

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

NEWS RELEASE

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Westport Country Playhouse Presents Symposium on Theme of Helping Others, Inspired by Pulitzer Prize-winning Play “Primary Trust” on April 19

Westport Country Playhouse will present a Sunday Symposium following the April 19, 3 p.m. performance of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, “Primary Trust.” Inspired by the play’s themes of offering a helping hand, the symposium features conversations with people in the local community who make a difference by giving support to others. Guest panelists will be Rev. Richard Williams, pastor and executive director of Pivot Ministries in Bridgeport, and Liz Moore, director of community relations for Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan.

Pivot Ministries treat drug and alcohol addiction in men as a spiritual problem, connecting each man with a career path or educational goal and helping them live a disciplined life as an active part of his church. Silver Hill Hospital is a nationally recognized leader in mental health care for adults and adolescents.

Rev. Williams battled addiction and now leads Pivot Ministries, the organization that supported his recovery. A native of Annapolis, MD, Rev. Williams graduated from the University of Maryland and worked as a special education teacher, and later as assistant to a probate judge in Washington, DC, before addiction took over his life. In 2008, he came to Pivot looking for a fresh start. He was later ordained as a minister.

Moore builds strategic partnerships, elevates community awareness, and raises philanthropic support to expand access to Silver Hill’s care and strengthen clinical excellence. She is passionate about creating spaces, like the Sunday Symposium, where dialogue, connection, and understanding can thrive while advancing Silver Hill’s mission to reduce suffering from mental illness and addiction.

Sunday Symposium moderator will be Mark Shanahan, Westport Country Playhouse artistic director. The discussion will be followed by an interactive dialogue with the audience. The Playhouse Sunday Symposium program is free and open to the public.

“Primary Trust” is a gentle and inspiring exploration of friendship, courage, and new beginnings. Selected as a Critic’s Pick by *The New York Times*, “Primary Trust” is written by Eboni Booth and directed by Logan Vaughn. With subtle humor and emotional depth, the play examines the importance of human connection, the power of kindness, and the essential trust needed to navigate life’s changes.

“Primary Trust” centers on Kenneth, a lonely 38-year-old man living in the small town of Cranberry, New York. Kenneth is something of a failure to launch, never quite stepping into full independence or adult responsibility. A creature of habit, he spends every evening sipping mai tais at the local tiki bar with Bert, his best friend – who happens to be imaginary. When Kenneth is suddenly laid off from his lifelong job in a bookstore, his world is upended. Facing a reality he’s long avoided, Kenneth is forced to leave the

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comfort of his imagination and learn to trust beyond the barstool. He musters courage to take a new job at the Primary Trust Bank with transformative, and even sweetly comical, results.

“Primary Trust” runs from April 14 through May 2. The four-member cast includes Jasmin Johnson, Greg Stuhr, Alphonso Walker Jr., and Lance Coadie Williams.

The Sunday Symposium Series is supported, in part, by the White Barn Program of the Lucille Lortel Foundation. 2026 Programming and Season Sponsor is Barbara Streicker. 2026 Media sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio. 2026 Opening Night Sponsor is RDM Financial Group at Hightower. Production Patron is RBC Wealth Management. Westport Country Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For full details on “Primary Trust,” visit: <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/show/primary-trust/>

A complete schedule of Playhouse events is available at westportplayhouse.org. All play titles, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

For Westport Country Playhouse information and tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), Instagram (wcplayhouse), and YouTube (WestportPlayhouse). Westport Country Playhouse is located at 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport.

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