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[www.lanterntheater.org/press](http://www.lanterntheater.org/press)

## Lantern Theater Company Presents William Shakespeare's Political and Psychological Thriller *Coriolanus*, Mar. 9 – Apr. 16, 2017

***Shakespeare Classic Features Internationally Acclaimed Actress, Director, Author, and Shakespeare & Company Founder and Former Artistic Director Tina Packer***

PHILADELPHIA (February 14, 2017) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its 2016/17 season with its annual Shakespeare production, the rarely performed *Coriolanus*. Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahan** will direct a cast that includes internationally acclaimed actress, director, and author **Tina Packer** as Volumnia, **Robert Lyons** as Coriolanus, with **Chris Anthony, David Bardeen, Mary Lee Bednarek, Kirk Wendell Brown, Charlie DelMarcelle, Leonard C. Haas, Adam Hammet, Brian McCann, Hannah Van Sciver, and Brock D. Vickers**. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to attend **opening night on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 p.m.** *A full schedule is included in the fact sheet below.*

In this timely story of politics and radical class division, famine threatens Rome and the people's hunger swells to an appetite for change. A war hero from a powerful family, Coriolanus seems destined to be elected consul – but the people find his pride an unforgivable insult, exploding the long-simmering tensions between the governing elite and deprived masses.

“*Coriolanus*' Rome is a young republic whose institutions are failing when a restive working class makes angry demands of the Senate, and a powerful foreign enemy presses them from the outside,” said Lantern Artistic Director and *Coriolanus* director **Charles McMahan**. “In writing about Rome, Shakespeare was offering perspective on the turmoil in his own time, as angry populist leaders in the countryside mobilized against a remote and out of touch landowning class. *Coriolanus* is a fascinating political and psychological play, and one that has chilling echoes down through the ages. I believe audiences will find that the play feels very current.”

Tickets for *Coriolanus* are \$24 – \$42 and are available online at [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org) or by calling the Lantern Box Office at (215) 829-0395. Student tickets are \$15 in advance; \$10 student rush tickets are available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID. Discounts are also available for theater industry professionals (\$10 in advance or at the door), seniors 65 and up, groups of 10 or more, and U.S. military personnel. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts. in Center City Philadelphia.

## About the Director

**Charles McMahon** co-founded Lantern Theater Company in 1994 and serves as artistic director in addition to directing, acting, and writing for the company. He has directed all but one of the Lantern's annual Shakespeare productions over the past 20 years, beginning with *All's Well That Ends Well* in 1996 and including critically-acclaimed productions of *As You Like It*, *Henry V*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *Richard III* (Barrymore Award, Outstanding Production of a Play; Barrymore nomination, Outstanding Direction of a Play), and *The Comedy of Errors* (Barrymore nomination, Outstanding Production and Direction of a Play). McMahon's original play *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths* was produced to critical acclaim in 2016. McMahon also co-created the Lantern's world premiere adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, which was honored with two 2014 Barrymore Awards and five nominations, including a nomination for Outstanding New Play.

## About the Cast and Production Team

Internationally acclaimed actress, director, and author **Tina Packer** stars as Volumnia, Coriolanus' politically powerful mother. One of the country's foremost experts on Shakespeare and theater arts, Packer founded Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., in 1978 and served as artistic director until 2009. Born in England and trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Packer was an associate artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company and performed in the West End and on BBC television. She has twice received the Elliot Norton Award from the Boston Theater Critics Association as well as Massachusetts's highest cultural honor, The Commonwealth Award. She has directed nearly every Shakespeare play and has taught the entire canon at multiple colleges and universities, including Harvard, Columbia, and MIT. She has also published several books about Shakespeare, including *Power Plays: Shakespeare's Lessons in Leadership and Management*; *Tales from Shakespeare*, a retelling of Shakespeare plays for young people; and *Women of Will: Following the Feminine in Shakespeare's Plays*, which explores love, loss, freedom, and power through Shakespeare's heroines. Her performance piece *Women of Will* has traveled across America as well as internationally.

New York-based actor **Robert Lyons** makes his Lantern debut in the title role of Coriolanus. He is a graduate of Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting and the Stella Adler Studio and has worked extensively in New York and Germany, including at the renowned Berliner Ensemble.

*Coriolanus* cast members returning to the Lantern stage include **Chris Anthony** as Titus Lartius/Ensemble (previously in *As You Like It* and *Photograph 51*), **David Bardeen** as Sicinius/Ensemble (ninth Lantern appearance including *Mrs. Warren's Profession* and *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*), **Mary Lee Bednarek** as Virgilia/Ensemble (third Lantern Shakespeare production), **Kirk Wendell Brown** as Cominius/Ensemble (*As You Like It* and *The Train Driver*), **Charlie DelMarcelle** as Aufidius/Ensemble (*A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and *Romeo & Juliet*), **Leonard C. Haas** as Brutus/Ensemble (*Private Lives* and *Romeo & Juliet*), and **Brian McCann** as Menenius/Ensemble (*Happy Days*, *Othello*, and the upcoming *The Gospel According To...*). Cast members **Adam Hammet** (Ensemble), **Hannah Van Sciver** (Valeria/Ensemble), and **Brock D. Vickers** (Ensemble) will be making their Lantern debuts.

The talented design team for *Coriolanus* includes scenic designer **Meghan Jones** (*An Iliad*, *As You Like It*, and *Photograph 51*), costume designer **Janus Stefanowicz** (*Mrs. Warren's Profession* and *As You Like It*), lighting designer **Drew Billiau** (*As You Like It*), sound designer and composer **Robert Kaplowitz** (*A Child's Christmas in Wales* and OBIE and Tony Award-winner for *Fela!*), projection designer **Michael Long** (Lantern debut), and fight director **J. Alex Cordaro** (*As You Like It*).

### **In Conversation with the Rosenbach: Tina Packer**

Presented in collaboration with the Lantern, the **Rosenbach Museum and Library** will host Tina Packer for an hour-long conversation on **Monday, February 27, 2017 at 6 p.m.** as part of its ongoing series of informal, intimate talks with literary and cultural luminaries. The conversation will be followed by an audience Q&A. Admission is free for Rosenbach members and \$15 for non-members. More information: [www.rosenbach.org](http://www.rosenbach.org).

### **About Lantern Theater Company**

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company launched its twenty-third season with a record number of subscribers, its largest-ever operating budget at \$1.3M, and a growing community of theater artists engaged in its productions and audience enrichment events. Last season, the Lantern launched the **Lantern Theater Artist Fair Pay Initiative**, a pioneering program to increase the compensation of its contract theater artists by 50% over the prior season. The Lantern seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of its community, exposing audiences to great theater, inviting participation in dialogue and discussion, engaging audience members on artistic and social issues, and employing theatrical language and techniques to enrich learning in the classroom. Since the inception of the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre in 1995, the Lantern has received 94 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service Award for its innovative education program, *Illumination*. The Lantern's 2016/17 season concludes with *The Gospel According To Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord* by Scott Carter and directed by James Ijames (June 1 – July 2, 2017). More information is online at [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org).

# FACT SHEET

## Coriolanus

### WRITTEN BY:

William Shakespeare

### DIRECTED BY:

Charles McMahon

### CAST:

Chris Anthony as Titus Lartius/Ensemble  
David Bardeen as Sicinius/Ensemble  
Mary Lee Bednarek as Virgilia/Ensemble  
Kirk Wendell Brown as Cominius/Ensemble  
Charlie DelMarcelle as Aufidius/Ensemble  
Leonard C. Haas as Brutus/Ensemble  
Adam Hammet as Ensemble  
Robert Lyons as Coriolanus  
Brian McCann as Menenius/Ensemble  
Tina Packer as Volumnia  
Hannah Van Sciver as Valeria/Ensemble  
Brock D. Vickers as Ensemble

### PRODUCTION TEAM:

Scenic Designer – Meghan Jones  
Costume Designer – Janus Stefanowicz  
Lighting Designer – Drew Billiau  
Sound Designer & Composer – Robert Kaplowitz  
Projection Designer – Michael Long  
Fight Director – J. Alex Cordaro  
AEA Stage Manager – Rebecca Smith  
AEA Assistant Stage Manager – Erika Graff  
Production Manager – Meghan Jones

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### TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org)  
By Phone: (215) 829-0395  
In Person: Lantern Box Office, 10th & Ludlow Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19107

### TICKET PRICING:

Tickets are \$24 – \$42  
Discounts available for students, seniors, military, and groups of 10 or more

### PREVIEWS:

Thursday, March 9 at 7 p.m.  
Friday, March 10 at 8 p.m.  
Saturday, March 11 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, March 12 at 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

**OPENING:**

Wednesday, March 15 at 7 p.m.

**REGULAR RUN:**

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on March 28  
Wednesday at 2 p.m. on March 22 and March 29  
Wednesday at 7 p.m. on March 22, March 29, April 5, and April 12  
Thursday at 7 p.m. on March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, and April 13  
Friday at 8 p.m. on March 17, March 24 [PUB], March 31, April 7, and April 14  
Saturday at 2 p.m. on March 25 and April 15  
Saturday at 8 p.m. on March 18, March 25, April 1, April 8, and April 15  
Sunday at 2 p.m. on March 19 [AIC], March 26 [AIC], April 2, April 9, and April 16

**CLOSING:**

Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m.

**PERFORMANCE VENUE:**

St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19107

**PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:**

Ample parking is available at nearby lots and garages, including The Autopark at Jefferson (10th & Ludlow Sts.) and LAZ Parking (10th & Chestnut Sts.). Metered street parking is available during posted hours. Venue is also accessible by taxi, SEPTA buses and trains, and the PATCO Highspeed line.

**PLAY SYNOPSIS:**

Famine threatens Rome, and the people's hunger swells to an appetite for political change. A war hero from a powerful family, Coriolanus seems destined to be elected consul – but the people find his pride an unforgivable insult, exploding the long-simmering tensions between the fracturing state's governing elite and deprived masses. This timely story of radical class division is also a compelling psychological portrait of Coriolanus and his politically savvy mother, Volumnia, played by internationally acclaimed actress, director, and author Tina Packer.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- **[PUB]** Lantern Pub Night  
Lively conversation over a complimentary pub beverage immediately following 8 p.m. performance on Friday, March 24
- **[AIC]** Artists in Conversation  
Post-show discussions with the artists following 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, March 19 and Sunday, March 26