Proudly Presents Season 2015

PREMIERE STAGES
at KEAN UNIVERSITY

JULY 17
Opening Night

BY THE WATER

BUY NOW AND SAVE $10

SEPT. 4
Opening Night

THE PEOPLE BEFORE THE PARK
"Ms. Ryan deftly layers critical incidents that culminate in a forceful climax...solid in every respect." – Michael Sommers, The New York Times
(in his review of the 2014 premiere of Soldier's Heart)
Dear Friends,

After celebrating our 10th anniversary, we are very excited to launch our next decade as Kean University’s professional Equity theatre.

Premiere Stages continues to be one of America’s major hubs for new play development. This season we received a record 440 submissions to our Play Festival. The result is a dynamic mix of powerful plays that all focus on the people and communities of our immediate metropolitan area. We can’t wait to share them with you.

Our education and professional development initiatives continue to span beyond campus borders. The Play Factory program has expanded to provide playwriting residencies to school districts and organizations across the state, serving aspiring playwrights ages 8 to 90. And our Premiere Artists program continues to afford Kean University students unprecedented access to professional union credits and award-winning artists.

Premiere’s recent growth has resulted in exciting new partnerships with organizations that will serve Premiere Stages and Kean University well into the future. For more information about how the program is evolving, please visit www.kean.edu/premierestages.

Thank you for being part of the Premiere Stages family!

Sincerely,

John J. Wooten
Producing Artistic Director

Christine Whalen
Associate Producer

Heather Kelley
Director of Audience Services

From left to right: John J. Wooten, Christine Whalen and Heather Kelley
Great Kills

By Kate Cortesi
Directed by Kel Haney

June 19 – 21
Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.
Sunday at 3 p.m.

A high school achiever’s college application reveals a secret from her past, sending her Staten Island family into a tailspin. But is this ambitious young woman traumatized by violence, as her essay claims, or by a culture of achievement that has trained her to market herself at any cost?

Box Office: 908-737-SHOW (7469)
or email ticket@kean.edu to reserve

Murphy Dunn Theatre, Vaughn Eames Building
All seats are FREE!

Listen, contribute and engage in the developmental process. Intimate discussions with the playwright follow each reading.
New Jersey Premiere!

Three years after Hurricane Sandy, the power of the storm still rages...

By Sharyn Rothstein

Directed by

Adam Immerwahr

July 16 – August 2

Hurricane Sandy wields its force upon the home of Marty and Mary Murphy, threatening to destroy not only the life they have built together but the neighborhood where they grew up. Will Marty manage to save his neighborhood and his home, or are the secrets unearthed by the storm too powerful to overcome? Premiere Stages is proud to present the New Jersey Premiere of this gripping and affecting play, described by The New York Times as “drawn with acute sympathy and in gritty detail.”

Zella Fry Theatre, Vaughn Eames Building

$30 Standard • $20 Senior • $15 Student

Box Office: 908-737-SHOW (7469)

This collaborative premiere features interactive question-and-answer discussions with the artists, audience and guest speakers following select matinee performances. For information on topics and speakers, please call 908-737-4092.
New Play!  
**Winner of the 2015 Premiere Stages Play Festival**

Will you ever think about Central Park the same way?

1857. New York City. A hard-working man and his son live in a respectful African-American community called Seneca Village. However, their solitude and safe haven are threatened when the City decides to remove the community from their homes to create the world-renowned Central Park.

**By Keith Josef Adkins**

**Directed by John J. Wooten**

**September 3–20**

See page 12 for a detailed list of scheduled performances.

Zella Fry Theatre, Vaughn Eames Building

$30 Standard • $20 Senior • $15 Student  

**Box Office: 908-737-SHOW (7469)**

Premiere Stages will offer a series of post-show discussions after select matinee performances. Please call 908-737-4092 for more information on speakers and dates.
Get a sneak peek at the new 2015-2016 Liberty Live Commission.
Liberty Live is a unique partnership with the Liberty Hall Museum that celebrates New Jersey history with professional productions, tours of the Museum, interactive displays, workshops for children and talk-backs with local historians.

At this interactive Staged Reading you’ll be the first to see an exciting new play that celebrates the rich history of New Jersey. Intimate discussions with the playwright follow each reading, so please share your feedback as we prepare for the 2016 Premiere!

“This engaging public program combines scholarly review with the power of the theatre.” – The New Jersey Historical Commission

All seats are FREE!
For more information on this exciting new play initiative, call 908-737-4092 or visit www.kean.edu/premierestages.

Box Office: 908-737-SHOW (7469)
or email ticket@kean.edu to reserve

November 13-15
Friday at 7 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday at 3 p.m.
Little Theatre

Join us for free tours of the Liberty Hall Museum after the presentations on Saturday and Sunday afternoon!
Every summer, Premiere Stages collaborates with other professional theatres to offer dynamic theatre programming exclusively for children. Premiere’s annual Play Factory Performance Series provides an enjoyable and accessible summer arts experience for children and their families, with performances open to the public as well as school and camp groups. Pre-performance study guides are available upon request, and post-show discussions with the artists further deepen the experience.

PAGE TURNER ADVENTURES’ STEAM TRUNK CIRCUS,
A THEATREWORKS USA PRESENTATION

Wednesday, July 15 at 10:30 a.m.
Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union

A steamer trunk, a mysterious book and a hat belonging to Harry Houdini are brought to life in a show that’s filled with fantastic physical feats! Ideal way to introduce elements from the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) curriculum to students. Recommended for Grades 2 to 5.

PUSHCART PLAYERS’ ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Friday, July 29 at 10:30 a.m.
Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union

Filled with Lewis Carroll’s pure nonsense and madcap characters, this intriguing tale about a curious and proactive young girl has enchanted readers for many generations. Alice goes on an enchanted journey of self-discovery with challenges, choices and happy conclusions. A meaningful story for anyone who has ever been on the daring adventure of growing up! Recommended for Ages 3 to 9.

YATES MUSICAL THEATRE’S RUMPLESTILTSKIN

Wednesday, August 5 at 10:30 a.m.
Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union

Rumplestiltskin is the lively tale of the funny little man who spins straw into gold to gain the first born child of the king and queen. This delightful musical includes singing, dancing, comedy and fun for all. Rumplestiltskin is a magical feast for eyes and ears with little lessons along the way about bragging, making promises that we don’t expect to keep and what can happen when one person sets out to exploit the desperate situation of another. Recommended for Ages 3 to 9.

Box Office:
908-737-SHOW (7469)

All Seats – $15

For those interested in arranging a group, please contact Heather Kelley, Premiere Stages’ Director of Audience Services, at (908) 737-4077 or hkelley@kean.edu.
Students will learn the elements of acting and play development through innovative, active exercises and games that help them translate their creative ideas and impulses into fully conceptualized and mountable original performances for the stage. Working with professional actors, directors and playwrights in a fun, creative and collaborative environment, campers will craft and star in their own play. This camp session culminates in a public performance of the campers’ work developed over the two-week period, followed by a certificate presentation and reception for the participants.

CAMP PREMIERE - Session 1:
Recommended for students entering Grades 5-8

July 20-31, 2015
Final showcase on Friday, July 31
(Monday–Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Students focus on the craft of acting, including scene work, audition technique, monologue preparation, movement and voice/speech. Students have the chance to work closely with professional actors and directors, as well as guest artists in fields such as stage combat, casting and improvisation. Campers perform scenes from original plays that have been developed through the Premiere Stages Play Festival. This camp session culminates in a public performance, followed by a certificate presentation and reception for the participants.

CAMP PREMIERE - Session 2:
Recommended for students entering Grades 9-12

July 27–August 7, 2015
Final showcase on Friday, August 7
(Monday–Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Tuition is $295

Both sessions take place at Kean University, located at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union, New Jersey.

To apply: Contact Christine Whalen at 908-737-4092 or premiere@kean.edu. You may also visit us online at www.kean.edu/premierestages.
Premiere Artists

PROVIDING STUDENTS ACCESS TO HIGH-PROFILE ARTISTS AND PROFESSIONAL CREDITS

Premiere Stages offers a master class and Q & A series entitled Premiere Artists. Artists engage students in intensive, carefully crafted master classes and participate in interactive question-and-answer sessions with students, members of the campus community and patrons from surrounding communities. Artists have included Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage; Academy Award winners Richard Dreyfuss, Olympia Dukakis and Ellen Burstyn; Tony Award winners David Henry Hwang, John Lee Beatty, William Finn and Norbert Leo Butz; Pulitzer Prize nominee Lee Blessing; Emmy Award winner Kim Zimmer and the Broadway company of Rent.

Premiere Stages offers students the opportunity to earn credits toward union affiliation in Actors’ Equity Association through their work as actors, understudies and production assistants. Students also gain experience through paid internships and as design and directing assistants.

Premiere Stages, through an active partnership with the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NY-NATAS), offers “Inside Television,” a class for Kean University students held at the Academy headquarters in New York City. Students are afforded unparalleled access to leading professionals in the field of television, tours of major television studios, and internships with television stations and networks in Manhattan.

The Kean Acting Showcase, a collaboration with the Kean Department of Theatre, is held on a biannual basis in New York City and provides students with unprecedented access to industry professionals, including casting directors and agents. The Premiere Intern Program partners seasoned professionals with students through collaborative internships in new play development, arts administration, design and production. Students receive weekly stipends and free housing. For more information, please call 908-737-4092.
Premiere Stages is dedicated to supporting playwrights of all ages and abilities. Created in 2006, the Premiere Stages Play Factory Residencies introduce the craft of playwriting to a diverse group of fledgling writers. Premiere’s teaching artists engage classrooms, after-school programs, senior centers and community groups to teach the fundamentals of theatrical writing in an active, creative and fun way. The goal of the residency program is to inspire students to actively engage in the creative process. Teaching artists use performance games and writing exercises to help students express themselves both individually and within a group, and provide a sense of learning through play. Students learn the different facets of theatrical writing, including the terminology and structure for crafting a play, and work in groups to write short scenes that are performed at the residency’s end. Premiere brings in professional actors and Kean University students to work with the budding writers in rehearsing and performing their work in script-in-hand readings.

This spring, Premiere Stages was proud to partner with the Kean University Learning Adventures (KULA) after-school program in Hillside; the Matheny Medical & Educational Center’s Arts Access Program in Peapack; the Terence C. Reilly School No. 7 in Elizabeth and the Raymond Lesniak ESH Recovery High School in Union. The Arts Access partnership, made possible by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance’s Stages Festival, enabled adult playwrights with medically complex developmental disabilities to see their plays brought to life by professional actors, and marked Premiere’s first residency geared specifically for participants with disabilities. At the Raymond Lesniak ESH Recovery High School, administered by Prevention Links, Premiere worked with students overcoming alcohol and drug dependencies, and created a curriculum that not only reinforced literacy and critical thinking skills, but encouraged students to use writing as a creative outlet for stress and emotion.

Play Factory Residencies are funded through a variety of partnerships. If you are interested in bringing a residency or one-day acting or playwriting workshop to your school, senior center or community organization, please call 908-737-4092 or email premiere@kean.edu for more information.
# Premiere Stages 2015 Season

$30 – Standard Tickets  *  $20 – Seniors & Kean Alumni  
$15 – Students & Patrons with Disabilities

*All Tickets to Play Factory Shows (Steam Trunk Circus, Alice in Wonderland and Rumplestiltskin) just $15!*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Show</th>
<th>Opens</th>
<th>Closes</th>
<th>Performance Times</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Great Kills (workshop)</td>
<td>6/19</td>
<td>6/21</td>
<td>Fri. &amp; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>FREE</td>
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<td>Steam Trunk Circus</td>
<td>7/15</td>
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<td>Wed., 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>By the Water</td>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>8/2</td>
<td>Thurs., Fri. &amp; Sat., 8 p.m.; Sat. &amp; Sun., 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Alice in Wonderland</td>
<td>7/29</td>
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<td>Wed., 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Rumplestiltskin</td>
<td>8/5</td>
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<td>Wed., 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>The People Before the Park</td>
<td>9/3</td>
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<td>Thurs., Fri. &amp; Sat., 8 p.m.; Sat. &amp; Sun., 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Liberty Live (workshop)</td>
<td>11/13</td>
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<td>Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat. &amp; Sun., 3 p.m.</td>
<td>LT</td>
<td>FREE</td>
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*MD = Murphy Dunn Theatre, in Vaughn Eames  ZF = Zella Fry Theatre, in Vaughn Eames  WT = Wilkins Theatre  LT = Little Theatre, in Kean University Center*

## ACCESSIBILITY
Premiere Stages offers discounted tickets to patrons with disabilities. All Premiere Stages facilities are wheelchair accessible. Large-print programs are available at all times. Publications are available in alternate formats with advanced notice. Sign-interpreted, audio-described and open-captioned performances are also available by request, at least two weeks in advance, by calling 908-737-4092.

- **Assisted Listening Devices available for all shows**
- **Sign Interpreted Performance**
- **Audio Described Performance**
- **Open Captioning**

All shows are handicapped accessible

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**June**

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*July 17 – Opening Night Reception for By the Water*

**August**

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*September 4 – Opening Night Reception for The People Before the Park*

**November**

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How Do I Get Tickets?

Buying tickets to Premiere Stages’ 2015 Season is affordable and easier than ever with three simple ways to purchase!

**ONLINE:** To purchase online, just visit [www.kean.edu/premierestages](http://www.kean.edu/premierestages).

**BY PHONE:** Call the Kean Stage Box Office at 908-737-SHOW (7469).

**IN PERSON:** Stop by the Kean Stage Box Office, located in Kean’s Wilkins Theatre at 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, N.J.

Box office hours are: Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and two hours before each performance.

Discounted group rates are available; please call our Director of Audience Services Heather Kelley at 908-737-4077 or email hkelley@kean.edu for more information.

**SAVE $10 WITH OUR 2015 SEASON PACKAGE!**

Purchase tickets to both main stage performances — *By the Water* and *The People Before the Park* — and save $10.

We offer Standard ($50), Senior ($30) and Student ($20) Season Packages; call 908-737-SHOW (7469) or visit [www.kean.edu/premierestages](http://www.kean.edu/premierestages) for more information.

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**KEAN UNIVERSITY GALLERIES present**

Laura Petrovich-Cheney: *By the Block*

*in partnership with Premiere Stages*

James Howe Gallery, Vaughn Eames Hall

**July 16 - August 2**

Open 2 hours prior to performance

**Talk-Back & Reception July 19**

Arrive early for your performance of *By the Water* and enjoy this incredible exhibit of quilts constructed from wooden debris salvaged after Hurricane Sandy. FREE!

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**Rock 'n' Joe**

We are a unique rock 'n' roll themed coffee shop with a variety of coffee drinks (Velvet Underground/Sledgehammer coffee, Latte, Espresso), other drinks (Chai Tea, Frozalita, Smoothies) and food selections (sandwiches, pastries, desserts). We are centrally located inside Union Station and right next to Kean University. We host many events and provide an ideal spot for meeting and relaxing. For more information including our calendar of events, visit [facebook.com/RocknJoeUnionStation](http://facebook.com/RocknJoeUnionStation).

**Monday - Friday:** 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday:** 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

900 Green Lane, Union, NJ

(908) 354-0660
Please Support Premiere Stages

Become a supporter of Premiere Stages, the professional theatre in residence at Kean University, and help a child discover the magic of theatre, launch the career of an aspiring artist or make a playwright’s dream come true. Your contribution will assist Premiere Stages in serving the cultural needs of northern and central New Jersey through the development and production of high-quality Equity theatre premieres, professional development and educational initiatives for the local and campus communities, and the support and cultivation of emerging playwrights and theatre artists.

Below are just a few of the ways to get involved in New Jersey’s Premiere Equity Theatre:

• Attend Opening Night parties for By the Water (July 17th) and The People Before the Park (September 4th).

• Join the Premiere Stages Ambassador Committee. Premiere is always looking for individuals passionate about the arts to join our ambassador committee and advocate for the theatre.

• Make a gift.

Your very generous gifts ensure that Premiere Stages provides the highest quality professional theatre in the state. Because of patrons like you, our programming is accessible to a diverse community, and each initiative truly makes a difference. For further details about supporting Premiere Stages, our various inner circle benefits or the annual Benefit, please contact Christine Whalen, Associate Producer, at 908-737-4092 or premiere@kean.edu.

Thank you!
DIRECTIONS:
All of our venues (with the exception of Liberty Hall Museum) are located on the main campus of Kean University at 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey. Liberty Hall Museum is located across the street from Kean’s main campus at 1003 Morris Avenue.

By car:
Kean’s campus is easily accessible by the Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike and Routes 1&9, 22 and 78. While there are three entrances to campus (North Avenue, Morris Avenue and Green Lane), it is best to enter via Morris Avenue. If you are attending a show in Vaughn Eames Hall (Murphy Dunn or Zella Fry Theatre), make your first left into the Vaughn Eames parking lot. If you are attending a show in Wilkins or the Little Theatre, make your first right into the Wilkins parking lot. If you are attending a show at Liberty Hall Museum, please park onsite at 1003 Morris Avenue. (Note: If you are part of a group traveling by school/charter bus, you must enter campus via Green Lane; please call 908-737-4077 for additional instructions.)

By train:
Union Station (on NJ Transit’s Raritan Valley line) is located just at the edge of Kean’s main campus at 900 Green Lane in Union, New Jersey. Elizabeth Station (on New Jersey Transit’s Northeast Corridor & North Jersey Coast lines) is located two miles from campus on West Grand Avenue, one block west of Broad Street in Elizabeth, NJ. For a detailed train schedule, please visit www.njtransit.com.

By bus:
NJ Transit #52 and #26 between Elizabeth and Springfield pass the campus on Morris Avenue. NJ Transit #113 between Plainfield and Port Authority Bus Terminal, New York, stops at Salem Road and Morris Avenue.

OUR VENUES

Murphy Dunn & Zella Fry Theatres
Vaughn Eames Hall, 1000 Morris Ave.
(Great Kills, By The Water & The People Before the Park)

Please pardon our appearance during construction. Parking adjacent; make your first left from the Morris Avenue entrance.

Wilkins Theatre
1000 Morris Ave.
(Steam Trunk Circus, Alice in Wonderland & Rumplestiltskin)

Parking adjacent; make your first right from the Morris Avenue entrance.

Little Theatre
University Center, 1000 Morris Ave.
(Liberty Live)

No parking immediately adjacent; about a 7-minute walk from the Wilkins Theatre parking lot towards the center of campus. Follow signs for the University Center, which is located by the clock tower and marked with a large American flag. It will be on your left after the Nancy Thompson Library (where the Human Rights Institute and Starbucks are located).
KEAN ARTS AND THE KEAN UNIVERSITY ARTS COUNCIL
Premiere Stages is a proud member of Kean Arts, a group of visual and performing arts programs on the
campus of Kean University. Kean Arts is supported by the Kean University Arts Council whose mission is to
advocate and promote performances, exhibitions and arts education at Kean University.

Support the arts at Kean by becoming a Kean Friend of the Arts.
For member benefits and additional information, please visit: www.keanfoundation.org/foa.

www.kean.edu/premierestages