



Speak

**prime
stage**

THEATRE CO

May 1 - 10, 2026

at the New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts

WELCOME



Thank you for joining us for the final production of our 25/26 season.

I am especially honored to share this story with you. When I first met Laurie Halse Anderson during her visit to Pitt-Bradford, I witnessed firsthand the profound impact her novel has had on young people, parents, and educators. Hearing individuals, both young and adult, share how this story “saved their lives” reaffirmed my commitment to bringing *Speak* to the stage as part of Prime Stage’s mission to give voice to meaningful literature.

Tonight’s performance invites you into Melinda’s world as she navigates the challenges of high school while carrying the weight of a life-altering experience. Her journey is one of silence, resilience, and ultimately, finding the courage to speak.

As you experience this story, we invite you not only to witness Melinda’s struggle, but also to reflect on the voices around us - those spoken, and those still waiting to be heard. *Speak* reminds us of the power of listening, the importance of empathy, and the impact we can have when we create space for others to share their truth with us.

Thank you for being here, and for supporting theater that brings important stories to life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Brinda". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.
Producing Artistic Director



Prime Stage Theatre *Presents*

SPEAK

Adapted for the Stage by

Tammy Ryan

Directed by

Dana Hardy Bingham

Original Theme Song

Carla Bianco

Featuring:

Milena Casciani

Aylee Gardner

Jacqueline Germer

Grace Gouwens

Jeff Johnston

Sadie Karashin

Eamonn McElfresh

Justin Mohr

Zora Rose

Anne Marie Sweeney

Evan Vay

David Wang

Abigail Brown

Production Manager

Kaitlyn Ciancio

Scenic Designer

Alex Keplar.

Technical Director

Alex Barnhart

Lighting Designer

Rianne Lindsey

Sound Designer

Samantha Magill

Media Designer

Jules Malice

Costume Designer

Ricky Lyle

Properties Designer

Alex Keplar

Dialect Coach

Lisa Bansavage

Intimacy Coordinator

Michael R. Petyak

Stage Manager

Elizabeth Tweel

Assistant Stage Manager

Jordan Kauffman

Adapted by Prime Stage
from the book by Laurie H Anderson published by Macmillan

This production is funded in part by Staunton Farm Foundation

SPEAK

A moving story about a teenage girl who uses art to find her voice and redefine her identity. The play is an empowering testament to resilience and finding one's voice and strength; it is a seminal performance not to be missed.

THE CAST

Milena Casciani.....	Rachel/Ensemble
Aylee Gardner.....	Melinda
Jacqueline Germer.....	Melinda 2
Grace Gouwens.....	Heather/Ensemble
Jeff Johnston.....	Mr. Freeman
Sadie Karashin.....	Nicole/Ensemble
Eamonn McElfresh.....	Andy/Ensemble
Justin Mohr.....	Father/Ensemble
Zora Rose.....	Ivy/Ensemble
Anne Marie Sweeney.....	Mother/Ensemble
Evan Vay.....	David/Ensemble
David Wang.....	Principal Principle/Ensemble
Abigail Brown.....	Understudy/Ensemble

Setting:

Northeastern Town, and Merryweather High School

Run Time:

Approximately 2 hours, including one 15-minute intermission

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN STAFF

Playwright.....	Tammy Ryan
Director.....	Dana Hardy Bingham
Theme Song Written, Performed and Co-produced.....	Carla Bianco
Theme Song Co-produced and mixed by.....	Rob Deaner at The Vault Recording Studios.
Lyrics from the stage adaptation by ...	Tammy Ryan from the book by Laurie Halse Anderson
Producing Artistic Director.....	Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.
Production Manager.....	Kaitlyn Ciancio
Scenic Designer.....	Alex Keplar
Technical Director.....	Alex Barnhart
Lighting Designer.....	Rianne Lindsey
Media Designer.....	Jules Malice
Sound Designer.....	Samantha Magill
Costume Designer.....	Ricky Lyle
Properties Designer.....	Alex Keplar
Dialect Coach.....	Lisa Bansavage
Intimacy Coordinator/Fight Choreographer.....	Michael R. Petyak
Stage Manager.....	Elizabeth Tweel
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Jordan Kauffman
Dramaturg.....	Lindsay Barr
Student Director.....	Eva Friedlander
Special Consultant.....	PAAR
Mental Health Consultant.....	Jeff Johnston
Cheerleader Choreographer.....	Sadie Karashin
Carpenter.....	Michael Boone
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

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.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS IS EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING:

Daina Griffith
Jason Kmetic
Will McGinnis
Lauren Seelbaugh
Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie
Downtown Pittsburgh Lions Club
Front Porch Theatricals
GPAC / Great Pittsburgh Arts Council
LAMP / Library of Accessible Media for PA
PAAR
Provident Charter School & Ms. Quinn Smith
Shaler North Hills Library
New Hazlett Ushers and Volunteers
Prime Stage Board of Directors & Volunteers
Theme Song "Give Voice" Music tracks by pianist Dwayne Fulton & Jason Kendall

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 2026 and are 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.

KEEP THE MAGIC OF THEATRE ALIVE!

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 codes
- 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, character appearances, along with the 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.

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 patrons with blindness or low vision for every Prime Stage production since 2017. Together they continued accessibility through the pandemic and expanded services, receiving in 2022 the Award for Achievement in Audio Description for Theater from The American Council of the Blind (ACB). As Founder and Principal of Audio Describe Pittsburgh, Nathan furnishes a host of comprehensive services in addition to writing and narration for organizations throughout the region and beyond. This includes the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh CLO, Film Pittsburgh, Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, Andy Warhol Museum, PNC Park, and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. His training has been through the Audio Description Institute, Audio Description Access, Audio Description Coalition, VSA Pennsylvania, and Kennedy Center Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD). He has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Council for the Blind. His work reflects a unique background in professional stage acting, voice over, podcast hosting, broadcast production, arts administration, and political advocacy. Learn more at nathanruggles.org

Teen Programs

Our Youth Media Center offers free programs for 6th through 12th graders interested in podcasting, writing, music, journalism, and more. Sign up at ymc.slbradio.org.



On the Air

Hear interactive puzzles, interviews, and live performances from youth and adults on *The Saturday Light Brigade*.

Saturdays from 6:00am to noon

88.3 FM and slbradio.org/radio

Teachers/Educators

SLB's Youth Media Center is also open for affordable and free school-day group visits.

Check out slbradio.org/fieldtrips.





PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY



www.brandonpiercemedia.com

Who is PAAR ?

PITTSBURGH ACTION AGAINST RAPE

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting survivors of sexual violence and working toward the prevention of sexual assault. For over 53 years, we have been empowering survivors, providing critical resources, and advocating for social change.

PAAR is committed to eliminating sexual violence through education, prevention, and advocacy. We provide direct services to individuals impacted by sexual violence, including therapy, counseling, support groups, emergency response & legal advocacy, while also working to change the cultural norms that allow it to persist.

What We Offer

Trauma Informed Therapy

Case Management

Group Support

Education & Prevention

24/7 Emergency Support

Trafficking Support



HELPLINE | Chat Online at [paar.net](https://www.paar.net)
Call/Text: 1-866-363-7273

AUTHOR



photo credit to Susanne Kronholm.

Laurie Halse Anderson is a *New York Times* bestselling author known for tackling tough subjects with humor and sensitivity. She's twice been a National Book Award finalist, for *Chains* and *Speak*; *Chains* also received the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. Laurie was chosen for the 2009 Margaret A. Edwards Award and received the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award in 2023, presented to her by the Crown Princess of Sweden. She lives in Pennsylvania, and you can follow her adventures on X @HalseAnderson or visit her at MadWomanintheForest.com.

PLAYWRIGHT



Tammy Ryan's award-winning plays have been performed, commissioned and developed across the United States and internationally at such theaters as Pittsburgh Public Theater, City Theater Company, The REP at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, Prime Stage, The Alliance Theater, Barter Theatre, Dorset Theater Festival, Florida Stage, Marin Theater, Portland Stage Company, Theater Lab and 29th Street Rep among many others. She is the inaugural recipient of the 2024 Leah Ryan Fund's "Boost" commission award to write *The Boy King in Queens* centering around the transportation of the King Tut exhibit into the Met in 1979, developed at New Dramatists at PlayTime and presented at LaMama Shares in 2025. Other recent commissions include *North of Forbes*, an Agatha Christie adaptation for Pittsburgh Public Theater and *Seven Cousins For A Horse* about the portrait artist Ammi Phillips which premiered at Thrown Stone Theater Company and is currently being developed into a chamber opera by Aria 412.

Honors include the Francesca Primus Prize, awarded by the American Theater Critics Association for *Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods* (Premiere Stages). *The Music Lesson*, commissioned and produced by Prime Stage Theatre, received a Carbonell award for best production and the AATE Distinguished New Play Award in 2000, professionally premiered at Florida Stage in 2004. *The Music Lesson* has since had well over fifty productions nationally and in Canada. *Molly's Hammer* (Repertory Theater of St. Louis) about Pittsburgh peace and social justice activist Molly Rush, was nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the ATCA Steinberg New Play Award and a St. Louis Theater Critics Circle Award; *Tar Beach* (Luna Stage) was also nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and included on the Kilroy's List. Other plays include *Take My Hand And Wave Goodbye* (Trustus Theatre), *The Wake* (Premiere Stages), *Soldier's Heart* (Pittsburgh Playhouse), *Lindsey's Oyster* (Garag Istanbul) and *Baby's Blues* which was performed at the National Center for Performing Arts in Mumbai, India and presented by Surnai Theater in a touring production in 2019 & 2024. Ryan's work for young audiences includes, *We Are Antigone*, commissioned as part of the Alliance Theater Company's Collision Project, published by Playscripts and produced at high schools across the United States, Canada and Australia.

Ryan is a resident playwright of New Dramatists class of 2027, a 2020 Haas Fellow and an alumna of the Pittsburgh Public Theater Playwrights Collective. Her work has been supported by The Bogliasco Foundation, Hambidge Center, The Heinz Endowments, New Harmony Project, National New Play Network, Pennsylvania Council of the Arts, Pittsburgh Foundation, Sewanee Writers Conference and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Her plays are available from Concord Theatricals, Broadway Play Publishing, Inc. and Dramatic Publishing Company. For more: www.tammyryanplays.com.

DIRECTOR



Dana Hardy Bingham has been passionate about theater for over four decades. She earned her MFA in Acting from the University of Iowa as the recipient of the Iowa Arts Fellowship. She worked professionally as an actor at Iowa Summer Rep for two summers playing memorable roles in plays by Tom Stoppard and George F. Walker, respectively. While in Iowa, she directed *Two Gentlemen of Verona* at Riverside Young People's Company. After grad school, Dana worked as an actor in NYC at the Duffy Theatre, Cherry Lane, Hypothetical Theatre, Hourglass Group, and Gertrude Stein Repertory. Pittsburgh theater acting credits: *King Lear*, *The Collaborators*, and *After Mrs. Rochester* (Quantum); *Walk Two Moons* and *Devil's Arithmetic* (Prime Stage); *800 Words: The Transmigration of Philip K. Dick*, *Risk Everything*, and *Savage in Limbo* (Caravan Theater of Pittsburgh – founding member); *The Umbrella Man* directed by the late Robert Miller and Amy Hartman's world premiere of *The Chicken Snake* (The REP); Humana Festival playwright Allison Moore's *Eighteen* (LTD Productions); *The Scarlet Letter* (Open Stage), and Emma in *Bird Island* (Public Exposure Series/Public Theatre). Dana's tv acting credits: *American Rust*, *Manhunt* and *Gone*.

As the Drama Director at Shady Side Academy for ten years, Dana directed more than thirty productions, including two abroad at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland where she earned the Distinction in Directing award in 2016. Dana's directing credits beyond Shady Side Academy include *Elf Jr.* and *Newsies* (Montour David E. Williams); *Popcorn Falls* and *On Golden Pond* (Little Lake Theater); and *BUS - Bricolage Urban Scrawl* (Bricolage Theater Company). Next up, Dana will be directing *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B* at Little Lake Theater in August.

Dana would like to thank the cast, crew and design team for their talents and dedication in every phase of the process. She'd also like to thank Wayne and Connie for choosing her to direct this incredibly important play, Tammy for her powerful, heart wrenching, hopeful adaptation and Laurie Halse Anderson for writing this outstanding and influential novel. Finally, Dana wants to thank you, the audience - for it is your presence here today that gives us all the ability to share provocative, thoughtful, change-making theater in hopes of creating a better world for our children, our community and society at large.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Adapting a powerful novel like Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak* means managing the collective memory of millions of readers. We aren't just staging a book; we are giving life to a theatrical presentation for survivors of sexual trauma. With permission and support by Laurie Halse Anderson the author of *Speak*, Tammy Ryan has done an extraordinary job of capturing this novel—not an easy task. Ms. Anderson's novel is told from the perspective of the protagonist, Melinda Sordino.

In the novel, Melinda's trauma is a solitary, internal battle. On stage, that solitary struggle must become a physical reality. As you will see, we created a theatrical device to bring you inside Melinda's thoughts. In our production, the goal was to honor Melinda's trauma ensuring the stage becomes a place of witness rather than just performance. This adaptation allows you, the audience, to move beyond the pages of prose and into the visceral space of theater where healing begins.

There is an important necessity in bringing relevant topics to the stage. Unlike a book that can be closed or a screen that can be turned off, theater demands a continued communal presence. We sit together in the dark and acknowledge truths that are often easier to ignore. By transforming a "taboo" topic into a shared physical experience, we strip away the isolation where shame thrives. Theater creates a safe environment for "dangerous" conversations, proving that when we witness pain collectively, we begin to dismantle the stigma that keeps survivors in the shadows and brings them closer to recovery.

In this world premiere, our cast and crew have the profound honor of being the first to give Melinda a three-dimensional heartbeat. We move her story from a private reading experience into a shared, communal act of empathy and awareness. We hope it serves as a reminder that no matter how long the silence lasts, the truth is always worth the sound of your voice. For Melinda, you see how through the help, understanding and support of a teacher and the power of art, Melinda finds courage. This shows that when you are finally able to speak your truth, you can grow, recover and move past trauma.

Thank you for taking this incredibly important journey with us and for trusting Prime Stage to tell Melinda's impactful, consequential story.

SPEAK THEME SONG "GIVE VOICE" COMPOSER



Carla Bianco is a member of the Dramatist's Guild and currently pursuing her Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting and Screenwriting at Point Park University, where she is also an adjunct professor in voice and musical theatre. She is the proud recipient of an ASCAP Award for penning the #1 Billboard song and international hit, "The Lover That You Are".

She is the composer and librettist for *Kaleidoscope*, an autobiographical musical which was selected for the ASCAP/Disney Musical Theater Workshop in Los Angeles directed by Stephen Schwartz, and subsequently led to staged readings and workshops at The Lillian Theater and The Blank Theater Company, both in Los Angeles and then, most recently was presented at The Pittsburgh Playhouse.

Carla's stage adaptation of her short screenplay, *Under the Gun*, was selected by the Tiger Heart's Players, a Global Theater Company, this past summer and presented for their 116th Lab Session. She also completed her first feature screenplay, *Becoming Van Gogh*, which is a quarterfinalist in the Outstanding Screenplays Feature Competition 2026 and also the Emerging Screenwriters Competition and is currently under consideration.

Carla got her start in the music business when she was discovered by Jellybean Benitez, who produced Madonna, and released Carla's first dance composition, "Not This Time" on Atlantic Records. She landed a 4-year publishing deal with House of Fun Music and went on to write several Billboard top ten hits like "Music Takes You" by Pulse and had songs licensed by Sony for Primetime TV shows.

As a performer, Carla is most known for her starring role as Maureen in the Pulitzer-Prize-winning show *Rent*, in the Los Angeles Premiere at the Ahmanson Theatre and on Broadway at the Nederlander. She has performed with national acts such as Kenny Loggins and Gino Vannelli. She also toured the East Coast where she debuted her cabaret show at 54 Below in NYC. Carla has released 3 studio albums and several singles as a Sony Orchard recording artist, where several of her critically acclaimed songs have received national radio airplay and recognition.

She has worked on Broadway, off-Broadway and regionally in many cutting edge and relevant shows working directly with the composer themselves. Some highlights include *Spring Awakening*, where she originated the role of Wendla, working with Duncan Sheik and Michael Mayer, in its early stages at Sundance Theatre Lab and also *Do I Hear a Waltz* at the Georgetreest Playhouse where Carla got to work with the legendary Arthur Laurents and present the revival for the composer himself, Stephen Sondheim.

<https://carlabianco.com/>

"Bianco's music is a true representation of how talented she is as a polished musician. Her songwriting skills are top notch."

Steve L. Walker
JUST VIBIN'



Aylee Gardner



Jacqueline Germer

Speak Cast



Milena Casciani



Grace Gouwens



Jeff Johnston



Sadie Karashin



Eamonn McElfresh



Justin Mohr



Zora Rose



Anne Marie Sweeney



Evan Vay



David Wang



Abigail Brown

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Milena Casciani (Rachel/Ensemble)

Milena is a junior at Upper St Clair High School and is playing Rachel. She has been involved with theatre most of her life and is so thrilled to have this opportunity to work at Prime Stage. *Speak* is such an amazing play, and Milena hopes everyone appreciates it as much as she does being part of it. She would like to say a big thank you to all of the cast and staff for making this show possible!

Aylee Gardner (Melinda)

Aylee is thrilled to be making her Prime Stage debut! All the way from Tennessee, she is currently a sophomore acting major at Point Park University. Some of her past roles include Leisl in *The Sound of Music* (Center for the Arts), Little One in *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* (Point Park University), and Pilar in *Legally Blonde* (Central Magnet School). In addition to acting, she loves to write, direct, and choreograph. She also teaches acting, dancing, and improv skills to young artists back home. She would like to give a big shout-out to all of her family, friends, mentors, and professors who have inspired and pushed her to be where she is today—especially her mom, Heather, from whom she learned how to lead with motivation, empathy, and love. Finally, she would like to thank Laurie Halse Anderson and the production team, who have inspired and brought to life the important voices of so many young individuals. Remember: you are strong, you are seen, you are heard.

Jacqueline Germer (Melinda 2)

Jacqueline is currently studying at Carnegie Mellon University to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance. This year she performed in CMU School of Music productions as the Young Woman in *Putting it Together*, a Sondheim revue, and in the opera *L'étoile*, as a Maid of Honor. While Jacqueline has extensive training in voice, she also has ample stage experience in Theatre and Musical Theatre as well. She performed as Ashleigh in *Horse Girls* and Rita in *Prelude to a Kiss*. Jacqueline has also played Carrie in *Carrie The Musical*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. She is very grateful for the opportunity to work with the creative team to shape and fully realize Melinda 2's character, and she is so excited to share it with audiences.

Grace Gouwens (Heather/Ensemble)

Grace is a Pittsburgh based actor and musician. This is her first show with Prime Stage and she is so excited to play Heather in *Speak*. Grace has been active in the theater community in Pittsburgh. She is enrolled in the CLO Academy for musical theater, where she dances, sings, and studies acting. Memorable credits include Emily Webb in *Our Town!* at Fox Chapel, Judy Turner in *A Chorus Line* at CLO Academy and Volunteer Clinician in *Watson* streaming on CBS. Grace plans to Savanna College of Art and Design to study acting. Grace plans to attend a four-year university to study acting. Grace hopes you enjoy the show, and that it "Speaks" to you!

Jeff Johnston (Mr. Freeman)

Prime Stage Debut! Jeff is an actor, director, and producer based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He most recently was the director and producer for Steel City Cabaret's production of *The Last Five Years*. Jeff's performance credits include Sweeney Todd (*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*), Officer Lockstock (*Urinetown*), Karl (*Big Fish*), Fred Casley (*Chicago*), Jake (*Evil Dead*), William Barfée (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), Jim (*All Shook Up*), Tilden (*Buried Child*), Robert (*Boeing Boeing*) and Dennis (*Rock of Ages*). Directing credits include *Into the Woods*, *Assassins*, *Doubt: A Parable*; *Fuddy Meers*; *A Christmas Story: The Musical*; *Ripcord*; and *Sylvia*. Locally, he has worked with Pittsburgh Musical Theater, Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, The Strand Theater, Stage 62, Mon River Arts, Little Lake Theatre and others! Next up, Jeff will be directing *Anything Goes* at Mon River Arts!

Sadie Karashin (Nicole/Ensemble)

Sadie is thrilled to be Nicole/Ensemble as well as the choreographer for Prime Stage's production of *Speak!* She has previously been in two other Prime Stage shows; *And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank* as Young Eva Geiringer Schloss and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly and the Terezin Promise* as Eva Passerova. Sadie also participates in many classes at Pittsburgh Musical Theater in their TPIP program. Past PMT productions include Louise Bigelow in *Carousel*, Wendy Darling in *Peter Pan*, Martha Cratchit in *A Lyrical Christmas Carol*, Young Lucy in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, and Dance Ensemble in *Newsies* and *Annie*. She attends Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Highschool as a sophomore and is a varsity cheerleader. She would like to thank her parents, family, friends, and teachers for always helping her reach for the stars and God for blessing her with many opportunities to tell important stories.

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Eamonn McElfresh (Andy/Ensemble)

Eamonn is a Senior at Pgh CAPA, is thrilled to be back at The New Hazlett with Prime Stage Theater. Eamon was recently seen in The Public's performances of Scut Farkus *A Christmas Story*. Other selected professional theater credits include Wyatt Crachit in The PCLO's *Christmas Carol*, Christian Bechdel in Front Porch Theatricals in *Fun Home* and Bellboy in *Grand Hotel*, Edmund in Prime Stage Theater's *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* and Henry in *The Boxcar Children* and Edward in Quantum Theater's *Chatterton*. For several years he has been a Top Five Finalist in The Public's Shakespeare Competition. In 2025, Eamonn represented The CLO in NYC at The Jimmy Awards (Pierre) as a semi-finalist. This fall he will be heading to Ithaca College to pursue a BFA in acting. Eamonn would like to thank his teachers and family for their support.

Justin Mohr (Father/Ensemble)

Justin is excited to be working with Prime Stage again and working with Dana Hardy. He previously appeared in *Edgar Allen Poe Presents* and *Fahrenheit 451* at Prime Stage. Justin graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BA in Theater Arts. He spent several years in NYC and Chicago performing with sketch comedy/improv groups, various theater companies, and commercials. Justin has worked on several major films and TV shows. He was also in *The Baristas*, a Pittsburgh based web series that is on YouTube. Favorite past roles include Jack (*Leading Ladies*), Gary Lejune (*Noises Off*), John Smith (*Run for Your Wife*), Bernard (*Boeing, Boeing*), and many others. Love and thanks to this cast and crew. Special thanks to his friends and family for their ongoing love and support.

Zora Rose (Ivy/Ensemble)

Zora is a musical theater student at Pittsburgh CAPA and is excited to be a part of this production. She has previously performed in *A Christmas Story: The Play* (Pittsburgh Public Theater), *Our Song* (Demaskus Theater Collective/August Wilson Center), and various productions at her high school. Outside of theater, Zora enjoys volunteering, crafting, and reading. She would like to thank everyone who has shown her love and support.

Anne Marie Sweeney (Mother/Ensemble)

Anne Marie is delighted to be making her debut with Prime Stage and in particular with this remarkable production of *Speak*. Recent theater roles include Vernet in Little Lake Theatre's *The DaVinci Code*, Chelsea in Little Lake Theatre's *On Golden Pond* and Leslie in South Park Theatre's *Slyvia*. Prior collaborations include CLIMB Theater in St Paul, Minnesota, Hyde Park Players in Chicago and Hustlebot Improv here in Steel City. She would like to especially thank Josh who lately has been doing a lot of dinner clean-up and kid bedtimes!

Evan Vay (David/Ensemble)

Evan is thrilled to be back in Pittsburgh in his very first Prime Stage production! Evan earned his BFA from Baldwin-Wallace University in 2024, where he performed in a variety of productions, including Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Evan in *The Aliens*, and Edwards in *Blue Stockings*. He has also been involved in training programs with many different theaters across the country, including Powerhouse Theater, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and the Tepper Semester at Syracuse University. Within these programs, he has helped develop an assortment of new works from up-and-coming playwrights. Evan would like to thank his family, friends, and castmates, and mentors for their unwavering support throughout this production.

David Wang (Principal/Ensemble)

David is excited to be part of the cast of *Speak*! He has performed as Nikos in *Big Love*, the Purser in *Anything Goes*, performed the K-pop dance *Jellyous*, sung in an acapella group with extremely off-beat snaps (my arms were practically flailing), and written many lines of poetry. That's me!

Abigail Brown (Understudy/Ensemble)

Abigail is a senior at North Catholic. She is part of CLO Academy's Pre-Professional Development Program and takes lessons from Daina Griffith and Molly Stater. Abigail plans to attend a 4-year college for a BFA in Musical Theater or Acting. This is her first production with Prime Stage! She is very grateful for this opportunity.



CARLA BIANCO

GIVE VOICE

Give Voice Concert celebrates the heart-stirring original songs of award-winning composer and Broadway Alumna, Carla Bianco.

prime
stage
THEATRE CO

MONDAY SPECIAL

Monday, May 4, 2026, at 7:30 pm



www.primestage.com/monday-special

Tickets: www.primestage.com

Location: New Hazlett Center for Performing Arts, 6 Allegheny Square E., Pittsburgh, PA 15212





Join us for an exciting
2026 Season
at the New Hazlett Theater



May 15th-24th
Director: Daina Michelle Griffith
Music Director: Doug Levin



August 14th-23rd
Director: Aaron Galligan-Stierle
Music Director: Melissa Yanchak

Tickets on Sale Now!
FrontPorchPGH.com



Shakespeare's R&J

Written by Joe Calarco
Directed by J. Cody Spellman

May 8-10, 2026
City Theatre Mainstage*

Shakespeare's R&J follows four boys living under strict rules, who begin to act out the forbidden play of Romeo and Juliet amongst themselves. What starts as an act of defiance and playful experimentation quickly becomes something deeper.

Through Shakespeare's language, the boys reveal hidden desires and vulnerabilities. In a world built on control, Shakespeare's words become an act of resistance. A reminder that the choice to speak—or stay silent—is one we all face.

Visit our website (QR code below) for more information
and secure your spot NOW!

Julia
production.

OPPORTUNITY
FUND

TOMAYKO
FOUNDATION

The Frank-Ratchye
STUDIO
for Creative Inquiry



*City Theatre is unaffiliated with this production
and only serving as its host venue.





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**

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Lisa Bansavage (Dialect Coach)

Lisa is delighted to be working on her fourteenth 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*.

Alex 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.

Lindsay L. Barr (Dramaturg)

Lindsay is a freelance dramaturg and arts administrator. A Carnegie Mellon University alum (BFA Drama '20), recent credits include *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (Dramaturg, City Theatre) *The Hobbit* (Dramaturg, Pittsburgh Public Theater), *Echos of Birthday Laughter* (Dramaturg, Young Playwrights Festival, City Theater). Lindsay's work has been published in Routledge's *Dramaturgy and History: Staging the Archive* (2024).

Kaitlyn Ciancio (Production Manager)

Kaitlyn is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Journalism and Public Relations with minors in Communications Media and Sociology. In addition to her role with Prime Stage, she works full-time in marketing at the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, supporting a wide range of programming across the Cultural District—including mission-driven initiatives, festivals, and Liberty Magic. Kaitlyn is passionate about supporting artists and theater professionals and has done so in a variety of forms over the years. When she's not working behind the scenes, you can usually find her in the audience supporting Pittsburgh's vibrant performing arts community one show at a time.

Eva Friedlander (Student Director)

Eva is delighted to be Prime Stage Theater's first-ever high school student to serve as assistant director and is especially honored to help bring the world premiere of *Speak* to the stage. She thanks Dana Bingham Hardy and Prime Stage for this meaningful opportunity and is grateful to be part of this artistic team. Eva is a junior at Shady Side Academy, where she recently wrote and performed the opening monologue for Charles Mee's *Big Love*, contributing to an award-nominated performance of 6 shows, assistant directed the production, and performed as the Greek chorus leader and Eleanor. Some of her previous roles include Helena Glory in Karel Capek's *R.U.R.* and Anna in *Frozen*, both at Shady Side Academy, and Helga in Prime Stage Theater's *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: The Children of Terezin*. Eva is passionate about theater's power to tell important stories and build connection and understanding; she dedicates her work on this production to anyone struggling to find their voice.

Jordan Kauffman (Assistant Stage Manager)

Jordan is thrilled to be working with Prime Stage again after *Edgar Allen Poe Presents* and *Freedom House!* She recently graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, where she worked on *As You Like It: The Musical* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Lightning Thief* (Assistant Stage Manager), and various other productions. She also worked at Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre as a carpenter and deck crew. In addition to Prime Stage, Jordan is working at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater in Pittsburgh. Enjoy the show!

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Alex Keplar (Scenic and Resident Properties Designer)

Alex is a Pittsburgh based scenic and properties designer. She is a graduate of Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and is excited to be working with Prime Stage again as their Resident Properties Designer! 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!

Rianne Lindsey (Lighting Designer)

Rianne is a freelance lighting designer, technician, and educator based here in Pittsburgh. She has worked with various local theatrical and dance companies, schools, and community organizations to share stories and art during a time when it has become crucial. Select credits include: *Guys and Dolls*, Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 (2026); *Ego*, New Hazlett Theater (2025); *To Battle*, Big Storm Performance Co. (2025); *Lost on a Loom*, Kelly Strayhorn Theater (2024); *Uncle Vanya*, Throughline Theatre Company (2023). Rianne holds a BFA from Point Park University | www.riannelindsey.com

Ricky Lyle (Costume Designer)

This is Ricky's third time working with Prime Stage Theatre having just designed costumes for *Edgar A Poe Presents* and *Freedom House*. Ricky's work has recently been seen throughout the city in Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks' productions of *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *Cleopatra & Antony*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Earlier this year, he received commendations from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for his puppet designs in Pitt Stages' production of *The Inseparables*. In addition to his design work, Ricky is also the Costume Shop Manager in the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh.

Samantha Magill (Resident Sound Designer)

Sam is excited to be part of another Prime Stage Theater production! Her past work with Prime Stage includes sound design for *Freedom House*, *Edgar A. Poe Presents*, *The Boxcar Children*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Great Expectations*, and *12 Angry Men*. She has also contributed her sound design talents to the New Hazlett CSA program, South Park Theatre, and Pittsburgh Public Theater. Samantha is deeply grateful to Prime Stage, her friends, family, and her cats for their continued support.

Jules Malice (Media Designer)

Jules is a live visuals, projection and installation artist. They often incorporate audiovisual activation into their works and DJ as Malzof. Their work has spanned from theatre and performance, to nightlife, gallery spaces and public art. In 2023, they cofounded the Sweet Abyss event series centering trans electronic music. They have been showcasing creative works and organizing community programs for over 16 years and was honored with a 40 under 40 award in 2020 by Pittsburgh Magazine and PUMP. Their creative production focuses on building community, audio-visual experiences and speaking truth to power. They utilize playfulness, maximalism, and imagined environments as critical elements in their work. Malice received their BHA from Carnegie Mellon University with concentrations in Electronic Time-Based Media and Cultural Anthropology | jmal.space

Michael R. Petyak (Intimacy Director)

B.F.A. Musical Theater Performance, Magna Cum Laude; Shenandoah University, M.F.A. Theatrical Pedagogy & Direction; University of Idaho. Fight Director credits include: Pittsburgh City Theater, Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Kinetic Theatre, Prime Stage, & numerous university, high school, and other theaters in the Greater Pittsburgh Area, and around the US. Can most recently be seen performing stunts in Netflix's *Rustin*. Proud member of **AEA/SAG-AFTRA/IATSE** and Adjunct Professor of Theater at Seton Hill University. Thanks to Dana, Tammy, & Wayne for the years of support and collaboration - truly looking forward to another captivating, engaging, and fun show!

"I need a new friend. I need a friend, period. Not a true friend, nothing close or share clothes or sleepover giggle giggle yak yak. Just a pseudo-friend, disposable friend. Friend as accessory. Just so I don't feel or look so stupid."

- Speak

ARTISTIC AND DESIGN BIOGRAPHIES

Elizabeth Tweel (Stage Manager)

Elizabeth is a Pittsburgh based Stage Manager originally from West Virginia. She graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan with a BA in Technical Theatre with a focus in Stage Management. She is excited to be back at Prime Stage for her fourth show. Some of her recent stage management credits include *Freedom House* (Prime Stage Theatre), *Calendar Girls* (Little Lake Theatre), *Hairspray* (Scranton Shakespeare Festival), *Romeo and Juliet* (Scranton Shakespeare Festival), *12 Angry Men* (Prime Stage Theatre), *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (Prime Stage Theatre), *Dracula* (Charleston City Ballet), *Gypsy* (Scranton Shakespeare Festival), *Titus Andronicus* (Scranton Shakespeare Festival), *Elf: The Musical* (Appalachian Center for the Arts).

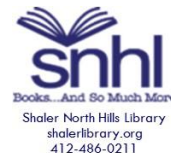


“Art without emotion is like chocolate cake without sugar. It makes you gag.”
- Speak



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's Books

***The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig**

A gentle story that teaches how small acts of kindness can help children feel included and allow them to flourish.

***Captain Starfish* by Davina Bell**

Alfie wants to participate in the best parts of being a kid, but his shyness keeps him from engaging with his peers.

***Woodpecker Girl* by Chingyen Liu**

A little girl was born with cerebral palsy, a condition that rendered her wheelchair bound. One day, her art teacher affixed a paintbrush to her forehead with a headband. From then on, the little girl was able to express herself and freely explore the world through her paintings.

***Blubber* by Judy Blume**

Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it is like when she, too, becomes a target.

***Schooled* by Gordon Korman**

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn Anderson has never watched television, tasted pizza, or even heard of a wedge. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school.

***One* by Kathryn Otoshi**

A number/color book reminding us that it just takes one to make everyone count.

***EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken* by Sally Warner**

Eight-year-old EllRay's father has promised a family trip to Disneyland if EllRay can stay out of trouble for a week, but defending himself against Jared, the class bully, proves to be a real challenge.

Teen Books

***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

***The Way I Used to Be* by Amber Smith**

After fourteen-year-old Eden is assaulted by her brother's best friend, she knows she will never be the way she used to be.

***Shout* by Laurie Halse Anderson**

A memoir in poetry by the author of *Speak*.

***Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen**

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

SUGGESTED READING LIST

***Hate List to Be* by Jennifer Brown**

Five months after her boyfriend Nick committed a school shooting, Valerie Leftman struggles to cope with integrating herself back into high school life for her senior year.

***Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher**

When Clay Jensen receives a box containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah he spends the night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

***If You Find Me* by Emily Murdoch**

Fifteen-year-old Carey and her younger sister Jenessa were abducted by their mentally ill mother ten years ago. Their father rescues them from the woods where they were held. They must deal with a new life and dark past that hides secrets.

***The Nowhere Girls* by Amy Lynn Reed**

After Grace learns of a girl who was run out of town for accusing the popular guys at school of assault, she convinces her friends Rosina and Erin to help her form an anonymous group of girls, called the Nowhere Girls, to resist the sexist culture at Prescott High. As their group grows in number, their movement becomes about more than sex and transforms the lives of its members, their school, and the entire community.

***All the Fighting Parts* by Hannah Sawyerr**

In the wake of being assaulted by her pastor, sixteen-year-old Amina struggles to regain her footing until she finds the strength within herself to confront her abuser in court.

***All My Rage* by Sabaa Tahir**

Through the alternating perspectives of her characters that include interludes from the past, Tahir skillfully and with nuanced handling navigates themes of abuse, found family, guilt, racism and Islamophobia, generational baggage, trauma, and more. A damning storyline involving the criminal-justice system makes this novel feel starkly real, while a touch of romance and a clever narrative device revealed toward the end leave an impression of everyday magic.

Adult Books

***Notes on Surviving the Fire* by Christine Murphy**

When Sarah's only friend in her graduate program is found dead, she is forced back into the orbit of the man in their department who assaulted her. A story about vengeance, the insidious nature of rape culture and ultimately, a woman's journey to come back to herself.

***Jaded* by Ela Lee**

Jade has become everything she has ever wanted to be. Successful lawyer. Dutiful daughter. Beloved girlfriend. Loyal friend. Until Jade wakes up the morning after a work event, naked and alone, with no idea how she got home. Caught between her parents, who can't understand, her boyfriend who feels betrayed, and her job that expects silence, Jade- and the world she has so carefully constructed- starts to crumble. She thought she was everything she ever wanted to be. But now she feels like nothing at all.

***The Lovely Bones* by Anne Sebold**

The story of Susie Salmon who is adjusting to her new home in heaven, a place that is not at all what she expected, even as she is watching life on earth continue without her—her friends trading rumors about her disappearance, her killer trying to cover his tracks, her grief-stricken family unraveling.

***Living Dead Girl* by Elizabeth Scott**

A novel about a 15-year-old girl who has spent the last five years being abused by a kidnapper names Ray and is kept powerless by Ray's promise to harm her family if she makes one false move.

SUGGESTED MOVIE LIST

Check Out These Movies...

The Perks of Being a Wallflower (2012)

Based on the wildly popular novel by Stephen Chbosky about a freshman named Charle who is always watching from the sidelines until a pair of charismatic seniors takes him under their wing.

(Rated PG-13)

A Girl Like Her (2015)

Sophomore year has been a nightmare for Jessica Burns. Relentlessly harassed by her former friend Avery Keller, Jessica doesn't know what she did to deserve the abuse from one of South Brookdale High's most popular and beautiful students. But when a shocking event changes both of their lives, a documentary film crew, a hidden digital camera, and the attention of a reeling community begin to reveal the powerful truth.

(Rated PG-13)

(Descriptions condensed from Biblio-Commons, IMDB, and Booklist)

Shaler North Hills Library | 1822 Mt. Royal Blvd | Glenshaw PA 15116 | shalerlibrary.org





Act-48 Workshops
Classroom Connections
Global Classroom
High School Drama Awards
Literacy in ACTION
Monologues & Movement
Resource Guides
Student Matinee Field Trips
and Much More!

**prime
stage**

THEATRE^{CO}

Annual Cemetery Walk

A Salute to America's 250th Birthday

Honoring our Veterans

June 27, 2026



ALLEGHENY CEMETERY

Noon - 3:00 PM

Groups of 40 with scheduled tour times / Wheelchair accessible

4734 Butler St, Pittsburgh, PA 15201 Entrance and parking.

Each tour is approximately one hour long

\$25 per person/rain or shine

Online Reservations begin on May 15th

"Be inspired by these Historical Pittsburgh Legends as we bring their history to life"

FUNDERS

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD)
AE&E Arts Equity and Education Fund
BenchMark Financial Advisors
The Blackburn Giving Fund
The Jack Buncher Foundation
Calvin Presbyterian Church
The Dickens Fellowship of Pittsburgh
The Philip Chosky Foundation
Dollar Bank
Fidelity Charitable
First National Bank
The Grable Foundation
Laurel Foundation
The Heinz Endowments
King Family Giving Fund
Massey Charitable Trust
Nora Roberts Foundation
Opportunity Fund
PNC Charitable Trust / McKinney Charitable Foundation
W.I. Patterson Charitable Fund
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
The Pittsburgh Foundation
Staunton Farm Foundation
TEPCO Trombold Equipment Company
Tuscano Ledgard Family Fund
Vistra Corporation



INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Bonnie Anderson	Robert Goldstein	Nancy McKee	Emily Smith
Cathy Bazan Arias	Debra Gorden	Amanda McQuillan	Alan & Barbara Solter
Alan Ankler	Mark Grasiak	Jenna & Jim Mersereau	Jonathan Spatz
Amy Bartoli	Don Greca	Brenda Meli	Jonathan Steinhauser
Enrique Bazan	Eugene Hazy	Jane Miller	Doub Sterling & Lynne Weber
Sharon Bernstein	Allen Helgerman	Jennifer Miller	Colleen Sullivan-Baier
Brenda Bolding	Kenneth Henderson	Joyce & Jim Miller	Sadie Treese
Carole & Gary Bonnici	Matthew Henderson	Diane Mollica	Martha & Paul Trombold
Michele Borkoski	Michael & Evonee Henry	Jonathan & Lori Nadle	Robert & Deborah Trombold
Mary Boscia	Lynda Hower	Cara & Justin Nagel	Mark Tuten
Ann Boznick	Dr. & Mrs. Henry Huffman	Gail Neustadt	Amber & Michael Vala
Connie & Wayne Brinda	Della Iarossi	Nicole Odorizzi	Shane & Eleanor Valenzi
Tom Burgunder	Lonnie Jantsch	Kerry & Connie Ozer	Hunter Ventura
Lawrence Connolly	Laura Jones	Sandra Paglieri	Suzanne Ward
Rene Conrad	Lee Kikel	Cathy Panza	Cindy West
Jerry & Kathy Coyne	Randall & Lisa King	Catherine Parham	Deb Wirth
Martha & Bill Crean	Geoffery & Kristin Kurland	Barbara Perica	Terry Woods
Bob & Judy Cunningham	Beth Lawry	Mike Perry	Nancy Zions
Susan David	Eric Ledgard	Donna Pomella	Keith Zagorski
Steven Doerfler	Michael Ledgard	Deborah Prence	Julia & Oliva Zoratto
Gail Dowd	Stanley & Pat Levine	David Randolph	
Frederick Durbin	Karen Lindenfelser	John Reilly	
Mary Lou Ellena	David Longstreet	Fran Rinehuls	
Michael Ellsler	Thelma Lovett-Morris	Tina Roeschenthaler	In Memory Of:
Walker Evans	Margaret M. Lubawy	RoAnn Romano	Elizabeth Coyne
Kathy Flynn-Somerville	Ken & Sharon Lutz	Alan & Terri Scheller-Wolf	Mike Perry
Lynne Franks	Laurie Malarkey	Grace Schuster	
Mark Freeman	Davide Marrangoni	Fiona Melchione Scott	
Eugenia & Robert Friedlander	Damien Marrow	Cynthia Selling	Other Donations
Lloyd & Regina Gibson	Robert McCollum	Brad Shaffer	Anonymous
Mary Gibson	Lawrence McCullough	Mike Sharkey	Facebook Birthday Campaigns
Suzanne Gilliland	Leslie McDonnell	Christina Signorelli	In-Kind Contributions
Leslie Goldstein & Margie Bachman	Suzanne McGrath	Cathie & Mike Skoog	

Please let us know if your name was accidentally omitted or misspelled.

PRIME STAGE THEATRE

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.	Producing Artistic Director
Connie Brinda	General Manager
Lawrence McCullough, Ph.D.....	Public Relations Director
Matt Henderson	Social Media Director
Cindy West.....	Education Director
Linda Haston.....	Teaching Artist
Michael R. Petyak	Intimacy Coordinator
Nathan Ruggles	Audio Describer
John Dolphin.....	Drama Awards Director
Jason Kmetic	Rehearsal Studio Manager
John Clark.....	Web Designer
Veda Laine.....	Database Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martha Trombold, President
Mary Lou Ellena, Vice President
Lawrence McCullough, Ph.D., Secretary
Connie Brinda, Treasurer

Enrique Bazán
Wayne Brinda, Ed.D.
Richard Garland
Mary E. Gibson, Esquire
Cara Nagel
Amber Vala, Esquire
Shane Valenzi, Esquire
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 families, theatregoers, 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.

EDUCATION

Within our theatre-based educational programs in the school system, we partner with dedicated teachers to foster literacy, critical thinking, interpersonal communication, and the love of reading as a lifelong pursuit.

IN THE COMMUNITY

A hallmark of Prime Stage is how we consistently enrich the artistic and educational productions with community-wide programs presented alongside local partners



ANNOUNCING OUR 30TH SEASON
and our 20th season at the New Hazlett Theatre

FAHRENHEIT 451

By Ray Bradbury

November, 2026



WADE IN THE WATER

By Lynne Conner

February, 2027



YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

By Geroge S. Kaufmann and Moss Hart

May, 2027



Prime Stage Brings Literature & History to Life!

www.primestage.com