

For Immediate Release

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George Orwell's Son, Richard Blair, to Discuss His Father and Classic Novel "1984" During Free Event at Cranberry Barnes & Noble on Saturday, March 4

Discussion kicks off event-filled opening weekend of Prime Stage's production of "1984"

(Pittsburgh, PA - January 19, 2017) Richard Blair, the adopted son of novelist George Orwell (real name: Eric Arthur Blair), will discuss his father's classic book "1984" on Saturday, March 4 at 12:00 noon at the Barnes & Noble bookstore on Route 19 in Cranberry Township. The event, which includes a book signing, is free to the public.

A portion of sales at Barnes & Noble's Cranberry store that day will benefit Prime Stage, a Pittsburgh theater company and non-profit organization now celebrating its 20th season of presenting professionally produced stage plays based on literary works and providing a diverse range of educational programs for people of all ages.

"We are thrilled to provide local readers with opportunity to meet Mr. Blair, especially as the popular "1984" novel is being mentioned so often today in popular culture," said Wayne Brinda, Prime Stage Theatre co-founder and artistic director. "Mr. Blair is active with the Orwell Society, which is dedicated to maintaining his father's legacy, so I'm confident that this discussion will be fascinating."

"1984" Opening Weekend at Prime Stage

The discussion is jointly presented by Prime Stage Theatre and Barnes & Noble, and is part a weekend of activities that includes the Saturday night opening of Prime Stage's production of "1984" at the New Hazlett Theater Center for Performing Arts on the North Side.

Later that day, following the Barnes & Noble event, Blair will visit the theater to see the play, lead a post-show discussion and mingle with ticket holders at an opening night reception. On Sunday, Blair will sign copies of his father's books at a special tea held in his honor prior to the 2:30 p.m. matinee performance of the play, and after the show will lead an audience discussion.

Prime Stage's production of "1984," directed by Richard Keitel, will continue through Sunday, March 12. Show times are 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are available at www.primestage.com.

In the play, Orwell's timely novel comes to life as Winston, a young employee in the Ministry of Truth who corrects "errors," faces the consequences of falling in love and creating his own truth in a dangerous society of surveillance, identity and control by "Big Brother." The play was adapted for the stage by Robert Owens, Wilton E Hall, Jr , and William A Miles.

About Prime Stage Theatre

Established in Pittsburgh in 1996 by Wayne Brinda and Connie Brinda, Prime Stage presents professionally produced plays based on classic and contemporary works of literature and a

diverse range of educational programs for students of all ages. Through its programs, talk-back sessions, panel discussions, and other offerings, the organization has been recognized for its promotion of literacy and for measurably improving literacy among its audience members and program participants.

Prime Stage's 20th anniversary season will commence with its stage production of the contemporary bestseller "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Pittsburgh writer Stephen Chbosky in May.