

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

December 18, 2019

Point Park University postpones the show *Parade*

Statement from Paul Hennigan, president of Point Park:

Over the past three weeks, leaders of the Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University and the Conservatory of Performing Arts have held wide-ranging, honest discussions with students, faculty and staff regarding issues of diversity, inclusion and equity.

As we continue our dialogue and work together to enhance the culture at Point Park in a way that will lead to a more inclusive community, we have made the decision to postpone indefinitely our production of the show *Parade*, which was scheduled for April.

Through my involvement in these discussions with the Point Park community, it is clear to me that our priority as a University must be our students, and we cannot allow a production to move forward that could overshadow our educational and developmental mission. We also would not be serving the best interests of our loyal patrons or the show *Parade*, a widely acclaimed and important musical that generates robust conversation about social awareness and societal change.

In its place, the Playhouse will offer the Tony Award-winning musical *Pippin*. The 2013 Broadway revival brought renewed luster to this popular work, and we believe it will both challenge our students and delight our audiences.