

Media Contact:

Anne Shuff, Finance & Communications Consultant
ashuff@lanterntheater.org or (215) 888-6220

Online Press Room & Photo Downloads:

lanterntheater.org/press

Join the Conversation Online:

#ShakespeareLTC

Lantern Theater Company Presents William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, March 14 – April 21, 2019

PHILADELPHIA (March 14, 2019) – Performances of *Measure for Measure* begin today, continuing **Lantern Theater Company's** 25th anniversary season and its annual commitment to produce the timeless stories of William Shakespeare for both the general public and local school students. Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon** directs an ensemble cast of Lantern veterans, including **Chris Anthony, Kirk Wendell Brown, Ben Dibble, Adam Hammet, Claire Inie-Richards, Anthony Lawton, Jered McLenigan, and Charlotte Northeast**. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to request tickets for **opening night on Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Anne Shuff at ashuff@lanterntheater.org. The expanded six-week performance schedule runs **Thursday, March 14 through Sunday, April 21, 2019**; a complete schedule of performances and audience enrichment events is included in the fact sheet below.

This major play in the Bard's canon will surprise and move modern audiences with its timely insights into human motivation and resilience. When the power of the State is put in the service of one man's lust, Shakespeare creates one of his greatest heroines to combat the abuse. Isabella's courage and brilliance are called upon to fight back against power, corruption, and sexual blackmail. Regarded as one of Shakespeare's "problem plays," *Measure for Measure* is ostensibly a comedy, but with plotting that is far darker and more nearly tragic than in his pure comedies. While *Measure for Measure* defies easy characterization, its themes of political hypocrisy, gendered power dynamics, and bodily autonomy remain disturbingly relevant today.

"The urgency of the human problems on display in *Measure for Measure* is immediately recognizable to our current age," noted **Charles McMahon**, who helms the production. "We wrestle with these issues in almost every one of the powerful institutions in which generations of Americans have entrusted their good faith and life's labors. Church, government, the legal system, and almost every industry have been exposed as riven with

systemic corruption, sexual harassment, and grotesque self-interest. This is the world that Shakespeare examines, and it is the world we confront when we read the morning news.”

Lantern Theater Company will delve into the world of *Measure for Measure* on its **Lantern Searchlight blog**, available online at lanterntheater.org/searchlight. Published articles will explore Shakespeare’s “problem plays,” religious extremism in Shakespeare’s time, the dangers of unaccountable leaders, and *Measure for Measure*’s connection to modern themes. New content will be added throughout the production’s run.

Tickets for *Measure for Measure* 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. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen’s Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts. in Center City Philadelphia.

About the Creative Team and Cast

Measure for Measure director **Charles McMahon** co-founded Lantern Theater Company in 1994 and serves as artistic director in addition to directing, writing, and acting for the company. He has directed all but one of the Lantern’s annual Shakespeare productions, including recent productions of *The Tempest*, *Coriolanus*, and *As You Like It*. Other Lantern directing credits include *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Henry V*, *New Jerusalem*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Hamlet*, *La Ronde* (also translator and adapter), *Richard III* (Barrymore Award), *The Comedy of Errors* (Barrymore nomination), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, and *A Doll’s House*. His acting credits include reprising the role of Heisenberg in last season’s *Copenhagen*, and his writing credits include *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths* and co-creating an original adaptation of Dylan Thomas’ *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*. In the Lantern’s recently announced 2019/20 season, McMahon will direct Bertolt Brecht’s *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and Shakespeare’s *Othello*.

Longtime Lantern artistic partner **Anthony Lawton** takes on the role of the Duke of Vienna. His recent Lantern credits include the world premiere of *The Craftsman* by Bruce Graham and the highly-acclaimed original adaptation of *Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol*, which the Lantern will remount in December 2019. Lawton has also created original adaptations of Shel Silverstein’s *The Devil and Billy Markham* and C.S. Lewis’ *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Great Divorce*, which he has performed at the Lantern and across the United States. His acting credits also include film, television, and local productions with Arden Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre, The Wilma Theater, 1812 Productions, and the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival.

Ben Dibble returns to the Lantern stage in the role Angelo, the Duke’s aide who rules in his absence. Dibble’s many Lantern credits include Father Flynn in *Doubt: A Parable*, Elyot in *Private Lives*, and the title role in

Henry V. He has appeared in almost 80 professional productions in the Philadelphia region, including productions with Walnut Street Theatre, Arden Theatre Company, The Media Theatre, and 1812 Productions. Following *Measure for Measure*, he will appear in the Lantern's world premiere of *Minors*, a new musical by Kittson O'Neill and Robert Kaplowitz.

Claire Inie-Richards plays the role of Shakespeare's great heroine Isabella, a young novice at a convent. Inie-Richards last appeared at the Lantern as Vivie Warren in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Her other stage work includes productions with Theatre Exile, Theatre Horizon, Shakespeare in Clark Park, Delaware Theatre Company, and multiple productions at People's Light, where she is a resident company member.

Additional cast members returning to the Lantern stage include **Chris Anthony** (previous Lantern productions include *The Heir Apparent* and *The Tempest*) as Claudio/Ensemble, **Kirk Wendell Brown** (*Hapgood*, *Coriolanus*, and *As You Like It*) as Escalus/Ensemble, **Adam Hammet** (*The Heir Apparent* and *Red Velvet*) as Pompey/Ensemble, **Jered McLenigan** (*Betrayal*) as Lucio/Barnardine/Ensemble, and **Charlotte Northeast** (Emma and Arcadia) as Mistress Overdone/Mariana/Ensemble.

The talented design team that will create *Measure for Measure*'s physical world includes scenic designer **Dirk Durossette** (Lantern credits include *Mrs. Warren's Profession* and *QED*), costume designer **Janus Stefanowicz** (*Red Velvet*, *Coriolanus*, and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*), lighting designer **Drew Billiau** (*Coriolanus* and *As You Like It*), and sound designer **Mary Kate Smyser** (Lantern debut). Actor **David Bardeen** assistant directs.

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 *Measure for Measure*, the company's 2018/19 season concludes with the world premiere of *Minors*, a new musical by Philadelphia-based artists Kittson O'Neill and Robert Kaplowitz, which was commissioned and developed through the Lantern's New Works Program. More information is online at lanterntheater.org.

Lantern Theater Company – 25th Anniversary Season
FACT SHEET
Measure for Measure

WRITTEN BY:

William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY:

Charles McMahan

CAST:

Chris Anthony as Claudio/Ensemble

Kirk Wendell Brown as Escalus/Ensemble

Ben Dibble as Angelo/Ensemble

Adam Hammet as Pompey/Ensemble

Claire Inie-Richards as Isabella/Ensemble

Anthony Lawton as The Duke/Ensemble

Jered McLenigan as Lucio/Ensemble

Charlotte Northeast as Mistress Overdone/Mariana/Ensemble

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Dirk Durossette, Scenic Designer

Janus Stefanowicz, Costume Designer

Drew Billiau, Lighting Designer

Mary Kate Smyser, Sound Designer

Rebecca Smith, AEA Stage Manager

David Bardeen, Assistant Director

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, March 14 – Sunday, April 21, 2019

PREVIEWS:

Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m.

Friday, March 15 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 16 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 17 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT:

Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

REGULAR RUN:

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on March 26, April 2, and April 16

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on March 27 [AIC], April 3 [AIC], and April 17

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on March 27, April 3, April 10, and April 17

Thursday at 7 p.m. on March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11, and April 18

Friday at 8 p.m. on March 22, March 29 [PUB], April 5, April 12, and April 19

Saturday at 2 p.m. on March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13, and April 20

Saturday at 8 p.m. on March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13, and April 20

Sunday at 2 p.m. on March 24 [AIC], March 31 [AIC], April 7, April 14, and April 21

CLOSING PERFORMANCE:

Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **In Conversation with Charles McMahon**

Hosted by the Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, *Measure for Measure* director Charles McMahon will discuss Shakespeare's gripping story of justice, hypocrisy, mercy, and redemption on Monday, March 18 at 4 p.m.

- **[AIC] Artists in Conversation**

Moderated post-show discussions with the cast immediately follow 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, March 24; Wednesday, March 27; Sunday, March 31; and Wednesday, April 3.

- **[PUB] Lantern Pub Night**

Lively conversation over complimentary pub drinks immediately follows the 8 p.m. performance on Friday, March 29.

PLAY SYNOPSIS:

When the power of the State is put in the service of one man's lust, Shakespeare creates one of his greatest heroines to combat the abuse. Isabella's courage and brilliance are called upon to fight back against power, corruption, and sexual blackmail. This major play in the Bard's canon will surprise and move modern audiences with its timely insights into human motivation and resilience.

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

St. Stephen's Theater, 923 Ludlow Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:

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