



Pittsburgh Public Theater Ready to Thrill With Steel City Adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe Classic *A TELL-TALE HEART*

The Public also partners with American Red Cross to help address ongoing nationwide blood shortage this holiday season

October 17, 2023 • Pittsburgh, PA — Finding seats at Pittsburgh Public Theater’s upcoming production of **Edgar Allan Poe’s [A Tell-Tale Heart](#)**, adapted and performed by Pittsburgh playwright **Alec Silberblatt**, won’t be as simple as entering the auditorium – for this show, you’ll have to dig deeper.

The Public opens its immersive theatrical experience October 19 under the O’Reilly Theater stage in the Trap Room. In this latest Public Unplugged production, Poe meets Pittsburgh as hometown playwright Alec Silberblatt invites audiences into the heart of Downtown — and the underbelly of The O’Reilly — for an immersive adaptation of this chilling classic.

“With Alec’s thrilling take on Poe’s classic, we have the perfect opportunity to invite audiences deeper inside The Public. Ticket holders will be the first to explore what’s hidden under our stage – a dark, intimate corner that we’re transforming into a tiny black box performance space called the Trap,” Artistic Director Marya Sea Kaminski said. “Audiences will experience an exhilarating new work from an outstanding Pittsburgh theater artist, developed right there at The Public. Moving forward, we expect the Trap will continue to be a lab space for adventurous work and unexpected stagings. A place to experiment and invite audiences to the edge with us.”

The Trap can seat just 45 in the audience, and 17 performances are already sold out. Those who purchase the Poe Experience gain intimate VIP access to the Trap’s immersive environment, an exclusive pre-show experience, and more.

Playwright and star **Alec Silberblatt** is a member of the Pittsburgh Public Theater Playwrights’ Collective and a former winner of the Pittsburgh Public Theater Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest. The Public commissioned his adaptation of *A Tell-Tale Heart* in 2020.

“You’ll enter The O’Reilly, a space Pittsburgh theatergoers know well, and then descend into the stage and be transported to your uncle’s, or friend’s, or grandpa’s basement – a basement you grew up in, a basement you watched the Steelers in,” Silberblatt said. “And that’s only the first of many twists and surprises.”

Seattle-based set designer and Artistic Director of Intiman Theater **Jennifer J. Zeyl** joins as set designer. **Anmarie Duggan**, Head of Design/Tech and Management at University of



Pittsburgh, makes her Pittsburgh Public Theater debut as lighting designer. **Claudia Jenkins Martinez**, whose work was last seen on The Public's stage with *Steel Magnolias*, is sound designer. **Kelly Haywood**, whose work has been seen with Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and Pittsburgh CLO, among others, is stage manager.

While audiences might be used to seeing fake blood on stage, Pittsburgh Public Theater also announced a partnership to help the American Red Cross get real blood from donors during an ongoing nationwide shortage at Pittsburgh-area blood drives through the run of [A Tell-Tale Heart](#).

The Public offers all presenting donors at nine American Red Cross blood drives (listed below) between October 19 and November 19 an exclusive discount offer for several Public productions. The Public will also enter all presenting donors through November 10 for a chance to win a VIP experience for two to a performance of *A Tell-Tale Heart*.

"Patients in Pittsburgh – and across the country – depend on the generosity of blood donors to receive critical medical care," Jorge Martinez, CEO, American Red Cross of Greater Pennsylvania, said. "We're asking the public to book a time to give as soon as possible to help meet hospital and patient needs."

Interested donors can schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Ticket Information

A Tell-Tale Heart runs October 19 through November 19. Tickets start at \$29.25 and are available at PPT.org/HEART or by calling 412.316.1600. Guests will enter through the main entrance of the O'Reilly Theater and be escorted to the performance location.

This production of *A Tell-Tale Heart* contains mature language and a 5-second strobe light that may affect people who experience photosensitivity. Due to the performance location and immersive setting, late seating and reentry are not permitted.

American Red Cross Blood Drive Schedule

Tuesday, October 24

Northway Robinson
1050 Campbells Run Road, Carnegie, PA 15106
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday, October 27



South Hills Church of the Nazarene
5601 Library Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday, October 30

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
University Drive C, Oakland, PA 15240
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tuesday, October 31

Keystone Summit Park
3000 Ericcson Drive, Warrendale, PA 15086
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 2

University of Pittsburgh - O'Hara Student Center Ballroom
4024 O'Hara Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
11a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, November 3

McCormick Dorman VFW #694
3014 West Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday, November 9

Penn Center West
Two Penn Center West, Pittsburgh, PA 15276
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday, November 10

St. Margaret Mary Church - Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
1 Parish Pl, Coraopolis, PA 15108
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday, November 17

American Red Cross Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter
2801 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.



**American
Red Cross**

Pittsburgh Public Theater strives to serve as a true public theater to the Pittsburgh region, producing more than 120 performances each season and welcoming more than 70,000 guests through the O'Reilly Theater's doors every year. The theater is renowned for its exceptional mix of programming, featuring international classics, fresh new works, and favorite musicals. Its commitment to education and engagement initiatives is a hallmark and includes the signature Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest and innovative community partnerships. The organization, under the leadership of Artistic Director Marya Sea Kaminski and Managing Director Shaunda McDill, celebrates its 49th season in 2023.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).