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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

39 STEPS ARRIVES ON THE BTE STAGE THIS SEPTEMBER

BLOOMSBURG – SEPTEMBER 16 – Alfred Hitchcock fans and comedy lovers, rejoice! The classic spy comedy *The 39 Steps* is the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble's first show of its Season 48. The 2025 production, directed by Guest Artist **James E. Ofalt**, will run from September 25 through October 12.

The 39 Steps, adapted by **Patrick Barlow** and based on a concept by **Simon Corble** and **Nobby Dimon**, is a playful, imaginative, and light-hearted take on **Alfred Hitchcock's** 1935 adaptation of **John Buchan's** spy novel. Tasked with completing a dying spy's mission, Richard Hannay must stop spies from stealing Britain's air defense secrets! Can he outfox secret agents, fake police officers, real police officers, airplane pilots, train commuters, newsies, politically-minded senior citizens, theatre stars, and angry Scottish farmers (all of whom suspiciously look alike) to save his country?

Per the rules of Barlow's adaptation, BTE Resident Artist **Amy Rene Byrne** will play all three of Hannay's love interests, while Resident Artist **Kimie Muroya** 室屋季美恵 and Guest Artist **Keith Livingston** will play the 135 other supporting roles. However, Resident Artist **Aaron White's** face will be familiar for a different reason. He also played Richard Hannay when BTE mounted *The 39 Steps* for its 36th season in 2013/2014.

White said it has been both "huge pools of fun" and meaningful to revisit the character. "Global military tensions and Hannay's initial feelings of isolation and ennui resonate a lot more than [they did] eleven years ago," he said. "I'm so grateful to have the balm of rehearsing a comedy and living through Hannay's journey toward human connection and hope's defiance against nationalistic cynicism."

The 39 Steps' design team includes **Helena Alfajora** (Set/Scenic), **Gregor Gunelson** (Props), **Nick McGaw** (Sound), **Hayley Garcia Parnell** (Lighting), and **Jared Whitford** (Costume). **Jennifer Lippert** (Costume Shop Manager and Production Coordinator), **James E. Ofalt** (Director), **Heather Rummings** (Stage Manager), and **Sarah Elizabeth Yorke** (Creative Producer) round out the rest of the production team.

The run opens with a low-price preview on Thursday, September 25. Tickets are \$15.00 for every age group. There will also be a full-priced preview on Friday, September 26. Both previews start at 7:30 PM.

The tickets for the official premiere performance on September 27 include a pre-show fundraiser gala. Cocktail attire is encouraged, but not required. Tickets are \$125.00 and available at ci.ovationtix.com/36961/production/1246826?performanceld=11672031.

Showtimes are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 3:00 PM. Regular admission is \$15 for youth/students (3 to 21), \$10 for Commonwealth University Bloomsburg students, \$25 for young adults (22-34), \$35 for adults (35-54), and \$30 for seniors (55+). To procure tickets, visit ci.ovationtix.com/36961/production/1246188.

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PRODUCTION FACT SHEET

The 39 Steps

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the novel by John Buchan

From the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Licensed by ITV Global Entertainment Limited

And an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon

Directed by James E. Ofalt

Dates:

September 25-October 12, 2025

Days and Times:

7:30 PM on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

3:00 PM on Sundays

Estimated Runtime:

2 hours with intermission

Special Performances:

Low-Price Preview on Thursday, September 25 at 7:30 PM

Preview on Friday, September 26 at 7:30 PM

Film Noir Gala and Official Opening Performance on Saturday, September 27 at 5:30 PM

Synopsis:

Accused of murder and on the run in the Highlands, Richard Hannay must clear his name by proving the existence of a devious spy ring! But, of course, clearing your name is never easy, especially when there are antics and capers afoot. *The 39 Steps* is a delightful, four-person, slapstick adaptation of a Hitchcock classic perfect for fans of the *Pink Panther* movies and the Reduced Shakespeare Company. "It's no mystery why this affectionate parody is still delighting audiences," says *London Theatre* magazine!

Tagline:

Four actors. 150 characters. One love story-road trip-murder mystery-spy plot to be unraveled.

Cast:

Aaron White (BTE Resident Artist)...Richard Hannay

Amy Rene Byrne (BTE Resident Artist)...Annabella Schmidt/Margaret/Pamela

Kimie Muroya 室屋季美恵 (BTE Resident Artist)...Clown #1

Keith Livingston (BTE Guest Artist)...Clown #2.

Production Team:

James E. Ofalt (Guest Artist)...Director

Helena Alfajora (Guest Artist)...Set/Scenic Designer

Gregor Gunelson (BTE Scenic Shop and Facilities Manager)...Props Designer

Jennifer Lippert...BTE Costume Shop Manager and Production Coordinator

Nick McGaw (BTE Affiliated Artist)...Sound Designer

Hayley Garcia Parnell (Guest Artist)...Lighting Designer

Heather Rummings...Stage Manager

Jared Whitford (BTE Communications & Development Director)...Costume Designer

Sarah Elizabeth Yorke...BTE Creative Producer

Webpage:

bte.org/the39steps2025

Production Sponsor:

AO Rent

Sunday Matinee Sponsor:

MC Federal Credit Union

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ABOUT BLOOMSBURG THEATRE ENSEMBLE

Since 1978, Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble has been sharing professional theater with central and eastern Pennsylvania communities. BTE operates out of the Alvina Krause Theatre at 226 Center Street in Bloomsburg, PA.