

Media Contact:

Stacy Dutton, Executive Director
sdutton@lanterntheater.org or (610) 420-1121

Online Press Room & Photos:

lanterntheater.org/press

Lantern Theater Company Continues 2025/26 Season with *MACBETH* by William Shakespeare, Directed by Charles McMahon, October 30 – December 7, 2025

PHILADELPHIA (October 15, 2025) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its 2025/26 season with ***Macbeth***, by William Shakespeare. Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon** directs a cast of Lantern veterans led by **Anthony Lawton** and **Karen Peakes** and featuring **Rachel Brodeur, Trevor William Fayle, J Hernandez, Eli Lynn, Jered McLenigan, Amanda Schoonover, and Frank X.** *Macbeth* runs **Thursday, October 30 through Sunday, December 7, 2025**, at St. Stephen's Theater in Center City Philadelphia; a complete schedule of performances and audience enrichment events is included in the fact sheet below. Theater critics and members of the press planning coverage are invited to request press tickets for **opening night on Wednesday, November 5 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Emily Wilson at ewilson@lanterntheater.org.

The Fates weave a tangled web for the Thane of Glamis and his Lady. Tempted by a tantalizing prophecy, they risk everything in pursuit of overwhelming ambition and lust for power. For the first time on the Lantern mainstage, *Macbeth* will bring you into the propulsive action, dazzle you with some of Shakespeare's most indelible language, and leave you asking what you might give of yourself to achieve your heart's desire.

“This is Shakespeare's fastest moving, shortest, and most tightly plotted play,” said **Charles McMahon**.

“Written at the height of his creative powers, *Macbeth* is powerful, exciting story-telling right from its opening scene to its devastating conclusion. It has some of Shakespeare's richest language and psychologically deep characterizations. We are very fortunate to have such gifted actors as Tony Lawton and Karen Peakes play the royal couple in our production.”

Lantern Theater Company will explore the multiple worlds of *Macbeth* on its **Lantern Searchlight on Medium**, available online at lanterntheater.org/searchlight. Articles will be published throughout the production's run, including background on the play, its themes, and behind-the-scenes conversations with the artists.

Tickets for *Macbeth* are \$31 – \$48 and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Discounts are available for students, seniors 65 and up, U.S. military personnel, and groups of 10 or more. All performances will take place at **St. Stephen's Theater**, located at 923 Ludlow Street in Center City Philadelphia.

About the Lantern Artists

Macbeth 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. McMahon has directed all but one of the Lantern's annual Shakespeare productions, including recent productions of *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, and *Coriolanus*. Other Lantern directing credits include *The 39 Steps*; *Tartuffe*; *Travesties*; *The Plague*; *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*; *As You Like It*; *Henry V*; *New Jerusalem*, *The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Hamlet*; *La Ronde* (also translator and adapter); *Richard III*; *King Lear*; *The House of Bernarda Alba*; and *A Doll's House*. His acting credits include Heisenberg in the Lantern's production of *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*.

Macbeth's cast includes **Anthony Lawton** as Macbeth (Lantern credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Faith Healer*, and many more) and **Karen Peakes** as Lady Macbeth (*Much Ado About Nothing*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*), as well as **Rachel Brodeur** as Witch 3 (*Much Ado About Nothing*), **Trevor William Fayle** as Malcolm (*The Real Thing*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Lifespan of a Fact*), **J Hernandez** as Banquo (*The Real Thing*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Comedy of Errors*), **Eli Lynn** as Witch 2 (*The 39 Steps*), **Jered McLenigan** as Macduff (*The 39 Steps*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Tartuffe*, and Barrymore Award-winner for *Julius Caesar*), **Amanda Schoonover** as Witch 1 (*The Plague*, *QED*), and **Frank X** as King Duncan (*Tartuffe*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*).

The creative team for *Macbeth* includes scenic designers **Scott Cassidy** and **Kate Coots**, who also serve as the Lantern's co-production managers, as well as costume designer **Leigh Paradise** (*Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Molly Sweeney*, *The Plague*), lighting designer **Shon Causer** (*The 39 Steps*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Plague*, Barrymore nominee for *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*), and sound designer **Christopher Colucci** (44th Lantern production, including *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, *The Real Thing*, *The 39 Steps*, and *The Comedy of Errors*). Lantern Apprentice **Gavin Spiewak** will serve as assistant director, alongside Stage Manager **Leslie Ann Boyden**.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994 and now in its 32nd season, Lantern Theater Company's mission is to produce plays that investigate and illuminate what is essential in the human spirit and the spirit of the times. The Lantern serves the Greater Philadelphia region with award-winning productions and education programming, notably partnering with middle schools and high schools in the Philadelphia School District to provide in-classroom residencies in support of curricular learning. The Lantern became a national leader in streaming theater during the Covid health crisis, producing ten fully designed plays that were created and filmed in the company's resident home at St. Stephen's Theater, garnering coverage in national media including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and reaching more than 30,000 people in 15 countries and all 50 states.

The Lantern's 2025/26 season will continue with the return of *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, **Anthony Lawton's** beloved one-man rendition of Dickens' classic (**Press Opening: Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 2 p.m.**); the Philadelphia premiere of *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, **Pearl Cleage's** mesmerizing and inventive drama of the Harlem Renaissance, directed by **Brett Ashley Robinson** (**Press Opening: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 7 p.m.**); and the Philadelphia premiere of *Franklinland*, **Lloyd Suh's** new play about Benjamin Franklin, directed by **Charles McMahon** and just in time to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday in 2026 (**Press Opening: Wednesday, May 23, 2026, at 7 p.m.**). More information is available online at www.lanterntheater.org

Lantern Theater Company – 2025/26 Season

FACT SHEET

Macbeth

WRITTEN BY:

William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY:

Charles McMahon

CAST:

Rachel Brodeur as Witch 3
Trevor William Fayle as Malcolm
J Hernandez as Banquo
Anthony Lawton as Macbeth
Eli Lynn as Witch 2
Jered McLenigan as Macduff
Karen Peakes as Lady Macbeth
Amanda Schoonover as Witch 1
Frank X as King Duncan

CREATIVE TEAM:

Scott Cassidy, Scenic Designer
Kate Coots, Scenic Designer
Leigh Paradise, Costume Designer
Shon Causer, Lighting Designer
Christopher Colucci, Sound Designer
Leslie Ann Boyden, Stage Manager
Gavin Spiewak, Assistant Director

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TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: www.lanterntheater.org
By Phone: (215) 829-0395

TICKET PRICING:

\$31 – \$48 / Students: \$25

PERFORMANCES:

Thursday, October 30 – Sunday, December 7, 2025

PREVIEWS:

Thursday, October 30 at 7 p.m.
Friday, October 31 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 1 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, November 2 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE:

Wednesday, November 5 at 7 p.m.

REGULAR RUN:

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on November 12 [AIC], November 19 [AIC], and November 26

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on November 12 and November 19

Thursday at 7 p.m. on November 6, November 13, and November 20

Friday at 7:30 p.m. on November 7, November 14, November 21, and November 28

Saturday at 2 p.m. on November 8, November 15, November 22, November 29, and December 6

Saturday at 8 p.m. on November 8, November 15, November 22, November 29, and December 6

Sunday at 2 p.m. on November 9 [AIC], November 16 [AIC], November 23, November 30, and December 7

CLOSING PERFORMANCE:

Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m.

ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION [AIC]

Moderated post-show discussions with the cast immediately follow 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, November 9; Wednesday, November 12; Sunday, November 16; and Wednesday, November 19. Lantern Resident Dramaturg **Meghan Winch** will lead the discussions.

PLAY SYNOPSIS:

Returning home from war, Macbeth encounters three mysterious witches who greet him with a chilling prophecy: he will become Thane of Cawdor, and then king of Scotland. When the first part of the prophecy is swiftly fulfilled, ambition takes root. Spurred on by this prophecy and his wife's fierce resolve, Macbeth takes fate into his own hands, murdering King Duncan in a bid for the crown. As Macbeth ascends to the throne, paranoia and guilt consume him and Lady Macbeth, and their grasp on power begins to unravel. Haunted by remorse, Lady Macbeth descends into madness. Macbeth grows increasingly ruthless as he clings to power, committing further atrocities to silence suspicion and secure his reign. A tale of temptation, violence, and psychological torment, *Macbeth* follows one couple's descent from valor to villainy and asks what ambition demands and what it destroys.

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

St. Stephen's Theater at 10th and Ludlow Streets (923 Ludlow Street) in Center City Philadelphia