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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LANTERN THEATER COMPANY'S LUMINARY AWARD
PRESENTED TO PETER DELAURIER AND MICHAEL NORRIS
AT 'A TOUCH OF TANGO' BENEFIT ON SATURDAY, MARCH
28 AT HOTEL MONACO PHILADELPHIA**

Lantern Theater Company will honor Peter DeLaurier and Michael Norris with the 2015 Luminary Award at its Annual Benefit, A Touch of Tango, on Saturday, March 28 from 6:30-10:00 pm at the Hotel Monaco Philadelphia (5th and Chestnut Streets). A Touch of Tango is inspired by the theme of the Lantern's production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, running March 19-April 26. The event begins with a beer and wine reception and will include live entertainment, dinner and a silent auction. Auction items feature exclusive vacations, fun nights out at the region's finest restaurants and cultural hotspots, sports tickets and memorabilia, priceless collectibles and other unique items. All proceeds will benefit the Lantern's award-winning artistic and education programming which reaches over 18,000 adults and children each year. Ticket prices range from \$150-\$1,000, and are on sale at lanterntheater.org or by calling 215-829-9002 x. 102.

Lantern's Artistic Director Charles McMahon says "Michael has worked tirelessly to advocate for the arts in our region. Peter is an amazingly versatile artist, enriching our community as an actor, director and playwright. We are honored to recognize their vision and achievements."

Peter DeLaurier has a long association with Lantern Theater Company, directing *The Island*, *Virgil*, and *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*; and acting in *Emma* (Barrymore Award nomination), *Underneath the Lintel* (Barrymore Award for Outstanding Actor), *Skylight*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Heroes*, and *The Train*

Driver. He recently recreated his tour-de-force role of Richard Feynman in *QED* with the remount surpassing the original production as one of the Lantern's most acclaimed and best-selling productions. DeLaurier has been associated with People's Light & Theatre Company since 1981 serving as Artistic Associate and coordinating the Community Matters program. Highlights of his acting credits there include *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Barrymore nomination), *King Lear* (Barrymore Award), *The Winter's Tale*, *Mr. Hart & Mr. Brown*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *Sherlock Holmes* (twice). As a playwright he won a Barrymore Award for Outstanding New Play for his stage adaptation of *Anne of Green Gables*. With his late wife Ceal Phelan and other friends, he co-founded Delaware Theatre Company in 1978 and First Stage in 1987.

Michael Norris joined the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance as Vice President of External Relations in March 2012, where he directs the Alliance's policy, community engagement and development initiatives. Previously, Norris served as Executive Director of Art-Reach, where he worked to expand cultural access for people of all ages and circumstances. During his last year at Art-Reach, the organization enabled 15,000 Philadelphia-area residents with disabilities and economic disadvantages to enjoy a cultural experience. Prior to leading Art-Reach, Norris spent nine years at the Arden Theatre Company, serving first as Development Director, and then as Director of External Relations, overseeing the company's fundraising, marketing, public relations and community activities. A graduate of Temple University, he holds a certificate in fundraising from the University of Pennsylvania, and participated in the Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders at Stanford University Business School. He was selected in 2011 by Leadership Philadelphia as one of Philadelphia's Creative Connectors.

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 15 Barrymore Awards and 82 nominations, including receiving 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 more information, please visit lanterntheater.org.

BENEFIT HONORARY CO-CHAIRS:

Leonard & Mary Lee Haas

BENEFIT CO-CHAIRS:

Eugene* & Joann Bissell

Stacy Maria Dutton*

Gregory J. Kleiber* & Harriet Ravdin

BENEFIT COMMITTEE:

Nicholas D. Constan *

Joan Countryman & Edward Jakmuah

Brendan Cox

Stephen Field*

James & Kay Gately

Jay & Maxine Goldberg

Emilio & Carole Haas Gravagno

Philip Hawkins & Ronnie Kurchner-Hawkins

Donna Hill & John Wilson

Betsy Kalish*

Kevin* & Sarah Kleinschmidt

Joe Kluger & Susan Lewis

Leon & Frances Levy

Charles & Helen McMahan

Donna Saul Millen*

David & Eileen Murphy

David Pierson* & Barrie Trimmingham

Ellen Rosen Rogoff *

Michael & Nina Rosenthal

Anne Shuff & Mike Creech

Jeanne Sigler & James Fratto

Arthur & Miriam Spector

Richard & Anne Umbrecht

Richard Vague

Adam & Sarah Weinstein

Rebecca Williams*

**Lantern Board Member*

A TOUCH OF TANGO

Lantern Theater Company's Annual Benefit and Silent Auction

Event Date:

Saturday, March 28 from 6:30-10:00 PM

Event Location:

Hotel Monaco Philadelphia

5th and Chestnut Streets

Tickets:

Visit lanterntheater.org or call 215-829-9002 x 102

Benefactor: \$1,000 per person

Sponsor: \$500 per person

Patron: \$250 per person

Friend: \$150 per person

2014/15 Season

Lantern Theater Company's 2014/15 season continues with **William Shakespeare's** classic comedy ***The Taming of the Shrew***, directed by **Charles McMahon** (March 19 – April 26, 2015) and **Steven Canny** and **John Nicholson's** ingenious adaptation of **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's** ***The Hound of the Baskervilles***, directed by **Matt Pfeiffer** and starring **Dave Johnson, Daniel Fredrick** and **Damon Bonetti** (May 28 – June 28, 2015).