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High-res cast photos available now at:

www.canarypromo.com/lantern

View the release online: <http://bit.ly/14sHjYD>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2013

**Lantern Theater Company Opens 20th Anniversary Season
with Jane Austen's *Emma*, directed by Kathryn MacMillan
September 19 – October 27, 2013**

***Five-day Regency & Revelry: The Jane Austen Festival* will accompany
Emma October 11 – 15, 2013**

PHILADELPHIA – [Lantern Theater Company](http://www.lanterntheater.org) reaches its milestone 20th year during the 2013/14 season, opening with the Philadelphia premiere of **Jane Austen's** classic and beloved novel *Emma*, adapted for the stage by **Michael Bloom**, running **September 19 – October 27**. To coincide with this production, the Lantern presents *Regency and Revelry: The Jane Austen Festival*, a five-day festival of readings, performances and other experiences from **October 11 – 15**. [Full schedule is below]

In an adaptation created specifically for the stage, *Emma* playfully incorporates the theater medium to bring the audience into the world of Emma Woodhouse, a young, precocious and delightfully meddling matchmaker. While attempting to find a love match for her new friend Harriet Smith, Emma finds herself caught in the center of flirtatious misunderstandings among the villagers of Highburg. Sudden departures, secret engagements and unexpected romances ultimately collide for a smart ending that continues to captivate modern audiences.

“Every romantic novel today has been influenced, directly and indirectly, by Jane Austen's novels,” says director **Kathryn MacMillan**. “Her characters stand the test of time, and her stories are adapted so often and so well because they are truthful and funny. *Emma* is a case study in folly and eccentricity. It's fun to watch what have become familiar tropes, like the ‘too clever for her own good’ young girl, yet the interpersonal relationships are still surprising and Austen's ability to create an ironic detachment keeps it modern.”

Adds Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**, “Jane Austen represents a different type of challenge for the company – a different kind of storytelling that places new demands on design

and that requires a new dialogue with our audiences. We're starting a new relationship with an author, as we have with Shakespeare, Fugard, McDonagh and others. As we take this opportunity to look back at what we've accomplished as a company over the past twenty years, Austen represents a new push forward into our future."

October 11-15, the Lantern will also present [*Regency and Revelry: The Jane Austen Festival*](#). Through performances, lectures, book readings, demonstrations and experiential events, *Regency & Revelry* will offer a multi-faceted exploration into the world of Jane Austen.

Directed by the Lantern's Associate Artistic Director **Kathryn MacMillan**, [*Emma*](#) runs **September 19 – October 27, 2013 (press opening: Wednesday, September 25, 7 p.m.)**. Tickets are \$20 – \$38 and are available online at lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. \$10 student rush tickets are available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID; cash only. Additional discounts are available for seniors, groups of 10 or more and U.S. military personnel. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Streets in Center City Philadelphia.

Cast & Production Team

Emma features a cast of nine, seven of whom are making their Lantern debuts. In the role of the precocious Emma Woodhouse is **Lauren Sowa**, who has worked in London and New York with The Old Vic Theatre, Metropolitan Playhouse and the Shakespeare Forum, among others, as well as Opera House Arts in Maine, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, North Carolina Shakespeare Festival and Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre. **Harry Smith** plays Emma's neighbor and sole outspoken critic, Mr. Knightley. Harry trained at Cambridge University and the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. His Philadelphia theater credits include *Pumpgirl*, *Walworth Farce*, and *The Hand of Gaul* (Inis Nua Theatre Company); *The Mousetrap* and *An Ideal Husband* (Walnut Street Theatre); and *Spacewang* (Azuka Theatre/Tiny Dynamite). In the UK, he has performed with Bristol Old Vic, Shakespeare's Globe, Edinburgh Royal Lyceum, Cambridge Arts Theatre and Old Fire Station, Oxford. In addition to *Emma*, this season Harry will be performing in *Pride and Prejudice* at People's Light & Theatre and *The Real Thing* at The Wilma Theater.

Emma's former governess, Mrs. Anne Weston, is played by **Charlotte Northeast**, an Artistic Associate of the Philadelphia Artists' Collective, and recent works include *Bug* (Theatre Exile), *Blood: A Comedy* (Passage Theatre) and *Ida in Skin in Flames* (InterAct Theatre Company, Barrymore winner). Anne's husband, Mr. Weston, is played by **Nathan Foley**, recently seen in *Timon of Athens* (Philadelphia Artists' Collective) and in the original musical *Last Plot in Revenge* (Brat Productions). Emma's friend and new subject of much of her meddling matchmaking, Harriet, will be played by Philadelphia actress **Angela Smith**, a Rowan University graduate who has worked with Arden Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre, Luna Theater Company, Plays and Players and InVersion Theatre Company, among others.

Trevor Fayle, a recent graduate of Arcadia University who was recently seen *About a Goth* (Azuka Theatre), will play Mr. Elton. In the role of Jane Fairfax is Lee Minora, who was recently seen in EgoPo Classic Theatre's *The Life and*

Death of Harry Houdini and has also been on stage with Applied Mechanics, Found Theater Company and The Painted Bride.

Returning to the Lantern stage are favorites **Peter DeLaurier** and **Jake Blouch**. Peter is a multiple Barrymore Award nominee and winner. His work at the Lantern has included directing (*Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*, 2009; *Vigil*, 2011; *The Island*, 2012) and acting (*Heroes*, 2013; *Uncle Vanya*, 2010; *Skylight*, 2008; *QED*, 2006; and *Underneath the Lintel*, for which he won the 2004 Barrymore Award for Outstanding Actor in a Play). He is an Artistic Associate at People's Light & Theatre where his credits include *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Sherlock Holmes & The Case of the Jersey Lily*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and the international tour of *Kabuki Achilles*. Jake's prior work at the Lantern has included *Henry V*, *The Liar*, *New Jerusalem* and *Romeo & Juliet*.

Dirk Durossette (*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*) is charged with creating the set of *Emma*. **Shelley Hicklin** will create lighting design with original music and sound by designer **Christopher Colucci** (*Heroes*, *The Liar*) and associate sound designer **Mark Valenzuela**. Costume design for *Emma* will be created by **Alisa Sickora Kleckner** with wig and makeup design by **Monique Gaffney**, both making their Lantern debuts **Marla Burkholder** will serve as dialect coach and **K. O. DelMarcelle**, known for her work onstage at the Lantern in *Henry V* and *Private Lives*, will be the production choreographer. **Gigi Naglak** is the production dramaturg.

About Jane Austen

Among Jane Austen's best-known works of fiction are *Emma*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. An English novelist known for her romantic fiction, her novels have been read throughout the world and adapted for stage and screen. Born in 1775, Austen's works are known for their social commentary regarding the dependency of women on marriage, told through well-timed blend of comedy and biting irony. Her characters are testaments to the 19th century realistic style of her writing and enduring in popularity to this day. She died in 1817.

Regency and Revelry: Jane Austen Festival October 11 – 15, 2013

Festival Pass (includes all festival events and \$10 discount to all Emma performances, excluding previews and opening night). \$75 for Subscribers, Seniors & Students | All Others: \$90

Presented in conjunction with the Lantern's production of *Emma* and taking place during the worldwide celebration of *Pride and Prejudice*'s 200th anniversary, *Regency & Revelry: The Jane Austen Festival* captures the novelist at the height of her modern-day popularity. Through performances, lectures, book readings, demonstrations and experiential events, *Regency & Revelry* will offer a multi-faceted exploration into the world of Jane Austen.

Friday, October 11

6 p.m.

Festival Welcome and Food & Wine Matchmaking

In the Lantern Lab | 90min | \$35 (\$30 for subscribers, seniors, students)

Following opening remarks by *Emma* director **Kathryn MacMillan**, sommelier-instructors from the **Wine School of Philadelphia** will lead us through a sampling of delicious food and drink that playfully explores Emma's key qualities as a matchmaker.

Founded in 2001 by wine consultant and *Philadelphia Style Magazine* wine columnist Keith Wallace, the **Wine School of Philadelphia** is the largest independent wine school in the country. Its graduates have gone on to become world-famous winemakers, sommeliers, published authors, and industry leaders.

8 p.m.

Performance: *Emma*

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2hrs 20min | \$35 (discounts for subscribers, seniors & students)

10:30 p.m.

Artists: In Conversation – Post-Show Discussion with the *Emma* cast

On the Lantern Mainstage | 20min | FREE

Saturday, October 12

2 p.m.

Lecture and Q&A: *Hidden Jane Austen, Understanding Manners to Unlock Meaning in the Novels*

On the Lantern Mainstage | 90min | \$10 (\$8 for subscribers, seniors, students)

Celebrated author **Margaret C. Sullivan** leads this revealing lecture that addresses key differences between Austen's time and our own, exploring the Regency etiquette of introductions, gender relations and dance rituals, health and wellness, and class hierarchies – all of which will allow deeper appreciation of *Emma*, both as a novel and a theatrical experience. Panelist will be announced shortly. Following the discussion, Ms. Sullivan will be available to sign copies of her book *The Jane Austen Handbook*; copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Margaret C. Sullivan is the author of *The Jane Austen Handbook*, of which *The Chicago Tribune* says, "This informative and gently amusing book explains Austen in easily digestible sections, and is equally of use to the Austen neophyte and the Austen fan." Ms. Sullivan is also the author of *There Must Be Murder* (2010) and contributor to *Jane Austen Made Me Do It* (2011). Ms. Sullivan is also the editor of AustenBlog.com and an active member of the Jane Austen Society of North America.

3:30 p.m.

Demonstration & Lesson: *Regency Dance Forms and Afternoon Ball*

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2hrs | \$10 (\$8 for subscribers, seniors, students)

Emma choreographer **K.O. DelMarcelle** and the **Germantown Country Dancers** will demonstrate and lead attendees in English country dance figures such as the cotillion, quadrille, and the early waltz, accompanied by live music. This participatory event will put immediate use to the Regency etiquette discussed during the 2 p.m. lecture.

K.O. DelMarcelle holds a BA in Theater from Montclair State University and an MA in Theater Studies from Villanova University. Along with acting and university teaching, she has experience developing and working on arts education with theaters across the Philadelphia region.

8 p.m.

Performance: *Emma*

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2hrs 20min | \$38 (discounts for subscribers, seniors & students)

10:30 p.m.

Artists: In Conversation – Post-Show Discussion with the *Emma* cast

On the Lantern Mainstage | 20min | FREE

Sunday, October 13

2 p.m.

Performance: *Emma*

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2hrs 20min | \$38 (discounts for subscribers, seniors & students)

5 p.m.

Demonstration & Refreshments: Regency Tea Rituals

In the Lantern Lab | 2hrs | \$25 (\$20 for subscribers, seniors & students)

Led by *Emma* dramaturg and tea authority **Gigi Naglak** and presented in partnership with **A Taste of Britain**, this afternoon tea will offer light refreshments and an education in tea rituals in Jane Austen's time and in modern England.

Gigi Naglak is an actor, dramaturg, and educator. She received her MA in Text and Performance Studies from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and King's College London and creates public programs for the museum at the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

Located on the Main Line in Wayne, **A Taste of Britain** is a café and tea room specializing in English specialty foods, including fresh baked scones and other pastries, full afternoon tea, and British-themed meals.

7 p.m.

Concert Performance & Discussion: *Austentatious* by 11th Hour Theatre Company

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2hrs | \$20 (\$15 for subscribers, seniors & students)

Philadelphia's **11th Hour Theatre Company** presents a script-in-hand concert performance of *Austentatious*, directed by **Megan Nicole O'Brien**. When the Central Riverdale Amateur Players announce a new adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, stage manager Sam find her hands full with a colorful array of community theater misfits. With a jazzy score and anachronisms galore, *Austentatious* sends up theater at its comedic best. The performance will be followed by a moderated discussion and Q&A that will explore the skewering of the sacred cows of theater and Jane Austen's literature.

Megan Nicole O'Brien is a co-founder and company member of 11th Hour Theatre Company, a University of the Arts alumna, and a three-time Barrymore Award nominee. Her directing credits include *Blues in the Night* and *The Bomb-itty of Errors* for Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Avenue X*, and *The Bomb-itty of Errors* for 11th Hour.

Monday, October 14

7 p.m.

Concert Performance & Discussion: *Austentatious* by 11th Hour Theatre Company

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2hrs | \$20 (\$15 for subscribers, seniors & students)

See Sunday at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 15

7 p.m.

Book Discussion & Signing: *Among the Janeites* by Deborah Yaffe

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2hrs | \$15 ticket + book (\$12 for subscribers, seniors & students)

Austen scholar and author **Deborah Yaffe** joins us to discuss her new memoir, *Among the Janeites: A Journey through the World of Jane Austen Fandom*, which explores the remarkable endurance of Austen's stories, the unusual zeal that their author inspires, and the striking cross-section of lives she has touched. Part chronicle of a vibrant literary community and part memoir of a lifelong love, *Among the Janeites* is a funny and touching meditation on the nature of fandom. Ticket price includes a copy of *Among the Janites*, which Ms. Yaffe will gladly sign after the discussion.

Deborah Yaffe is an award-winning author and newspaper journalist. After hearing stories about the people she was meeting in the Austen scholarship community, Ms. Yaffe's husband urged her to give them a book of their own. *Among the Janeites: A Journey Through the World of Jane Austen Fandom* is the result. She holds a bachelor's degree in humanities from Yale University and a master's degree in politics, philosophy, and economics from Oxford University in England, which she attended on a Marshall Scholarship.

The Jane Austen Book Club Group

On the Lantern Mainstage | approximately 90min | FREE

Monday, September 30 at 7 p.m.: *Pride and Prejudice*

Monday, October 7 at 7 p.m.: *Sense and Sensibility*

Sunday, October 20 at 4:30 p.m.: *Emma*

Local scholar **Janine Utell** will lead these book club discussions of Jane Austen's work. Ms. Utell is Associate Professor and Chair of English at Widener University in Chester, where she teaches composition and 19th and 20th century British literature and plays an active role in advocating for greater visibility for the humanities. Her research focuses on the representation of intimate life in narrative. She also facilitates book groups for adults at the Swarthmore Public Library. She holds a BA (summa cum laude) in English and French from Barnard College and a PhD in English from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

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Rose Mineo, rose@canarypromo.com

Emma
FACTS

<p>Performances:</p> <p>Thu, 9/19 7 p.m. Fri, 9/20 8 p.m. Sat, 9/21 8 p.m. Sun, 9/22 2 p.m.</p> <p>Tue, 9/24 7 p.m. Wed, 9/25* 7 p.m. Thu, 9/26 7 p.m. Fri, 9/27 DIC 8 p.m. Sat, 9/28 8 p.m. Sun, 9/29 AIC 2 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, 10/2 7 p.m. Thu, 10/3 7 p.m. Fri, 10/4 OC 8 p.m. Sat, 10/5 OC 2 p.m. Sat, 10/5 8 p.m. Sun, 10/6 2 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, 10/9 2 p.m. Wed, 10/9 7 p.m. Thu, 10/10 7 p.m. Fri, 10/11 AIC / JAF 8 p.m. Sat, 10/12 AIC / JAF 8 p.m. Sun, 10/13 JAF 2 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, 10/16 7 p.m. Thu, 10/17 7 p.m. Fri, 10/18 8 p.m. Sat, 10/19 2 p.m. Sat, 10/19 8 p.m. Sun, 10/20 2 p.m.</p> <p>Wed, 10/23 2 p.m. Wed, 10/23 7 p.m. Thu, 10/24 7 p.m. Fri, 10/25 8 p.m. Sat, 10/26 8 p.m. Sun, 10/27 2 p.m.</p> <p>*Opening Night OC: Open Caption</p>	<p>Dates: <i>Emma</i> September 19 – October 27, 2013 Previews run September 19 – September 24 Opening night is Wednesday, September 25, 7 p.m. Regency & Revelry: October 11 – 15, 2013</p> <p>Theater: Lantern Theater Company At St. Stephen's Theater 10th & Ludlow Streets Philadelphia, PA 19107</p> <p>Prices: Adults: \$20-\$36 Students: \$10-\$26 \$10 student rush tickets available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID; cash only</p> <p>Special discounts are available for seniors and groups of 10 or more.</p> <p>Tickets: Phone: (215) 829-0395 Online: www.lanterntheater.org</p> <hr/> <p>Emma By Jane Austen Adapted by Michael Bloom Directed by Kathryn MacMillan</p> <p>Cast (<i>in alphabetical order</i>)</p> <p>Jake Blouch Frank Churchill/ Robert Martin Peter DeLaurier Mr. Woodhouse Trevor Fayle Mr. Elton Nathan Foley Mr. Weston Lee Minora Jane Fairfax Charlotte Northeast Mrs. Weston/ Miss Bates Angela Smith Harriet Smith/ Mrs. Elton Harry Smith Mr. Knightley Lauren Sowa Emma Woodhouse</p> <p>Production Team</p> <p>Meghan Jones Production Manager Dirk Durossette Scenic Designer Alisa Sickora Kleckner Costume Designer Shelley Hicklin Lighting Designer Christopher Colucci Original Music & Sound Designer Mark Valenzuela Associate Sound Designer K.O. DelMarcelle Choreographer Monique Gaffney Wig & Makeup Designer Marla Burkholder Dialect Coach Gigi Naglak Dramaturg Elaina DiMonaco Assistant Director Rebecca Smith Stage Manager</p>
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