

Mailing Address

Lantern Theater Company
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Theater Address

Lantern Theater Company
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2014

**Lantern Theater Company Opens 2014/15 Season with
Tom Stoppard's Masterpiece *Arcadia*, Directed by Kathryn
MacMillan, September 25 – November 2, 2014**

Four-day Festival to accompany Arcadia, October 23 - 26

PHILADELPHIA – Lantern Theater Company will open its 21st season with a production of *Arcadia* by **Tom Stoppard** in an extended five-week run from **September 25 – November 2, 2014**. To coincide with this production, the Lantern will also present *In Arcadia: Celebrating Tom Stoppard's Masterpiece*, a four-day festival featuring a panel discussion about the play's rich and varied themes with Stoppard expert **Toby Zinman**, a high tea, special performances of some of Stoppard's rarely-performed short works, and other experiential events from **October 23 – 26**. [Full schedule is below]

Considered by many to be the legendary British playwright's best work and one of the greatest plays of the last 20 years, Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* is a tale of two centuries, shifting as seamlessly between eras as it does between farcical comedy and heartbreaking romance. It is 1809 and young Thomasina Coverly is working on geometry and poetry, while her tutor Septimus Hodge is working on her mother. It is also the present day, and Hannah Jarvis and Bernard Nightingale are scholars and sleuths trying to rediscover the events we see unfold in Thomasina's world. This comedy of misunderstandings and misinterpretations is set up against a passionate quest to unravel the mysteries of history, art, science, and love. *Arcadia* premiered at the Royal National Theatre in 1993 and went on to win several awards, including the Tony, Drama Desk, and Olivier Awards for Best Play.

Arcadia will be directed by Lantern Associate Artistic Director **Kathryn MacMillan**, who has helmed a dozen Lantern productions since 2004, including recent productions of Jane Austen's *Emma*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and *The Liar*. MacMillan notes, "As with many of the Lantern's productions, *Arcadia* tackles big ideas while offering audiences an accessible experience of compelling characters in an intimate space that makes the audience feel like they are a part of the play's world." Of her own experiences with the play, MacMillan said, "I read

Arcadia as a student and it was no less than my first love affair with a play. Until then, I didn't know that the great ideas of science, art, and mathematics could share a world so harmoniously with boldly drawn characters, silly laughs, and heartbreaking romance. I was the dramaturg of a university production of the play. I cannot wait to revisit the script as a more mature artist and unlock its mysteries with designers and a cast."

"*Arcadia* is Tom Stoppard at his very best," adds Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. "It explores the nature of evidence and truth in the context of modern ideas, referring to a wide array of subjects, including mathematics, physics, thermodynamics, computer algorithms, chaos theory vs. determinism, love and death, classics, landscape design, romanticism vs. classicism, poetry, Byron, 18th century periodicals, modern academia, and even South Pacific botany. The great wonder of *Arcadia* is the deft way in which Stoppard makes these ideas live and breathe through his compelling characters and their relationships. His curiosity and eclecticism are focused on a single point of mystery at the very center of creation, the collision between the mechanical universe and the utter unpredictability of the human heart."

Arcadia runs **September 25 – November 2, 2014 (press opening: Wednesday, October 1, 7 p.m.)**. Tickets are \$22 – \$39 and are available online at lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Discounts are available for seniors 65 and up, groups of 10 or more and U.S. military personnel. \$10 student rush tickets are available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID; cash only.

The Cast and Production Team

Arcadia features a cast of twelve, three of whom are making their Lantern debuts. In the role of the brilliant teenager Thomasina Coverly is young actress **Alex Boyle**, who recently graduated from Rider University on a full-tuition acting scholarship and has worked locally with Passage Theatre Company. New York-based actor **Maxwell Eddy** plays Thomasina's dashing tutor Septimus Hodge. Maxwell trained at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has appeared regionally at SoHo Rep, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Virginia Repertory Theatre, and Premiere Stages, among others. Also making his Lantern debut as Valentine Coverly is local actor **Daniel Fredrick**, who will return to the Lantern later this season in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Returning cast members include **Kittson O'Neill** (*The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* and *New Jerusalem* at the Lantern; Artistic Associate at InterAct Theatre Company) as modern-day author Hannah Jarvis, **Joe Guzmán** (*The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*) as Bernard Nightingale in what will be his 11th Lantern production, **Charlotte Northeast** (a Barrymore nominee for her performance as Mrs. Weston/Miss Bates in last season's *Emma* and Artistic Associate of Philadelphia Artists' Collective) as the aristocratic Lady Croom, **Mike Dees** (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) as butler Jellaby, **Trevor William Fayle** (*Emma*) as Gus/Augustus, **Nathan Foley** (*Emma*) as Captain Brice, **Angela Smith** (*Emma*) as Chloe Coverly, British actor **Mal Whyte** (*Heroes*, *Henry V*) as Richard Noakes, and **Bradley K. Wrenn** (*The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; recently returned from the Edinburgh Fringe as Co-Artistic Director of The Berserker Residents) as poet Ezra Chater.

The talented design team includes **Meghan Jones** (set design), **Janus Stefenowicz** (costume design), **Thom Weaver**

(lighting design), **Christopher Colucci** (sound design and original music), **K.O. DelMarcelle** (choreography; 2014 Barrymore nominee for *Emma* choreography), **J. Alex Cordaro** (fight direction), and **Marla Burkholder** (dialect coaching).

About Tom Stoppard

Tom Stoppard has written prolifically for TV, radio, film and the stage, achieving critical acclaim and popular success with plays such as *The Real Thing*, *The Coast of Utopia*, *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, *Professional Foul*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, as well as *Arcadia*. He co-wrote the screenplays for *Brazil* and *Shakespeare in Love* and has won one Academy Award and four Tony Awards. Stoppard has been a key playwright of the National Theatre in London and is one of the most internationally performed dramatists of his generation. He was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom in 1997.

In ARCADIA: Celebrating Tom Stoppard's Masterpiece **October 23 – 26, 2014**

This four-day festival will celebrate the enduring brilliance of *Arcadia* with panel discussions on the play's rich and varied themes, a high tea, talkbacks, opportunities to mingle with fellow patrons, and special performances of some of Stoppard's rarely-performed short works.

CURTAIN RAISER

Arcadia in Objects: An Introduction to the Play

Thursday, October 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, October 24 & Saturday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 26 at 1:00 p.m.

In the Newly-Renovated Lab | 25 minutes | FREE

What do a steam pump, a bowl of rice pudding, a laptop, and a tortoise have in common? Find out during *Arcadia in Objects*, an informative pre-show lecture that through the play's props offers a quick look at the concepts and themes Stoppard explores: chaos theory, the second law of thermodynamics, scholarly investigation, modern mathematics, music, and more.

HIGH TEA & LECTURE

Arcadia in the Garden: A Tour of the Picturesque, the Romantic, and the Tree of Knowledge

Saturday, October 25 at 11:30 a.m.

In the Newly-Renovated Lab | 2 hours | \$39 (\$35 for subscribers)

Join us for high tea with sandwiches, scones with cream & jam, and mini desserts from local teahouse A Taste of Britain. Socialize with fellow patrons and enjoy a lively talk led by Widener professor **Dr. Janine Utell**, who will take us through the English garden styles that form the backdrop to *Arcadia*, exploring how Stoppard uses changing landscapes as a motif to explore his themes of progress, knowledge, and the mythical Arcadia of poets and painters.

KEYNOTE PANEL

At the Heart of Tom Stoppard: Why Arcadia Endures

Saturday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m.

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2 hours | \$15 (\$12 for subscribers)

Before the artistic triumph of 1993's *Arcadia*, critics sometimes accused Tom Stoppard of being all 'head' and no 'heart.' This panel discussion – featuring theater critic, professor, and author **Toby Zinman** and other speakers to be announced – will get to the heart of *Arcadia* to celebrate its twenty enduring years. First, we'll take a look at the historical period of the play (1809-1812) across many disciplines: Lord Byron and the Romantic imagination in poetry, mathematics, dance,

and gardening, to reveal a world in the midst of sweeping, thrilling change. Then we'll examine the major themes of *Arcadia* to reveal how skillfully Stoppard draws together wide-ranging concepts, contrasting Enlightenment reasoning with Romantic feeling, tying together science and sex, examining the nature of genius and time, and finally, comparing the laws of thermodynamics and attraction.

LANTERN PUB

Thursday, October 23 through Saturday, October 25, immediately following the performance
In the Newly-Renovated Lantern Lab | FREE

With its rich ideas and mystery, *Arcadia* is certain to spark discussion. Immediately following the performance, cast members will join patrons for informal conversations about the play. The Lantern will provide complimentary wine and some questions to consider, patrons will provide their impressions and insights!

PERFORMANCE

Stoppard Shorts: The Dissolution of Dominic Boot, Albert's Bridge, and A Separate Peace

Sunday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.

On the Lantern Mainstage | 2 hours | \$20 (\$15 for subscribers)

In addition to his enduring full-length works, Tom Stoppard is the author of several theatrically inventive one-acts and radio plays that explore his common themes of time, memory, and the quest for knowledge. This evening will be a triple bill of staged readings of Stoppard's short works, featuring a team of Philadelphia actors.

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

- *The Dissolution of Dominic Boot* (radio play, 1964): Stoppard's first radio play is a comedy with an absurdist bent in which a man tries to pay for his cab fare with a spiraling lack of success.
- *Albert's Bridge* (radio play, 1967): Albert has a degree in philosophy and – with a job as bridge painter – a new perspective on life up high. “A man could give his life to its maintenance,” he says about his beloved bridge, and the pressure of keeping his sanctuary beautiful may force Albert to do just that.
- *A Separate Peace* (teleplay, 1966): Stoppard's first teleplay is a sly, gentle dig at society's conventions and preconceptions. The mysterious John Brown arrives at a private nursing home with a briefcase full of money and demands a room. He can pay for it. He has nothing wrong with him, but so what?

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company is committed to an authentic and intimate exploration of the human spirit in its choice of classics, modern, and original works. The Lantern seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of its community, exposing audiences to great theater, inviting participation in dialogue and discussion, educating audience members about artistic and social issues, and employing theatrical language and techniques to enrich learning in the classroom. The Lantern has received 82 Barrymore Award nominations, winning 15 times including the 2009 Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service for its innovative education program, *Illumination*. Lantern Theater Company has been in residence at St. Stephen's Theater at 10th & Ludlow Streets in Center City Philadelphia since 1996, managing the performance space and developing it into an affordable multi-purpose performing arts venue. For further information, please visit www.lanterntheater.org.

ARCADIA FACT SHEET

PREVIEWS

Thursday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, September 26 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 27 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 28 at 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT

Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.

PERFORMANCES

Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. on October 8, October 22 and October 29
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on October 8, October 15, October 22 and October 29
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. on October 2, October 9, October 16, October 23 and October 30
Fridays at 8:00 p.m. on October 3, October 10, October 17, October 24 and October 31
Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. on October 18
Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. on October 4, October 11, October 18, October 25 and November 1
Sundays at 2:00 p.m. on October 5, October 12, October 19, October 26 and November 2

CLOSING PERFORMANCE

Sunday, November 2 at 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION

Lantern Theater Company
At St. Stephen's Theater
10th & Ludlow Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19107

TICKET PRICES

Adults: \$22-\$39
Students: \$10-\$29
\$10 student rush tickets available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID; cash only
Additional discounts available for seniors, military personnel, and groups of 10 or more

PARKING/TRANSPORTATION

Garage parking is available at the Autopark at Jefferson lot at 10th & Ludlow Streets or the LAZ Parking Garage at 10th & Chestnut Streets. The Lantern is also accessible by taxi, SEPTA buses and trains, and the PATCO Speedline.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In Arcadia: Celebrating Tom Stoppard's Masterpiece from Thursday, October 23 through Sunday, October 26

A four-day festival celebrating Arcadia, including panel discussions on the play's rich and varied themes, a high tea, talkbacks, opportunities to mingle, and special performances of some of Stoppard's rarely-performed short works.

Directors In Conversation on Friday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.

A free pre-show discussion with Arcadia director Kathryn MacMillan

Artists In Conversation, immediately after Sunday 2:00 p.m. performances on October 5, October 12 and October 26

A free post-show discussion with members of the Arcadia cast

Open Captioned Performances on Friday, October 17 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Presented for our deaf and hearing-impaired audiences

ARCADIA COMPANY

Written by Tom Stoppard
Directed by Kathryn MacMillan

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Alex Boyle as Thomasina Coverly
Mike Dees as Jellaby
Maxwell Eddy as Septimus Hodge
Trevor William Fayle as Gus/Augustus
Nathan Foley as Captain Brice
Daniel Fredrick as Valentine Coverly
Joe Guzmán as Bernard Nightingale
Charlotte Northeast as Lady Croom
Kittson O'Neill as Hannah Jarvis
Angela Smith as Chloe Coverly
Mal Whyte as Richard Noakes
Bradley K. Wrenn as Ezra Chater

Production Team

Meghan Jones – Production Manager & Scenic Designer
Janus Stefanowicz – Costume Designer
Thom Weaver – Lighting Designer
Christopher Colucci – Original Music & Sound Designer
K.O. DelMarcelle – Choreographer
J. Alex Cordaro – Fight Director
Marla Burkholder – Dialect Coach
Dale Nadel – Props Master
Meghan Winch – Dramaturg
Rebecca Smith – AEA Stage Manager
Chelsea Sanz – AEA Assistant Stage Manager
Laurel Hostak – Assistant Director

PRESS INFORMATION

Deborah Fleischman
(215) 735-7356

TICKET INFORMATION / BOX OFFICE

Phone: (215) 829-0395
Online: www.lanterntheater.org

SYNOPSIS

Tom Stoppard's masterpiece is one of the greatest plays of the last 20 years – a tale of two centuries, shifting as seamlessly between eras as it does between farcical comedy and heartbreaking romance. It is 1809 and young Thomasina is working on geometry and poetry, while her tutor Septimus is working on her mother. It is also the present day, and Hannah and Bernard are scholars and sleuths trying to rediscover the events we see unfold in Thomasina's world. This comedy of misunderstandings and misinterpretations is set up against a passionate quest to unravel the mysteries of history, art, science, and love.

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