the actual work of children from Terezin provided by the Jewish Museum in Prague. I invite you to visit the lobby display to see the exhibit.

Thank you for joining us and we hope you enjoy the performance!

Martha Trombold,
Prime Stage Board President



Prime Stage Theatre

Presents

I Never Saw Another Butterfly and The Terezin Promise

By Celeste Raspanti

Directed by

Wayne Brinda

Featuring:

Jackson Frazer

Eva Balodimas Friedlander

Molly Frontz

Sadie Karashin

Meredith Kocur

Arjun Kumar

Aaron Little

Holland Adele Taylor

Aftyn Tomaceski

Production Manager

Alexis Hawk

Scenic Designer

Alex Keplar

Technical Director

Alex Barnhart

Lighting Designer

Ken Clothier

Sound Designer

Samantha Magill

Costume Designer

Meg Kelly

Properties Designer

Alex Keplar

Fight Director

Michael R. Petyak

Dramaturg

Rebecca L. Godlove

Dialect Coach

Lisa Bansavage

Voice Coach

Toni Schlemmer

Stage Manager

Elizabeth Tweel

Assistant Stage Manager

Jason Kmetic

*Honoring the 80 Anniversary of the end of War World II
and the Liberation of the Concentration Camps.*

Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company

I Never Saw Another Butterfly and The Terezin Promise

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.

THE CAST

In alphabetical order

Jackson Frazer	Hanus Sattler
Eva Balodimas Friedlander	Helga Weissova
Molly Frontz	Dita Valentikova
Sadie Karashin	Eva Passerova
Meredith Kocur	Raja Englanderova
Arjun Kumar.....	Nicholas Moeller
Aaron Little	Honza Kosek
Holland Adele Taylor	Irene Synkova
Aftyn Tomaceski	Alena Synkova

Setting:

Terezin Concentration Camp

Run Time:

Approximately 80 minutes with one 15-minute intermission

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF

Director & Producing Artistic Director	Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.
Production Manager	Alexis Hawk
Scenic Designer	Alex Keplar
Technical Director	Alex Barnhart
Lighting Designer	Ken Clothier
Sound Designer	Samantha Magill
Costume Designer	Meg Kelly
Properties Designer	Alex Keplar
Fight Director.....	Michael R. Petyak
Dramaturg	Rebecca L. Godlove
Dialect Coach.....	Lisa Bansavage
Voice Coach.....	Toni Schlemmer
Stage Manager.....	Elizabeth Tweel
Assistant Stage Manager	Jason Kmetic
Carpenter	Michael Boone
Lighting Manager and Board Operator	Anthony Clayton
Audio Describer.....	Nathan Ruggles
Real-Time Live Captioner	Anna Cillo
Photographer	Laura Slovesko
Videographer.....	Brandon Pierce
New Hazlett Box Office Manager	Nathan Wagner
New Hazlett House Manager	Lauren N. Wijangco
New Hazlett Sound Manager and Board Operator	Adam Davy

Please silence all cell phones. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and taking photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

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

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall in Carnegie
Carnegie Mellon University
Lawrence C. Connolly
Downtown Pittsburgh Lions Club
Front Porch Theatricals
GPAC / Great Pittsburgh Arts Council
Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh
Jewish Museum in Prague
Little Lake Theatre
LAMP / Library of Accessible Media for PA
North Hills Shaler Library
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum
New Hazlett Theater Staff and Volunteers
Prime Stage Theatre Staff and Volunteers



RECYCLE GLASSES



Prime Stage Theatre in Partnership with the Downtown Pittsburgh Lions Club will be collecting **usable glasses that give new life** during the run of our productions.

Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. Lions have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses in their communities to support the Lions Recycle for Sight Program.



The Pittsburgh Lions Club, established in 1920, is the oldest Lions Club in Pennsylvania. Focusing on the Downtown and Uptown neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, the Club is open to any interested persons who live or work in Pittsburgh and want to join the Lions' mission "to serve."

The Pittsburgh Lions Club is actively recruiting for new members who live and/or work in the Downtown and Uptown neighborhoods. Conscious of busy schedules, our club aims to choose strategic service projects and fundraising campaigns that allow busy, civic-minded professionals to participate. We are currently planning for 2024 and open to ideas from new members. Join us and be a part of the Future of The Lions.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with more than 1.4 million members in approximately 46,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world.

EVERY DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

When you donate to Prime Stage Theatre, you support our mission, productions, programs, staff, and care about the arts.

The Power of Live Theatre is Invaluable.

Donations can be made:

- In the lobby with our QR code
- On our website under "Support"
- By mail to Prime Stage Theatre, PO Box 99446, Pittsburgh, PA 15233



ACCESSIBILITY

At Prime Stage Theatre we believe everyone should be able to enjoy the experience of live theatre and what is happening on stage. We are committed to providing an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all patrons. Access for patrons using wheelchairs or walkers is available. We ask that you identify any special seating needs with the Box Office staff when reserving your tickets in advance on-line or by calling the New Hazlett Box Office 412.320.4610

Assistive Listening

Assistive Listening Devices for patrons who need additional amplification are available for all performances. Please visit the Box Office upon arrival to obtain a device.

Audio Description Performance, *The Last Sunday of each production with On-Stage Pre-Show, Actor Voice ID, and Touch Tour at 1:30, Audio Pre-Show at 2:15 and Performance at 2:30PM*

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 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.

Real Time Live Caption Performance, *The Last Sunday of each production at 2:30*

Anna Cillo of Advanced Realtime Captioning Solutions will provide our patrons with real-time live captions for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Sensory Inclusive Performance, *The Last Saturday of each production at 2:30PM*

Our performances are designed as a family experience. We offer a quiet area and 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.



ACCESSIBILITY STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Anna Cillo, Realtime Captioner

Advanced Realtime Captioning Solutions is owned and operated by Anna Cillo, who has been providing captions and real-time court reporting in western Pennsylvania and the surrounding states since 2009. Anna Cillo is a member of the NCRA, the Association of Court Reporters and Captioners, and a graduate of CCAC. She worked as the staff captioner for the Pittsburgh Pirates from 2014-2022 and has provided captions for the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association throughout her career. Advanced Realtime Captioning Solutions was founded in 2018 in response to the demand for captioning in and around the City of Pittsburgh. We have provided captions and consulting to many organizations and individuals within the City of Pittsburgh and the surrounding areas. Some organizations we have worked with include Carnegie Mellon University, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Duquesne University, City Theater, The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Temple Sinai, The Heinz History Center, and have been working with the Center for Hearing and Deaf Services for many years.

Nathan Ruggles, Audio Describer

Nathan has provided Audio Description (AD) services for Prime Stage patrons who are blind and visually impaired since 2017. Together they received the 2022 Award for Achievement in Audio Description for Theater from The American Council of the Blind (ACB). Founder and Principal of Audio Describe Pittsburgh!, he provides AD for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Broadway Series and Pittsburgh CLO, and serves theaters and venues in the greater Pittsburgh area and beyond. He has also worked with organizations such as Film Pittsburgh, the Children's Museum, Andy Warhol Museum, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He has trained through the Audio Description Institute, Audio Description Access, Audio Description Coalition, VSA Pennsylvania, and the Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD). Beyond writing and narration, he furnishes comprehensive services that include recording, consulting, and technical support, bringing his unique background in professional stage acting, voice over, broadcast radio, podcast production, arts administration, political advocacy, and radio reading services.

SLB Radio congratulates Prime Stage on its 28th Season of Strength, Voices, and Hope



SLB's Youth Media Center on the Northside has free programs for teens from Allegheny County and beyond.

Visit ymc.slbradio.org for more details.





FEDERAL GALLEY

Every time you buy a ticket to a Prime Stage Theatre show, you can enjoy draft beers and craft cocktails just around the corner for an exclusive discount!

Show your Prime Stage Theatre ticket to receive **10% off** at the bar on the night of the performance!

Explore the menu at
www.federalgalley.org



**Just a two-minute
walk from the
New Hazlett Theater!**

200 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212



ICEBOX CREAMERY



Ice Cream Shop

IceBox Creamery & Cafe is a locally owned cafe and dessert shop specializing in homemade ice cream made with natural ingredients.

**114 S MAIN STREET
ZELIENOPLE, PA 16063
724-776-3300**

DIRECTOR



Wayne Brinda, Ed.D. (Director)

Wayne is Co-founder/Producing Artistic Director of Prime Stage where he directed *The Miracle Worker*, *Treasure Island*, *The Outsiders*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, as well as the world premieres of *The Music Lesson*, and *Clemente: The Measure of a Man*. As Producer, Prime Stage has commissioned several world premieres, such as *The Music Lesson*, *Wade in the Water*, *Clemente: The Measure of the Man*, *The Josh Gibson Story*, *The Westing Game*, *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and *Perseverance*. Locally, Wayne has directed for Red Barn Players, Apple Hill Playhouse, Duquesne University Red Masquers, Penn State Thespian, Little Lake Theatre, Red Barn Theatre in Allison Park, and South Park Theatre, and was the Director of the Playhouse Jr. As a Museum Teaching Fellow of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, Wayne produces theatre productions on the Holocaust and conducts presentations on using literature and

theatre to teach the Holocaust. He has delivered presentations on adolescent literacy and Holocaust education at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, as well as the National Council of Teachers of English, The Association for Middle-Level Education, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the International Reading Association 21st World Congress on Reading in Budapest, Hungary, and others.

OPENING NIGHT POST-SHOW DISCUSSION WITH PATTY PARTINGTON

Patty is the daughter of WWII veteran Guy Prestia. She worked for 42 years at Ellwood City Hospital as a unit secretary and patient care tech. She has one daughter, Chelsea. Patty volunteered to be her father's secretary - she helped arrange speaking engagements and interviews and accompanied him to Army reunions. Now retired, she enjoys reading, picture puzzles, and refinishing furniture.



WORLD WAR II AND THE LIBERATION OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Guy Prestia Sgt US Army 157th Infantry Regiment 45th Infantry Division. Liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp April 29, 1945. For over 25 years he spoke to schools, rotary clubs, churches, and anyone who would listen to him about WWII and the horrors of the Holocaust. We must never forget!

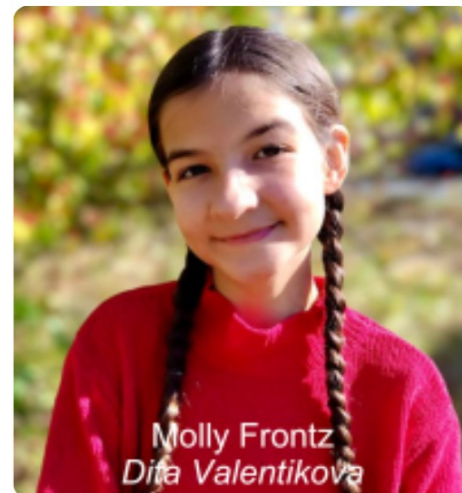
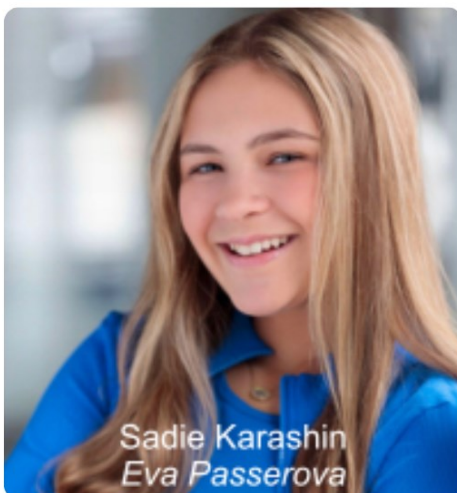
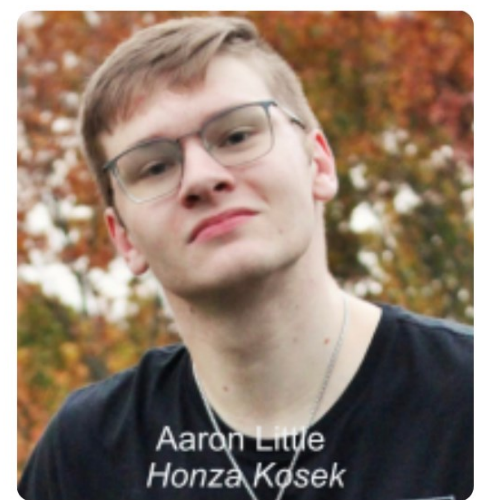
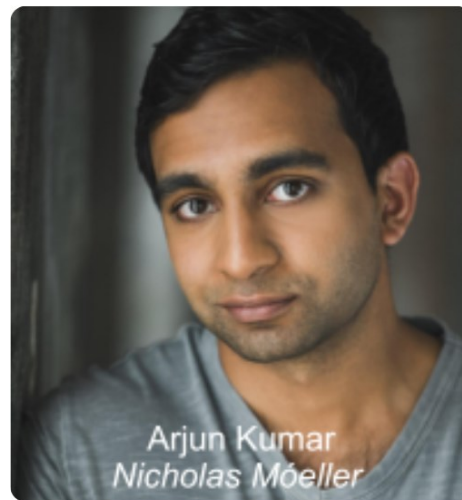
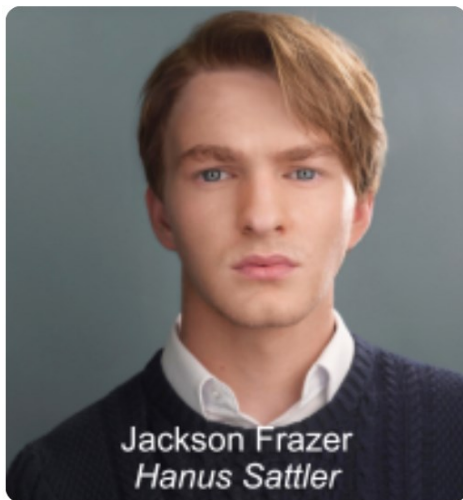
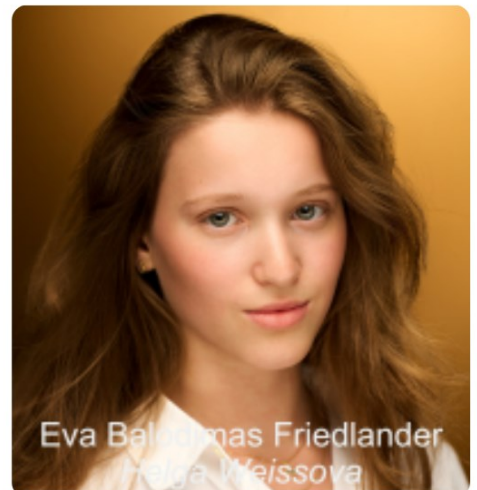
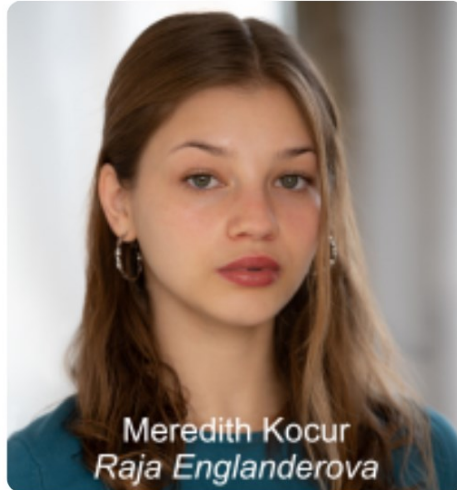
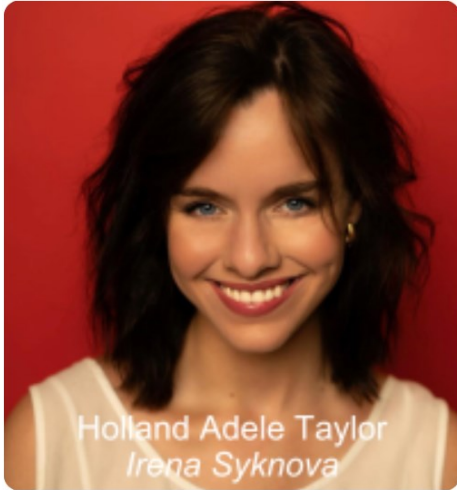
One of the most profound experiences in Prestia's military career was the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp in Germany. As part of the 45th Division, Prestia was among the first Allied soldiers to enter the camp, where they were confronted with the horrifying evidence of the Holocaust. The soldiers found over 31,000 surviving prisoners and thousands of dead bodies, a scene that deeply affected Prestia and his comrades. The liberation of Dachau was a turning point for many soldiers, who, up until that moment, had not fully understood the atrocities committed by the Nazis. For Prestia, this experience underscored the importance of the war and the fight against tyranny.



The Cast



I Never Saw Another Butterfly and The Terezin Promise



ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Jackson Frazer, *Hanus Sattler*

Jackson has acted professionally in film and television for 12 years, and is a relative newcomer to theater. In 2024, Jackson appeared as Heinz Geiringer in the Prime Stage Theater production of "And Then They Came for Me" which sparked his passion for theater. He also appeared in North Allegheny's musical "The Phantom of the Opera" in the role of Monsieur Richard Firmin. In his free time, Jackson writes and performs short films also featuring friends and family. When not acting, Jackson enjoys drawing, cooking, and traveling.

Eva Balodimas Friedlander, *Helga Weissova*

Eva is delighted to be making her professional theatrical acting debut playing Helga Weissova and thanks Wayne Brinda and Prime Stage for the opportunity. She is a 10th grader at Shady Side Academy where Eva played Helena Glory in the fall play *R.U.R.*; other Shady Side Academy Productions include Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins* and Anna in *Frozen*. Last year, she played Betty Parris in The Collective's *The Crucible*. Eva is interested in theater, fashion and international affairs; she is one of two teens on the board of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. This show is incredibly important to Eva; as Holocaust deniers are on the rise, Eva feels it's now more important than ever to use storytelling to combat this misinformation. When watching *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, Eva hopes that you, the audience, will Never Forget the atrocities that happened during the Holocaust and that you use this story as inspiration to fight modern anti-semitism and any forms of hate. Eva would like to dedicate this show to Clarita Kaufman, her great-great grandmother; if Clarita had not survived the Holocaust in Poland, Eva would not be here to perform this show.

Molly Frontz, *Dita Valentikova*

Molly is honored to be back with Prime Stage Theatre for her third year. Other recent roles include Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden* (Heritage Players) and Anne Frank in *And Then They Came for Me* (Prime Stage Theatre). Molly is a musical theatre major at PPS CAPA and also studies at CLO Academy. When not on stage, Molly enjoys reading and singing. Molly would like to thank her instructors at CAPA for encouraging her to always push her limits.

Sadie Karashin, *Eva Passerova*

Sadie is thrilled to be acting in her second Prime Stage Theater production! Her first being last year in *And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* as Young Eva Geiringer Schloss. Other past productions include Wendy Darling in *Peter Pan Jr.*, Martha Cratchit in *A Lyrical Christmas Carol*, dance corps in *Pippin*, Young Lucy in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, and the enchantress in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Besides acting, Sadie also participates in many classes at Pittsburgh Musical Theater and is a varsity cheerleader at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Highschool. She would like to thank her parents, family, friends, teachers, and closest supporters for helping her always reach for the stars!

Meredith Kocur, *Raja Englanderova*

Meredith is thrilled to be making her debut at Prime Stage Theatre. She recently graduated from University of Minnesota with a BFA in acting this past spring and is currently on tour with CLO's Gallery of Heroes: *The Next Galileo*, playing the role of Gabriella. Some of her favorite credits include Yelena in *Uncle Vanya*, Anne in *Anne Boleyn*, and Miranda in *Alchemy of Desire/Dead Man's Blues*. She would like to thank her family for their endless support!

Arjun Kumar, *Nicolas Moeller*

Arjun is excited to return to Prime Stage Theatre! Arjun last performed with Prime Stage in the 2020 production of *The Outsiders*. Arjun has performed with many theatres in the Pittsburgh area including, but not limited to, The Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Quantum Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, PICT, Kinetic Theatre, and Little Lake Theatre. Arjun is also a member of the SAG-AFTRA union, and has appeared in productions by Netflix, The Lifetime Network, and Amazon Freevee.

Aaron Little, *Honza Kosek*

Aaron considers it to be an honor and a privilege to be a part of this production and play the role of Honza Kosek. This is perfect opportunity both to grow his ability as an actor taking part in his first professional performance and to continue educating both himself and others in the history of genocide and systematic cruelty. He believes very strongly that stories like *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* deserve to be told, and that people deserve to hear them. Having recently graduated from Shady Side Academy's senior school where he discovered his fascination with straight plays and musical theater, Aaron plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh this coming fall to study Performing Arts."

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Holland Adele Taylor, Irena Synkova

Holland is thrilled to be performing in her second Prime Stage Theatre production! Last year, she was ecstatic to perform in Prime Stage's *The Miracle Worker* as Annie Sullivan. Some of her other favorite productions that she's been a part of include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (Siobhan), *The Wolves* (#25), and *Buried Child* (Shelly). When she's not performing on stage, you can find Holland working on local film projects, singing at steakhouses around the city, or working on her own writing at home. She is very grateful to her friends, family, and God for their endless love and support, as well as for the opportunity to tell such an inspirational and impactful story. She hopes this performance provides the audience with a better perspective of the humanity, strength, and courage that existed in the camps at the time of Nazi Germany. Enjoy the show!

Aftyn Tomaceski, Alena Synkova

Aftyn is thrilled to be making her Prime Stage Theatre debut! Aftyn is a seventh grade student at Canon McMillan Middle School. Favorite past roles include Janet in *Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.* and Eric in *Lord of the Flies*, both with Little Lake Theatre Company. Many thanks to her acting coach Caroline Connell, the faculty at Pittsburgh CLO Academy, and her friends and family for their support.



DRAMATURG'S NOTES

There is nothing within our collective consciousness that can compare to the brutality and inhumanity that was the Holocaust. And within the events of the Holocaust itself, there is little more upsetting than the evils committed against the very young.

This play is based on the true story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, an artist and educator who secretly taught many of the children sent to Terezín, a transit camp in what is now the Czech Republic. Bringing her own art supplies instead of extra clothing or other personal belongings, she helped her students process their feelings and reactions to the world around them, transferring their emotions into paintings, poems, and chalk drawings.

It is because of Ms. Dicker-Brandeis' foresight that we know the identities of many of the children who did not survive the camps. She insisted that each child sign his or her name on each piece of art, then safely hid upwards of five thousand individual pieces. Despite the Nazis' frantic attempts to burn all the proof of their cruelty at Terezín, we have precious insight into the lives of the children there, all because of a teacher's love.

As you watch this powerful and poignant play, please remember that it is not fiction. We remember the Holocaust not only to honor its many victims and survivors but to remind ourselves that none of us has the right to turn a blind eye. None of us can assume that someone else will take action.

We are the ones responsible for ensuring that nothing like this ever happens again.

Rebecca Godlove

For further reading, consider visiting theholocaustexplained.org, which features a thorough case study of Terezín as well as other camps, and which was a useful resource for my own research for the production.

MONDAY prime stage THEATRE 52 SPECIALS

FREEDOM HOUSE: Giving Life a Second Chance

Written by L.E. McCullough

Directed by Scott P. Calhoon



May 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM
~ Staged Reading ~

Witness the 1967 creation in Pittsburgh's Hill District
of **Freedom House Ambulance Service** – America's
first mobile Emergency Medical Unit.



[Tickets - Pay What You Can / www.primestage.com](http://www.primestage.com)

Located at the New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts, 6 Allegheny Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15212



Dialect Classes

**BUILD YOUR ACTING SKILLS
WITH LISA BANSAVAGE**



Learn four dialects frequently used on stage:
British, Cockney, Irish, German

Monday evenings 6:00 - 7:30 pm

June 2 - 23, 2025

Price: \$35 per workshop or \$100 for all four

Located at the Prime Stage Studio,
840 W. Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh 15220

Registration begins in April

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa Bansavage, *Dialect Coach*

Lisa is delighted to be working on her thirteenth 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 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, Carnegie Mellon University, Kent State, Wilkes, and Slippery Rock 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.

Ken Clothier, *Lighting Designer*

Ken is happy to be back for another production with Prime Stage Theatre. He has created designs and performed technical work for Mountain Playhouse, the Montgomery Theatre, Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, the New Hazlett Theatre, and CMU's Schools of Music and Drama. Ken is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. In addition to teaching in the design & technology curriculum, he has served as Technical Director and designed sets, lights, media & sound on nearly a hundred productions. Ken earned his MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University. His work may be found at <https://www.kgclothier-design.com/>

Rebecca L. Godlove, *Dramaturg*

After two decades of pursuing other hobbies, Rebecca now enjoys working with the wonderful performers, directors, designers, and writers who make up the theatre community in Pittsburgh. Rebecca works for Prime Stage Theatre as a dramaturg and teaching artist. In her spare time, she writes, crafts, and volunteers as a Book Fairy at local libraries to encourage children's literacy. She lives in Scott Township with her family and their cadre of beloved rescue cats.

Alexis Hawk, *Production Manager*

Alexis is thrilled to be taking over this season and joining Prime Stage Theatre. She is involved with the National Tour of *Spamilton* as Tour Manager, Assistant Tour Manager and previously as Covid Compliance Officer. She has been seen both on and off the stage at several theatre's, including Little Lake Theatre, South Park Theatre and Stage 62. She is a graduate of California University of Pennsylvania where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Theatre and Associate's Degree in Graphic Design and Multimedia. Many thanks to her friends, family and partner for supporting her in all of her endeavors.

Meg Kelly, *Costume Designer*

Meg is the costume designer for Prime Stage Theatre's 28th season and also costumed our Annual Cemetery Walk. Previously she was the costumer for *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Thespis*, *Amahl* and the Night Visitors, *The Gift of the Magi*, and *A Christmas Carol* for the Pittsburgh Savoyards and has also assisted on (and performed in) quite a few G&S shows over the years. Megan also worked with South Park Theater and Resonance Works here in Pittsburgh as well as the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine.

Alex Keplar, *Scenic and Properties Designer*

Alex is a Pittsburgh-based scenic and properties designer and is excited to be working with Prime Stage again as their Resident Properties Designer! She is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts Some of her recent credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Scenic Designer, Pittsburgh CAPA), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Properties Master, Prime Stage Theatre), *39 Steps* (Properties Master, Prime Stage Theatre), *The Sunshine Boys* (Scenic Designer, South Park Theatre), *The Amazing Lemonade Girl* (Properties Master, Prime Stage 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!

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Jason Kmetc, Assistant Stage Manager

Jason has been working in theater for 20 years. He started with Prime Stage theater in 2005, and has worked with them on and off for the last 19 years. He has also worked for Disney, and other production companies in California. Jason also works with Pittsburgh Playwrights Theater, Kelly Strayhorn Theater, CorningWorks, and many others in Pittsburgh. Some of Jason's credits include: *'The Long Road Today/ El Largo Camino Del Hoy'* (Lighting Technician/First Assistant Stage Manager), *Apsis Requiem* (Lighting Designer/Stage Manager), *Gypsy* (Stage Manager), *Fifth Feeling: A Performance Ritual* (Lighting Designer/Stage Manager), *The Miracle Worker* (Stage Manager), *The Boxcar Children* (Stage Manager), Jesse Factor's *The Marthadyssey* (Stage Manager), *Almost 40 and Single* (Stage Manager), *The High School Drama Awards* (Production Stage Manager), and most recently, *Look Forward: The Ruby Bridges Story* (Assistant Stage Manager). Jason would like to thank his parents for their continued support, and a thank you to his writer in crime, Nick Comunelli!

Samantha Magill, Sound Designer

Samantha is excited to be part of another Prime Stage Theater production! Her past work with Prime Stage includes sound design for *The Boxcar Children*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, and *Great Expectations*. She has also contributed her sound design talents to the New Hazlett CSA program, South Park Theatre, and Pittsburgh Public Theater. A proud graduate of IUP (class of 2021), Samantha is an active member of SoundGirls' Pittsburgh chapter, which supports and inspires the next generation of women in audio. Samantha is deeply grateful to Prime Stage, her friends, family, and her cat for their continued support.

Toni M. Schlemmer, Voice Coach

Toni is a classically trained soprano with a B.A. of Arts in Music. She has studied voice with Dr. Kenneth H. Phillips, Dr. Jack C. Clinard, and Mr. Jeffrey Howell among others. She has been a soloist with the West Virginia Symphony as well as university orchestras throughout West Virginia. She has taught music in public schools in PA and WV. Toni has performed with several professional theatre companies in the tri-state area. Among them: Front Porch Theatricals, Pittsburgh Musical Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO and Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center. Since 1986, Toni has been the Director of Fine Arts at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople. She created a creative arts and theatre ministry for the church and community, producing and directing musicals with adults and youth for 30 years. Toni teaches private voice, piano, and music theory. This is her second show at Prime Stage Theatre and she is thrilled to work with this talented cast and company!

Elizabeth Tweel, Stage Manager

Elizabeth is excited to be working on her first show with Prime Stage Theater. Originally from West Virginia she has been working across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia since she graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a BA in Technical Theatre and Design with a focus on Stage Management. She has recently worked with the Scranton Shakespeare Festival, stage managing *Gypsy*, *Titus Andronicus*, and *Twelfth Night*. Along with *Elf: The Musical*, and *Spirits of the Past* with The Appalachian Center for the Arts.



The actual artwork by children in Terezin is provided by the Jewish Museum in Prague.

<https://www.jewishmuseum.cz/en/info/visit/>

Join us for the 2025 Season!
TICKETS ON SALE NOW
FrontPorchPGH.com 412-320-4610
Performances at the New Hazlett Theater



May 16th -25th
Director: Kristiann Menotiades
Music Director: Deana Muro



August 15th -24th
Director: Rob James
Music Director: Camille Rolla





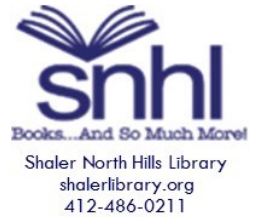
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY



www.brandonpiercemedia.com

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

***Terezín: Voices from the Holocaust* by Ruth Thomson**

Jewish Inmates of Terezín, a World War II Nazi concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, speak for themselves through secret diary entries, artwork, and excerpts from memoirs and recordings made after the war.

***Fireflies in the Dark* by Susan Goldman Rubin**

Covers the years during which Friedl Dicker, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia, taught art to children at the Terezín Concentration Camp.

***The Cat with the Yellow Star* by Susan Goldman Rubin**

This is the story of Ela Stein's coming of age in Terezín concentration camp, where she was chosen to play the pivotal role of the cat in the children's opera Brundibár.

***I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezín Concentration Camp* edited by Hana Valavkova**

A selection of children's poems and drawings reflecting their surroundings in Terezín Concentration Camp from 1942 to 1944.

***The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs* by Chana Stiefel**

A biography of the woman who created the Tower of Faces, a powerful exhibit at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

***Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued* by Peter Sis**

The illustrated story of Nicholas Winton, a young Englishman who saved almost 700 Jewish children from the Nazis in 1939.

***I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944* by Lauren Tarshis**

In a Jewish ghetto, Max Rosen and his sister, Zena, struggle to live after their father is taken away by the Nazis.

***What Was the Holocaust?* by Gail Herman**

Part of the "Who was? What was?" Series.

***The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson**

The biography of Leon Leyson, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's List child.

***Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

***White Bird* by R.J. Palacio (graphic novel)**

This volume tells the story of a Jewish girl who was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during WWII and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.

***The Promise: A Story of Two Sisters, Prisoners in a Nazi Concentration Camp* by Pnina Bat-Zvi**

A true story about how two brave sisters whose promise to their parents to always stay together helped them survive Auschwitz.

***Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine**

A biography of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust, told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana's suitcase was sent to her.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Teen Books:

***Somewhere There Is Still a Sun* by Michael Gruenbaum**

When the Nazis invade Czechoslovakia in 1941, twelve-year-old Michael and his family are deported from Prague to the Terezín concentration camp, where his mother's will and ingenuity keep them from being transported Auschwitz and certain death.

***Requiem* by Paul B. Janeczko**

Presents a collection of poetry inspired by the history of the people in the Terezín concentration camp during the holocaust.

***What the Night Sings* by Vesper Stamper**

After being liberated from the concentration camps, Gerta tries to make a new life for herself, aided by Lev, a fellow survivor.

***Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz**

Based on the life of Jack Gruener, this book relates his story of survival from the Nazi occupation of Krakow, when he was eleven, through a succession of concentration camps, to the final liberation of Dachau.

***They Went Left* by Monica Hesse**

Zofia, a teenage Holocaust survivor, travels across post-war Europe as she searches for her younger brother and seeks to rebuild her shattered life.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of WWII, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding.

***Survivor's Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz* by Michael Bornstein**

Tells the story of how a father's courageous wit, a mother's fierce love, and one perfectly timed illness saved Michael's life, and how others in his family from Zarki, Poland dodged death at the hands of the Nazis time and again with incredible deftness.

***We are Witnesses: Five Teenagers Who Died in the Holocaust* by Jacob Boas**

Diary entries written by five Holocaust victims document ordeals suffered in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, Hungary, Belgium, and Holland.

***Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl**

A timeless examination of life in the Nazi death camps, adapted for young adult readers.

Adult

***Let's Make Things Better* by Gidon Lev**

One Holocaust survivor's message of hope and celebration of life. After decades of silence, Gidon has retold his story of being imprisoned in Theresienstadt concentration camp from age six for nearly four years. Gidon's life is extraordinary not only because he is one of the few living survivors, but because of his lessons learned over nearly a century.

***A Sparrow in Terezín* by Kristy Cambron**

The Nazi regime claimed Terezín was a model camp, but when one London reporter lands behind its walls, she uncovers the horrors of this concentration camp that often served as a stop on the road to Auschwitz.

***Triumph of Hope* by Ruth Elias**

A first-person account of how a young Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia survived internment by the Nazis in the death camps of Terezín and Auschwitz during WW II.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

A Century of Wisdom by Caroline Stoessinger

Before her death at 110, the pianist Alice Herz-Sommer has seen it all, surviving the Theresienstadt concentration camp, attending the trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem, and along the way encountering some of the most fascinating historical figures of our time. Her story is a testament to the bonds of friendship, the power of music, and the importance of leading a life of material simplicity, intellectual curiosity, and never-ending optimism.

Last Days of Theresienstadt by Eva Noack-Mosse

In February of 1945, during the final months of the Third Reich, Eva was deported to the Nazi concentration camp of Theresienstadt. A trained journalist and expert typist, she was put to work in the Central Evidence office of the camp, compiling endless lists and all the obsessive details required by the SS. With access to camp records, she also recorded statistics and her own observations in a secret diary.

Borrowed Time by Dennis Carlyle Darling

In 2012, Darling began photographing and interviewing the aging and rapidly vanishing population of Holocaust survivors who spent time at the German transit camp and ghetto located at Terezín, a former eighteenth-century military garrison located north of Prague.

In Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezín

A beautiful memorial to the brave women who defied Hitler by preserving a part of their heritage and a part of themselves in this handwritten collection of recipes, proving that the Nazis could not break the spirit of the Jewish people.

The Girls of Room 28 by Hannelore Brenner-Wonschick

From 1942 to 1944, twelve thousand children passed through the Theresienstadt internment camp, near Prague, on their way to Auschwitz. Only a few hundred of them survived the war. Ten of these children tell us how they did it.

Night by Elie Wiesel

Born in the town of Sighet, Transylvania, Wiesel was a teenager when he and his family were deported to Auschwitz and then Buchenwald. *Night* is the shattering record of his memories of the death of his family and his own innocence.

Check Out These Films...

The Last Butterfly (2005)

In the tiny Czech village of Terezín, the Nazis plan a propaganda coup to reshape international opinion. In order to reassure a Red Cross delegation and to show the caring face of Nazism, Hitler has given the village to Jewish settlers as a place where they can live in freedom. (Rated R)

Defiant Requiem (2012)

A memorial concert reawakens the story of an artistic uprising in the Nazi concentration camp, Terezín, where a chorus of 150 inmates confronts the Nazis face-to-face and sings to them what they dare not say. (Rated N/A)

The Number on Great-grandpa's Arm (2017)

This short documentary looks at the relationship between an inquisitive American boy and his great-grandfather, a Polish-born Jew who lost both his parents to the Nazis but was able to survive Auschwitz and make his way to America. (Rated TV-PG)

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

Our Education Outreach



Classroom Connections

Student Matinee Field Trips

Resource Guides

Monologues & Movement

Act-48 Credit Workshops

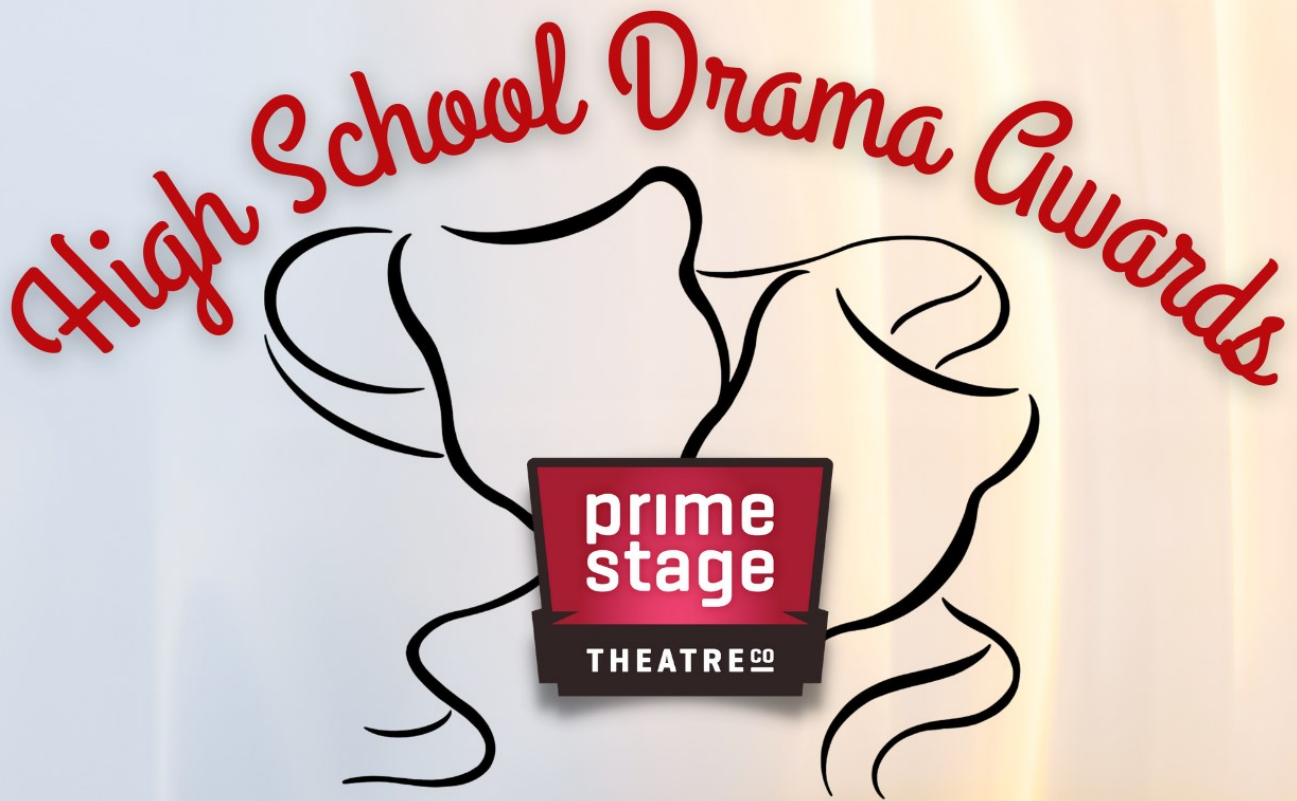
and much more!



www.primestage.com



*Literacy in
ACTion*



Becoming a Participating School for our 6th Annual Drama Awards

Scan the QR code to register or visit our website at
www.primestage.com/dramaawards



For more information email dramaawards@primestage.com

Our High School Drama Awards are designed to reward excellence in high-school drama for non-musical productions: one act or full length. We will accept participating schools on a first come, first served basis.

The Hillman Center for the Performing Arts is a proud supporter of the Prime Stage High School Drama Awards



Perform at the Hillman

The Hillman Center's Richard E. Rauh Theater is a state-of-the-art, 600-seat performance space. We also have the Peter J. Kountz Black Box Theater, that seats 200, for smaller performances, as well as an outdoor plaza. These spaces are designed for high-quality presentations of the arts, and provide ample space for groups to meet, practice and perform.

Learn more at thehillman.org/rentals

FUNDERS

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD)
Jack Buncher Foundation
Calvin Presbyterian Church
The Grable Foundation
The Heinz Endowments
Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh
King Family Giving Fund
Massey Charitable Trust
National Endowment for the Arts
Nora Roberts Foundation
The Philip Chosky Charitable and Educational Foundation
Donald & Sylvia Robinson Family Foundation
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Snee-Reinhard Charitable Foundation
Staunton Farm Foundation
TEPCO Trombold Equipment Company



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Angela Abadila	Holly Douglas	Courtney Kuza	Lynda Schuster
Darlane Abel	Sherry DuCarme	Roberta Lasto	Mike Sharkey
Bonnie Anderson	Janet M. Edwards	Michael Ledgard	Linda Shonka
John Appolonia	Mary Lou Ellena	Kendal Leon	Lisa Silverstein
Claudia Babicz	Pat Farkas	Julie P. Leslie	Becky Simpson
Lisa Bansavage	Edward Fassler	Stanley & Pat Levine	Lew & Janet Soltis
Enrique Bazan	Aaron Fischer	Karen Lindenfelder	Christen Stroh
Cathy Bazan-Arias	Bryan Fischer	Sue ann Lockhart	Virginia Suplee
Norma Bazan-Arias	Diane Flanigan	Ashley London	Irene Surmik
Janet Becker	Christie Fowkes	Jane Louik	Stephanie Swift
John Bednarz	Lynne Franks	Ken & Sharon Lutz	Holly Szerszen
Sharon Bernstein	Mark Freeman	Karn Matis	Megan Tague
David Bindseil	Sally Friedman	Robert McCollum	Paul & Martha Trombold
Jean Bird	Lisa Fuciarelli	Lawrence McCullough	Robert & Deborah Trombold
Mark Bolding	Anne Fulton	Brenda McDonnell	Eric Tuten
Carl Borntraeger	Casey Garlick	Fiona McGrath	Amber & Michael Vala
Michele Borkoski	Mary Geyer	Jenna & Jim Mersereau	Shane & Eleanor Valenzi
Mary Boscia	Lloyd & Regina Gibson	Karen Miller	Renee Vandall
Janet Bouma	Mary Gibson	Jennifer Miller	Susan Wagner
Wayne & Connie Brinda	Suzanne Gilliland	Jim & Joyce Miller	Russell Walker
Betsy Brink	Leslie Goldstein & Margie Bachman	Dana Milyak	Marcia Walsh
Elizabeth Brink	Robert Gundersen	Mellanie Mudroch	Suzanne Ward
Lauren Brink	Lauren Haag	Cara & Justin Nagel	Gloria Wertz
Kimberly Brothers	Susan Hagan	Anne Marie Nelson	Cindy West
Laurie Bruns	Allen Helgerman	Robert Neu	Sarah Wiggin
Rosemary Bunker	Kenneth Henderson	Molly O'Connell	Deb Wirth
Allison Cahill	Matthew Henderson	Kathy O'Connor	Barbara Wolvovitz
Kelly Cay	Michael & Evonee Henry	Somer Obernauer	Theresa L. Zapata
Bob and Donna Chappel	Jeannett Hickman	Barbara Ondo	Rose Marie Zingrone
Jennifer Chontos	Marc Hoffman	Catherine Paine	Nancy Zionts
Linda Christ	Tom Hoffman	Catherine Parham	Margaret Zook
Leslie Clark	Andrea Holmes	Heidi Patterson	Julia & Oliva Zoratto
Lisa Colautti	Dr. & Mrs. Henry Huffman	Mike Perry	Sueanne & Enzo Zoratto
Rachel Colker	Marcia Irwin	Donna Pomella	
Lawrence Connolly	Isabel Jaffer	Michael Ralph	Other Donations
Rene Conrad	Ponny Conomas Jahn	James Ramsey	Anonymous
Jerry & Kathy Coyne	Lonnie Jantsch	David Randolph	Facebook Birthday Campaigns
Caitlin Crawford	Carolyn King	Scott Roller	In-Kind Contributions
Bob & Judy Cunningham	Christine King	Ron & Sheila R	In Memory Of
Michelle Dashner	Randall & Lisa King	Nathan Ruggles	
Jean Dennison	David Kirk	Mona D. Rush	
Pam Dickinson	Maryann Klimezek	Karen Scansaroli	
Gina Dillon	Gary Kmer	Jen Schaupp	
Steven Doerfler	Scott Kunka	Alan & Terri Scheller-Wolf	
John & Louanne Dolphin	Geoffery & Kristin Kurland	Laura Schmid	

PRIME STAGE THEATRE

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.	Producing Artistic Director
Connie Brinda.....	General Manager
Linda Haston	Education Director
Cindy West	Education Box Office Manager
Rebecca L. Godlove	Teaching Artist
Lawrence McCullough, Ph.D.....	Public Relations Director
Matt Henderson	Social Media Director
Sophie McClung	Audience Development
Michael R. Petyak.....	Intimacy Coordinator
Nathan Ruggles.....	Audio Describer
John Dolphin.....	Drama Awards Director
Jason Kmetic	Prime Stage Rehearsal Studio Manager
John Clark	Web Designer
Veda Laine	Data Base Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martha Trombold, President
Mary Lou Ellena, Vice President
Lawrence McCullough, Ph.D., Secretary
Deborah Wirth, Treasurer

Enrique Bazán	Richard Garland	Amber Vala, Esq.
Connie Brinda, Ex officio	Mary E. Gibson, Esq,	Shane Valenzi, Esq.
Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.	Cara Nagel	Sueanne Zoratto

College Honorary Board Member, Anthony Luisi

THE MISSION OF PRIME STAGE THEATRE

To bring great literature and history to life through the transformative process of live theatre – to entertain, inform, enrich, and inspire audiences with engaging programs that deliver long-lasting benefits to theatregoers, families, students, and educators of our region.

OUR VISION

Employs the engaging immediacy of live theatre to enrich the lives of our patrons, fostering empathy and community connection, opening the mind to new perspectives, and instilling qualities of imagination, creativity, curiosity and wonder.

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, historical figures, and programs are selected and produced to meet those goals.

AMBASSADORS

They encourage conversations with patrons, resulting in continued patronage and support and promoting Prime Stage Theatre throughout the Pittsburgh region.

prime
stage

THEATRE CO

Our Season of Strength, Voices, and Hope!



Great
Expectations

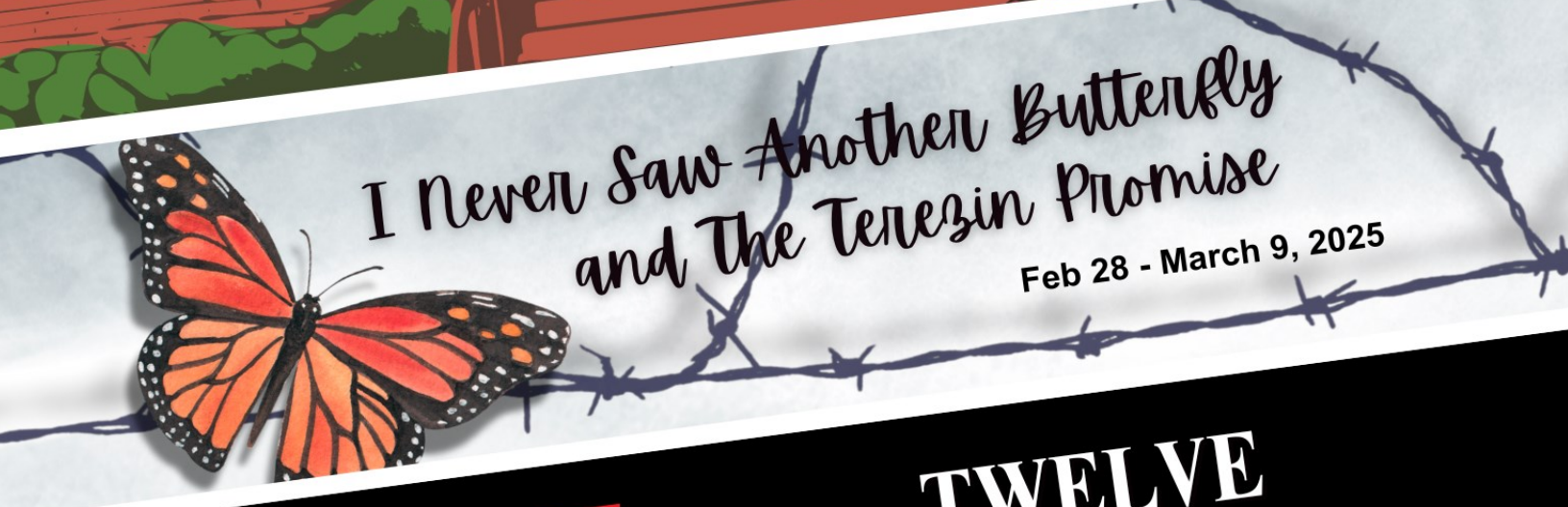
November 1 – 10, 2024

Look Forward:



The Ruby Bridges Story

January 17 – 26, 2025



I Never Saw Another Butterfly
and The Terezin Promise

Feb 28 - March 9, 2025



TWELVE
ANGRY MEN

May 2 - 11, 2025

New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts, 6 Allegheny Square East, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

www.primestage.com

new
Hazlett
theater