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Pittsburgh Native, Author of NY Times Bestseller "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," To Discuss Book With Audience Following Prime Stage Theatre's May 13 Performance of Play Based on His Novel

(PITTSBURGH, PA - April 24, 2017) Stephen Chbosky, author of the 1999 New York Times bestseller *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, has confirmed that he will participate in a discussion with audience members following the Saturday, May 13 performance of the play based on his novel.

The play, adapted by Hailey Rohn from the popular book, runs from May 5 to 14 at the New Hazlett Theater Center for the Performing Arts on Pittsburgh's North Side.

"Honoring a native Pittsburgh author by presenting the regional premiere of a work adapted from his best-selling novel is the ideal way to close our 20th anniversary season," said Wayne Brinda, a longtime educator and theatrical director who co-founded Prime Stage Theatre in 1996 with his wife, Connie, and continues to serve as artistic producing director.

Chbosky, a Pittsburgh native and 1988 graduate of Upper St. Clair High School, will discuss his book and the play via a Skype connection. All ticket holders for the May 13 performance are welcome to take part in the discussion at no extra cost. Tickets are available at www.primestage.com.

The coming-of-age novel, inspired by Chbosky's own high school experiences, has been published in 16 countries in 13 languages and spent more than 70 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. In addition, it has received numerous honors including being named as one of National Public Radio's 100 Best-Ever Teen Novels. Published by Pocket Books, an imprint of MTV Books, the novel went on to become the publisher's best-selling title.

Chbosky later wrote a screenplay based on his novel and returned to Pittsburgh in 2011 to direct the film adaptation with a cast that included Emma Watson, Joan Cusack and Paul Rudd. The film was nominated for numerous awards and won several, including Independent Spirit and People's Choice awards.

To ensure that as many people as possible are able to experience Prime Stage's production of the play, the organization will also provide a sensory-friendly matinee performance on May 13 for those on the autism spectrum and with hearing challenges.

About Prime Stage Theatre

Prime Stage Theatre, now in its 20th season, presents professionally produced plays based on literary works and offers a wide variety of education programs for participants of all ages. In June, the organization will present a summer camp for youth during which it will provide training in acting, movement and more.

