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#HeirApparentLTC

Lantern Theater Company Presents the Philadelphia Premiere of *The Heir Apparent* by David Ives, November 8 – December 16, 2018

Ives' Adaptation of Jean-François Regnard's Classic French Comedy Crackles with Humor, Poetry, and Romance

PHILADELPHIA (November 8, 2018) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its 25th anniversary season with the Philadelphia premiere of *The Heir Apparent* by **David Ives**, adapted from **Jean-François Regnard's** 1708 comedy *Le Légataire universel*. Lantern resident director **M. Craig Getting** will direct a cast that includes Lantern veterans **Chris Anthony, Leonard C. Haas, Adam Hammet, Dave Johnson, Mary Martello, Lee Minora, and Ruby Wolf**. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to request tickets for **opening night on Wednesday, November 14 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Anne Shuff at ashuff@lanterntheater.org. The expanded six-week performance schedule runs **Thursday, November 8 through Sunday, December 16, 2018**; a full schedule of performances and special events is included in the fact sheet below.

In his notes for the first production of *The Heir Apparent* at Shakespeare Theatre Company, **David Ives** shared his first impression of his source material: "I had never heard of Regnard. Yet...I needed only a single reading to know I had to take on the piece. The off-color jokes made me howl even while I marveled at Regnard's facility at rendering them in graceful yet conversational couplets." Focusing on the exuberant and hilarious struggle that breaks out when the family of a wealthy geezer gets wind of his imminent demise, *The Heir Apparent* is Ives' second self-described "translaptation," following his similar treatment of Pierre Corneille's *La Menteur* into *The Liar*, which was produced by the Lantern in 2012. Ives' modern translations of classic French comedies have become one of his many calling cards as a writer, including *The School for Lies*, adapted from Molière's *The Misanthrope*, and Georges Feydeau's *A Flea in Her Ear*. Other major works include *Venus in Fur*, a 2012 Tony Award nominee for Best Play, and *New Jerusalem, The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at Talmud Torah*

Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656, which won the prestigious Hull-Warriner Award and was produced by the Lantern in 2011 and 2012.

“*The Heir Apparent* is a modern take on commedia dell’arte, which since Roman times has walked a fine line between entertainment and political subversion,” said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. “Ives’ great gift is showing a seamless elision point between the struggles of the rising middle class of the *Ancien Régime* and modern America. The conventions of the commedia provide just enough distance for us to get a bit of perspective, but the social climbers, greedy merchants, entitled offspring, and desperate underclass in this play are in action every day across the gleaming cities of modern America.”

“There is much to recognize on stage in this play,” said *The Heir Apparent* director **M. Craig Getting**. “An aging man dictates the terms of his estate. A mother secures the best possible future for her daughter. Young lovers fight to be together. Servants plot and scheme to undermine their bosses. And a lawyer just tries to do his job. What makes this play sing is the way that David Ives – and Regnard before him – dials all of these understandable human impulses up to eleven. Time and money are two of the show’s biggest touchstones. How much time (or money) do we have left? How much more money (or time) can I have? Why am I running out of money and time so quickly? These are big questions, so why not laugh at them?” Getting’s directing credits at the Lantern include *The Craftsman*, *An Iliad*, *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*, *QED*, *Heroes*, and *A Skull in Connemara*. Getting also serves as the Lantern’s education director, overseeing the award-winning *Illumination* education program and *The Empathy Project*, the Lantern’s pioneering partnership with the Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.

The Lantern will delve into the world of *The Heir Apparent* on its **Lantern Searchlight** blog, available online at lanterntheater.org/searchlight. Published articles will explore the wild and witty life of Jean-François Regnard, commedia dell’arte’s influence on classic French comedy, modern approaches to Molière, the French aristocracy and the rise of the merchant class, and the ingeniously inventive David Ives. New content will be added throughout the production’s run.

Tickets for *The Heir Apparent* are \$28 – \$43 and are available online at 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. Four-play series and flex packs are also available for the rest of the Lantern’s 25th anniversary season, starting at \$108. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen’s Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts. in Center City Philadelphia.

About Jean-François Regnard

Jean-François Regnard (1655-1709) was a French comic dramatist. His father, a successful shopkeeper in Paris, died when Regnard was a young man, leaving him a considerable fortune. Wealth in hand, Regnard set off at once for Italy, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, and Germany. In 1678, he was captured by Barbary pirates and held in slavery until ransomed a year later. He returned to Paris in 1683, where he kept a house in the Rue de Richelieu and also acquired the small estate of Grillon near Dourdan in Seine-et-Oise, where he hunted, feasted, and wrote comedies. His first effort came in 1688 with *Le divorce*, which was performed at the Théâtre Italien. He collaborated on four other similar works with writer Charles Dufresny and gained access to the Théâtre-Français in 1694 with *Attendez-moi Sous L'orme*. In 1696, he produced what would become the skeleton for *The Gamester (Le Joueur)*. The concept for the play actually began as a joint project with Dufresny, but the writers disagreed about how the idea should be executed. Each produced his own comedy on the subject – Dufresny in prose, Regnard in verse – and naturally each accused the other of plagiarism. Other works include *La sérénade* (1694), *Le bourgeois de Falaise* (1696), *Le Distrain* (1697), *Démocrate* (1700), *Le retour imprévu* (1700), *Les Folies amoureuses* (1704), *Les Ménechmes* (1705), and *Le Légataire universel* (1708), upon which *The Heir Apparent* is based. Regnard also wrote poems, the autobiographical romance *La Provençle*, and several short accounts of his travels, published posthumously under the title *Voyages*.

About the Cast and Production Team

The Heir Apparent features a cast of Lantern comic veterans: **Chris Anthony** as Eraste, the dashing young hero (previous Lantern credits include *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Tempest*, *Coriolanus*, *As You Like It*, and *Photograph 51*); **Ruby Wolf** as Isabelle, the charming and beautiful heroine (*The Tempest* and *As You Like It*); **Dave Johnson** as Crispin, a crafty young manservant (*The Tempest*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Liar*, and many others); **Lee Minora** as Lisette, a down-to-earth maid (*Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Emma*); **Leonard C. Haas** as Geronte, miserly old uncle to Eraste (*Coriolanus*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Vigil*); **Mary Martello** as Madame Argante, Isabelle's dowager mother (*Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and *Hamlet*); and **Adam Hammet** as Scruple, a diminutive lawyer (*Red Velvet*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Coriolanus*).

The talented design team charged with creating the physical world of the play includes scenic designer **Lance Kniskern** (previous Lantern credits include *The Tempest*, *The Gospel According To...*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and many others), costume designer **Marla Jurglanis** (Lantern debut; three-time Barrymore Award-winner and resident costume designer at People's Light), lighting designer **Amanda Jensen** (Lantern debut), and sound designer **Christopher Colucci**, an eight-time Barrymore Award-winner whose many Lantern credits

include *Hapgood*, *Red Velvet*, *The Gospel According To...*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, and *Arcadia*. Props master **Dale Roth Nadel** also returns for her tenth Lantern production.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company entered 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 *The Heir Apparent*, the company's 2018/19 season will continue with *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter, *Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare, and the world premiere of *Minors*, a new musical by Philadelphia-based artists Kittson O'Neill and Robert Kaplowitz, which was commissioned through the Lantern's New Works Program. More information is online at lanterntheater.org.

Lantern Theater Company – 25th Anniversary Season
FACT SHEET
The Heir Apparent

WRITTEN BY:

David Ives

ADAPTED FROM:

Le Légataire universel by Jean-François Regnard

DIRECTED BY:

M. Craig Getting

CAST:

Chris Anthony as Eraste

Leonard C. Haas as Geronte

Adam Hammet as Scruple

Dave Johnson as Crispin

Mary Martello as Madame Argante

Lee Minora as Lisette

Ruby Wolf as Isabelle

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Lance Kniskern, Scenic Designer

Marla Jurglanis, Costume Designer

Amanda Jensen, Lighting Designer

Christopher Colucci, Sound Designer

Dale Roth Nadel, 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, November 8 – Sunday, December 16, 2018

PREVIEWS:

Thursday, November 8 at 7 p.m.

Friday, November 9 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 10 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 11 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT:

Wednesday, November 14 at 7 p.m.

REGULAR RUN:

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on November 20, November 27, and December 11

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on November 21 [AIC], November 28 [AIC], and December 12

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on November 21, November 28, December 5, and December 12

Thursday at 7 p.m. on November 15, November 29, December 6, and December 13

Friday at 8 p.m. on November 16, November 23, November 30 [PUB], December 7, and December 14

Saturday at 2 p.m. on November 17, November 24, December 1, December 8, and December 15

Saturday at 8 p.m. on November 17, November 24, December 1, December 8, and December 15

Sunday at 2 p.m. on November 18 [AIC], November 25[AIC], December 2, December 9, and December 16

Sunday at 7 p.m. on November 25 only

CLOSING PERFORMANCE:

Sunday, December 16 at 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

▪ **[AIC] Artists in Conversation**

Moderated post-show discussions with the cast immediately follow 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, November 18; Wednesday, November 21; Sunday, November 25; and Wednesday, November 28.

▪ **[PUB] Lantern Pub Night**

Lively conversation over complimentary pub drinks immediately follows the 8 p.m. performance on Friday, November 30.

PLAY SYNOPSIS:

When the family of a wealthy geezer gets wind of his imminent demise, an exuberant and hilarious struggle breaks out to get hold of his estate. In this tour de force of rhyming couplets and period costumes, comic suspense reigns. Will money, low cunning, or love triumph? From the playwright of *New Jerusalem*, *The Liar*, and *Venus in Fur*, this modern farce in the tradition of Molière crackles with humor, poetry, and romance.

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.