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#HapgoodLTC

Lantern Theater Company Presents the Philadelphia Premiere of *Hapgood* by Tom Stoppard, September 6 – October 14, 2018

Stoppard's Masterful Blend of Spy Thriller, Quantum Physics, and Motherhood Launches the Lantern's Ambitious 25th Anniversary Season

PHILADELPHIA (September 6, 2018) – **Lantern Theater Company** kicks off its 2018/19 season with the regional premiere of *Hapgood* by **Tom Stoppard**. Longtime Lantern artistic collaborator **Peter DeLaurier** will direct a cast that includes **McKenna Kerrigan** as MI5 spymaster Elizabeth Hapgood, with **Damon Bonetti, Kirk Wendell Brown, Trevor William Fayle, Christopher Patrick Mullen, Adam Phelan, David Pica, William Zielinski**, and young actors **Charles LaMonaca** and **Will Zielinski**, who will share the role of Hapgood's son Joe. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to request tickets for **opening night on Wednesday, September 12 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Anne Shuff at ashuff@lanterntheater.org. Performances run **Thursday, September 6 through Sunday, October 14, 2018**; *a full schedule of performances and related special events is included in the fact sheet below.*

Tom Stoppard refers to *Hapgood* as his “plot play.” Showcasing the prolific playwright's characteristic wit, verve, and deft wordplay, Russian espionage collides with particle physics in a mesmerizing journey through a wildly complex counterintelligence operation – and absolutely nothing is what it appears to be. Focused mainly on a brilliant British spymaster juggling motherhood and career in a profession dominated by men, *Hapgood* also references quantum mechanics – including Niels Bohr's “The answer is the question interrogated,” Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, and the historically notable mathematical problem of the Seven Bridges of Königsberg. *Hapgood* marks the Lantern's fifth production of Stoppard's work, including *Arcadia* (2014), *Heroes* (2012), *Rough Crossing* (1998), and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (1997).

“*Hapgood* has long been one of my own favorites among Stoppard’s plays,” said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. “It stands out from the body of Stoppard’s work as one of his most tightly plotted plays. The front pages of today’s newspapers are full of tales of Russian espionage, so the Lantern’s production is very much in the spirit of the challenging times in which we live.”

“Stoppard has given us a brilliant story,” said *Hapgood* director **Peter DeLaurier**. “But to call *Hapgood* a spy thriller may be deceiving. It makes the story sound exotic. Spies are people with appetites and families, loves, joys, and sorrows. *Hapgood* is full of ordinary human relationships – twins, mother and son, lovers, colleagues, and enemies. The thrill of this play is how the characters sort out these relationships, sometimes happily, but often not.” DeLaurier’s directing credits include Lantern productions of *Red Velvet* by Lolita Charkabarti; *36 Views* by Naomi Iizuka; *The Island* and *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*, both by Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona; and *Vigil* by Morris Panych. He has also graced the Lantern stage in productions of *The Tempest*, *An Iliad*, *Underneath the Lintel*, *QED*, *The Train Driver*, *Emma*, *Heroes*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *Skylight*. DeLaurier is a seven-time Barrymore Award nominee and received the award twice: for his role as The Librarian in *Underneath the Lintel* at the Lantern and as Kent in *King Lear* at People’s Light. He is an artistic associate at People’s Light and has been a member of their resident company since 1991.

The Lantern will delve into the world of *Hapgood* on its **Lantern Searchlight** blog, available online at www.lanterntheater.org/searchlight. Published articles will explore the history of the Cold War, the women of British intelligence, British spy novelists, particle physics and the dual nature of reality, Stoppard’s illusions, behind the scenes interviews with the artists, and more. New content will be added throughout the production’s run.

Tickets for *Hapgood* are \$28 – \$43 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 ten 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 Tom Stoppard

Tom Stoppard has written for film, television, radio, and stage, achieving critical acclaim and popular success with plays such as *Arcadia*, *Travesties*, *The Real Thing*, *The Coast of Utopia*, and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. Stoppard co-wrote the screenplays for *Shakespeare in Love* and *Brazil*, and is the winner of an Academy Award and four Tony Awards. He has been a key playwright of London’s National Theatre and is one of the most internationally performed dramatists of his generation. He was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1997.

About the Cast and Production Team

McKenna Kerrigan will make her Lantern debut in the title role of Elizabeth Hapgood, a brilliant British female spymaster juggling motherhood and career in a male-dominated profession. Kerrigan is a longtime company member with New Paradise Laboratories, an associated artist with Target Margin Theater in NYC, and a company member of Partial Comfort Productions in NYC. Her regional credits also include productions with Pig Iron Theatre Company, The Philadelphia Orchestra, People's Light, Headlong Dance Theater, Vineyard Theatre, La Mama, Connelly Theater, PS 122, West End Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival, among others. Her film and television credits include *Boardwalk Empire*, *Criminal Minds*, *Aftermath*; *Dead Woman Walking*, *My America*, and *Lebanon, PA*.

The *Hapgood* cast also includes **Damon Bonetti** as MI5 agent Ridley (*Red Velvet* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* at the Lantern), **Kirk Wendell Brown** as CIA agent Wates (*Coriolanus*, *As You Like It*, and *The Train Driver*), **Christopher Patrick Mullen** as MI5 agent Blair (Lantern debut, longtime People's Light company member), **Trevor William Fayle** as Hapgood's secretary Maggs (*Photograph 51* and *Arcadia*), **Adam Phelan** as the Russian (native of Ireland, now serving as a 2018/19 season apprentice at the Lantern), **David Pica** as MI5 agent Merryweather (*Red Velvet* and *36 Views*), and **William Zielinski** as Russian nuclear physicist and double agent Kerner (*Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Travels with My Aunt*, *Rough Crossing*, and *True West*). **Charles LaMonaca** (*Fun Home* at Arden Theatre Company) and **Will Zielinski** (professional debut) will both make their Lantern debuts in the shared role of Hapgood's son Joe.

The talented design team has created a physical world that encompasses multiple locations within the Lantern's intimate playing space. Leading that effort is scenic designer **Nick Embree**, whose previous Lantern credits include *Copenhagen*, *The Island*, *New Jerusalem*, and *Vigil*. Embree also serves as head of University of the Arts' Theater Design and Technology program. Embree is joined by costume designer **Natalia de la Torre** (*The Tempest* and *An Iliad*), lighting designer **Lily Fossner** (*Red Velvet* and *Informed Consent*), and sound designer and composer **Christopher Colucci**, an eight-time Barrymore Award-winner whose many Lantern credits include *Red Velvet*, *The Gospel According To...*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, and *Arcadia*. Props master **Shaelyn Weatherup** is making her Lantern debut.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company is entering its 25th anniversary season with a record number of subscribers 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 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 and 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 been recognized with 100 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service. Following *Hapgood*, the company's 2018/19 season will continue with the Philadelphia premiere of *The Heir Apparent* by David Ives, *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter, *Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare, and the world premiere of *Minors*, a brand new musical by Philadelphia-based artists Kittson O'Neill and Robert Kaplowitz, which was commissioned by the Lantern under the auspices of the company's New Works Program. More information is online at www.lanterntheater.org.

Lantern Theater Company – 25th Anniversary Season
FACT SHEET
Hapgood

WRITTEN BY:

Tom Stoppard

DIRECTED BY:

Peter DeLaurier

CAST:

Damon Bonetti as Ridley

Kirk Wendell Brown as Wates

Trevor William Fayle as Maggs

McKenna Kerrigan as Elizabeth Hapgood

Christopher Patrick Mullen as Blair

Adam Phelan as The Russian

David Pica as Merryweather

William Zielinski as Kerner

Charles LaMonaca and Will Zielsinki as Joe (at select performances)

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Nick Embree, Scenic Designer

Natalia de la Torre, Costume Designer

Lily Fossner, Lighting Designer

Christopher Colucci, Sound Designer and Original Music

Shaelyn Weatherup, Props Master

Rebecca Smith, AEA Stage Manager

PRESS INFORMATION:

Anne Shuff, Finance & Communications Consultant

ashuff@lanterntheater.org or (215) 888-6220

TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: www.lanterntheater.org

By Phone: (215) 829-0395

In Person: Lantern Box Office, 10th & Ludlow Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107

TICKET PRICING:

Tickets are \$28 – \$43

Discounts available for students, seniors, military, and groups of 10 or more

PERFORMANCES:

Thursday, September 6 – Sunday, October 14, 2018

PREVIEWS:

Thursday, September 6 at 7 p.m.

Friday, September 7 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, September 8 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, September 9 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT:

Wednesday, September 12 at 7 p.m.

REGULAR RUN:

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on September 18, September 25, October 2, and October 9

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on September 19 [AIC], September 26 [AIC], October 3, and October 10

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on September 19, September 26, October 3, and October 10

Thursday at 7 p.m. on September 13, September 20, September 27, October 4, and October 11

Friday at 8 p.m. on September 14, September 21 [PUB], September 28, October 5, and October 12

Saturday at 2 p.m. on September 15, September 22, September 29, October 6, and October 13

Saturday at 8 p.m. on September 22, September 29, October 6, and October 13

Sunday at 2 p.m. on September 16 [AIC], September 23 [AIC], September 30, October 7, and October 14

CLOSING PERFORMANCE:

Sunday, October 14 at 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

▪ **25th Season Opening Gala on Saturday, September 15, 2018**

Lantern Theater Company will celebrate its 25th anniversary season with a special gala event, including Opening Reception with full bar and buffet dinner at the historic Morris House Hotel at 225 S. 8th St. in Philadelphia from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., followed by a special performance of *Hapgood* at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$250 – \$5,000 and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org/gala.

▪ **[AIC] Artists in Conversation**

Moderated post-show discussions with the cast immediately follow 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, September 16; Wednesday, September 19; Sunday, September 23; and Wednesday, September 26.

▪ **[PUB] Lantern Pub Night**

Lively conversation over complimentary pub drinks immediately follows the 8 p.m. performance on Friday, September 21.

PLAY SYNOPSIS:

A brilliant woman fights to keep her place in a profession dominated by men. With Tom Stoppard's characteristic wit and verve, Russian espionage collides with particle physics in this mesmerizing journey through a wildly complex counterintelligence operation – and absolutely nothing is what it appears to be.

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

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

PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:

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