

## "Where Literature Comes to Life"

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## • Prime Stage Theatre presents legal thriller "Witness for the Prosecution"

PITTSBURGH — **Prime Stage Theatre's** upcoming presentation of Agatha Christie's **Witness for the Prosecution** is a gripping courtoom drama of love betrayed and murder avenged.

It's a fitting finale to the company's 2023-24 "Season of Courage and Discovery".

Directed by **Ponny Conomos Jahn**, *Witness for the Prosecution* runs for seven shows May 3-12 at New Hazlett Theater and is sponsored in part by Whiteford Law Firm.

Tickets (adult \$39, artist \$24, student \$19) are available by calling (412) 320-4610 ext. 10 or by reserving online at <a href="https://ci.ovationtix.com/36406/production/1175929?performanceId=11343389">https://ci.ovationtix.com/36406/production/1175929?performanceId=11343389</a>.

Following the Sat. May 4 performance, a post-show discussion will feature *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author <u>Marie Benedict</u>, whose recent novel <u>The Mystery of Mrs. Christie</u> examined one of the most intriguing events in modern literary history.

Witness for the Prosecution opened in London in 1953 and was a smash hit before arriving on Broadway a year later. The 1957 Hollywood film version starred Charles Laughton, Marlene Dietrich, Elsa Lanchester, Ruta Lee and Tyrone Power and was nominated for six Oscars including Best Picture.

The Prime Stage Theatre cast includes Nickolas Page, John Feightner, Matt Henderson, Jacob Wright, Sarah Puhala, Carina Iannarelli, John Reilly, Erica Fox, Christian Benton, Johnny Terreri, David Nackman, Jenny Malarkey and Stefan Lingenfelter.

Witness For The Prosecution is more than a simple murder mystery, says Ponny Conomos Jahn.

"This is very much a psychological thriller in a way that much of Christie's work is not. Many themes are addressed here — ageism against women in romantic relationships, the price of intellectual snobbery, xenophobia in England after World War II."

The characters in *Witness For The Prosecution* have unusual complexity and depth, she adds. "The purposeful blurring of the lines between the audience and stage for this production adds to the immersive experience for the viewer."

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<u>WHAT</u>: Prime Stage Theatre presents *Witness for the Prosecution*; written by Agatha Christie, directed by Ponny Conomos Jahn; sponsored by <u>Whiteford Law Firm</u>

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

**WHEN:** 7 shows running May 3-12, 2024

- Fri. May 3 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview, pay-what-you-can admission)
- Sat. May 4 at 7:30 p.m. (Opening Night, special post-show discussion with <u>Marie Benedict</u>, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie*)
- Sun. May 5 at 2:30 p.m.
- Fri. May 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. May 11 at 2:30 p.m. (Sensory Inclusive with pay-what-you-can admission: spnsored by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Autism Pittsburgh)
- Sat. May 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sun. May 12 at 2:30 p.m. (Audio Describe and ASL/Live Caption, sponsored by Downtown Pittsburgh Lions Club)

<u>TICKETS</u>: Purchase tickets here – <u>https://ci.ovationtix.com/36406/production/1175929?performanceId=11343389</u> (adult \$39, artist \$24, student \$19)

**MORE INFO:** https://primestage.com/events/witness/

\* For more information on *Witness for the Prosecution* please contact Connie Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre General Manager at (724) 773-0700 or <a href="mailto:cbrinda@primestage.com">cbrinda@primestage.com</a>

## \* <u>UPCOMING PRIME STAGE THEATRE EVENTS</u> \*

APRIL 18, 6:00 p.m. *Dinner with the Queen of Crime*. Prime Stage Theatre fundraiser dinner at Revival on Lincoln, 318 Lincoln Ave., Bellvue PA. Tickets, info at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4j75uwan">https://tinyurl.com/4j75uwan</a>.

MAY 6, 7:00 p.m. Storyteller Mike Perry explores the roots of theatre with Saving Face: Memoir of a Circus Clown (at New Hazlett Theater). Tickets, info at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4n8455rr">https://tinyurl.com/4n8455rr</a>.