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Lantern Theater Company Announces *In Conversation: The Mirror to Nature* with Drama Scholar Michael W. Brooks and Lantern Artistic Director Charles McMahon on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.

In Conversation Program Presented in Conjunction with the Lantern's Philadelphia Premiere Production of RED VELVET by Lolita Chakrabarti, Onstage Now Through October 8

PHILADELPHIA (September 19, 2017) – As part of its ongoing **In Conversation Series** of fascinating discussions with theater artists and special guests, **Lantern Theater Company** will host noted drama scholar **Michael W. Brooks** and Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon** for ***In Conversation: The Mirror to Nature*** on **Sunday, October 1, 2017, at approximately 4:30 p.m.** Presented in conjunction with the Lantern's current production of Lolita Chakrabarti's ***Red Velvet***, the program will focus on how theater-making evolved during the 19th century, with particular focus on the shift from stylized to more naturalistic acting and how casting has come to better reflect audiences. The conversation immediately follows the 2:00 p.m. performance on Sunday, October 1, and is free to the general public with ticket purchase. Members of the press are invited to attend; advance reservations are required.

About the Panelists

A retired professor of English literature at West Chester University, **Michael W. Brooks'** In Conversation program about George Bernard Shaw and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* was a highlight of the Lantern's 2016/17 season. Brooks' works include *John Ruskin and Victorian Architecture* and *Subway City: Riding the Trains, Reading New York*, which traces the development of the subway from its inception, including how it has been represented in art and film, recounting women's experiences of the subway, and examining its connection to the city's racial tensions.

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 Shakespeare productions over the past 23 seasons, including *Richard III* (Barrymore Award, Outstanding Production of a Play), *The Comedy of Errors* (Barrymore nomination, Outstanding Direction of a Play), and recent productions of *Coriolanus*, *As You Like It*, and *Othello*. Other Lantern directing credits include *The Taming of the Shrew*; *Henry V*; *New Jerusalem*; *Romeo & Juliet*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Henry IV, Part I*; *Hamlet*; *La Ronde* (also translator and adapter); *Much Ado About Nothing*; *King Lear*; *The House of Bernarda Alba*; and *A Doll's House*. McMahon's original play *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths* was produced to critical acclaim in 2016. McMahon also co-created the Lantern's original 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. He is a graduate of New York University's theater department where he studied acting and directing.

In Conversation: The Mirror to Nature immediately follows the Sunday, October 1, 2:00 p.m. performance of *Red Velvet* and is free to the general public with ticket purchase. Tickets are \$20 – \$39 and are available online at 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 Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company is launching its twenty-fourth season with a record number of subscribers, its largest-ever operating budget at \$1.5 million, and a growing community of theater artists engaged in its productions and audience enrichment events. The Lantern's innovative **Theater Artist Fair Pay Initiative** was recently featured in *American Theatre* magazine as a leading national success story for increasing artist compensation through a combination of fundraising and higher ticket sales. 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 96 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service Award for its education program, *Illumination*. More information is online at www.lanterntheater.org.

FACT SHEET
In Conversation: The Mirror to Nature

PRESENTED BY:
Lantern Theater Company

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EVENT DATE:
Sunday, October 1, 2017
2:00 p.m. performance of *Red Velvet*
4:30 p.m. *In Conversation* panel discussion

TICKET PRICING:
Tickets are \$20 – \$39 and include the performance and post-show discussion
Discounts available for students, seniors, military, and groups of 10 or more

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

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.

SYNOPSIS:
Presented by Lantern Theater Company in conjunction with its current production of *Red Velvet*, this fascinating conversation with drama scholar Michael W. Brooks and Lantern Artistic Director Charles McMahon will focus on how theater-making evolved during the 19th century, with particular focus on the shift from stylized to more naturalistic acting and how casting has come to better reflect audiences. A retired professor of English literature at West Chester University, Mr. Brooks' *In Conversation* program about George Bernard Shaw and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* was a highlight of the Lantern's 2016/17 season. Brooks' works include *John Ruskin and Victorian Architecture* and *Subway City: Riding the Trains, Reading New York*, which traces the development of the subway from its inception, including how it has been represented in art and film, recounting women's experiences of the subway, and examining its connection to the city's racial tensions. The discussion immediately follows the 2:00 p.m. performance of *Red Velvet* on Sunday, October 1 and is free with ticket purchase.