

For further ticket information:
Lantern Theater Company Box Office
215-829-0395 or lanterntheater.org

For further press information:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2015

**Lantern Theater Company Presents Brand-New
Production of 2004 Barrymore Award-Winning Play
*Underneath the Lintel***

Lantern Theater Company will present *Underneath the Lintel*, starring local favorite and Lantern veteran **Peter DeLaurier** in a reprise of his Barrymore Award-winning role as “The Librarian.” This season’s production will be a new and reimagined approach to the play under the direction of **Kathryn MacMillan**, the Lantern’s Associate Artistic Director, which will run from **November 5 – December 6, 2015**.

When a tattered Baedeker’s travel guide is returned through the overnight slot of a Dutch library 113 years overdue, the routine-bound, mild-mannered Librarian embarks on a worldwide journey to find the offender. His attempt to identify and locate the mysterious “A.” takes him from his small town in the Netherlands to China, Poland, the United States and beyond. Later, the Librarian presents his findings and draws his conclusions in a lecture he titles “An Impressive Presentation of Lovely Evidences.” In charting the geographic route of his journey, he reveals the deeply human stories he encounters during the quest and his own soul’s search for meaning. Conveyed with humor, conviction, and regret, the Librarian’s attempt to collect a library fine transforms into a desire to leave his mark and to note “I was here.”

According to the Lantern’s Artistic Director, **Charles McMahon**: “With our long tradition of thought-provoking work that investigates big questions in surprising ways, the Lantern is proud to present this imaginative, intelligent, and soulful one-man show that explores faith, purpose, and the urge to broaden the borders of one’s own life.”

Underneath the Lintel ran for over 450 performances during its off-Broadway run, and was named one of *Time Out New York*’s Ten Best Plays of 2001.

ABOUT THE CAST AND PRODUCTION TEAM

This production will mark Peter DeLaurier's second time portraying the Librarian at the Lantern where he won the Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre for Outstanding Leading Actor in Play for the original production in 2003. DeLaurier is a longtime artistic partner of the Lantern's, and has acted in both of our widely acclaimed productions of Peter Parnell's *QED* as physicist Richard Feynman, as well as *The Train Driver* by Athol Fugard, *Emma* as adapted by Michael Bloom from the novel by Jane Austen, *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov, *Skylight* by David Hare, and *Heroes* by Tom Stoppard. DeLaurier has also directed past Lantern productions including *The Island* and *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*, both by Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona, and will direct the 2015/16 season closer, *36 Views* by Naomi Iizuka.

Director Kathryn MacMillan has been nominated for the Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre for the Outstanding Direction of a Play in 2009 for the Philadelphia premiere of *The Hothouse* by Harold Pinter at Lantern Theater Company and in 2014 for *I Am My Own Wife* at Theater Horizon. She has helmed over a dozen Lantern productions, including the 2015/16 season opener *Photograph 51*, last season's *Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard and *Doubt: A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley, and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh, which was named the best production in Philadelphia of the 2012/13 season by *Philadelphia Weekly*. MacMillan says, "This is a piece that is close to my heart. It started a longtime collaboration between Peter and the Lantern which has been a growing experience for all of us. The Lantern was a much smaller company the first time we produced *Underneath the Lintel* and I, myself, much younger as an artist. I'm excited to see how we've all grown. And even more excited to share this beautiful, clever, heart-rending play with the audiences who weren't with us back then."

Seth Thomas Schmitt-Hall makes his Lantern debut designing the set for this production. Lantern veteran **Peter Escalada Masstick** (*The Great Divorce*) will design lights. Costumes will be designed by **Jill Keys** (*A Child's Christmas in Wales*), and **Zack McKenna**, also new to the Lantern's roster of designers, will design both sound and projections.

Playwright **Glen Berger** began his theatrical career as a student at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was the head writer for the Mask and Wig Comedy Troupe. He is a member of New Dramatists, and has won the Ovation Award twice, including in 2001 for this play. Berger has also been nominated for multiple Emmys for his work for PBS' *Arthur* and *Postcards from Buster*, and has received commissions from the Children's Theatre of Minneapolis and Lookingglass Theatre. He has been recognized as the recipient of the Manhattan Theatre Club/Sloan Foundation Fellowship, and was selected for the 2003 Old Vic/New Voices program. Berger's other stage work includes *The Wooden Brecks*; *O Lovely Glowworm*; *Great Men Of Science, Nos. 21 & 22*; *I Will Go . . . I Will Go . . .*; and his collaboration with Julie Taymor on the Broadway production of *Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark*, which is the subject of his recently published book, [Song of Spider-Man](#).

Tickets for *Underneath the Lintel* are \$24 – \$39 and are available online at lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Discounts are available for seniors 65 and up, groups of 10 or more, U.S. military

personnel and students. \$10 student rush tickets are available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID; cash only. \$10 industry tickets are available online, by phone, or at the box office.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company is committed to an authentic and intimate exploration of the human spirit in its choice of classics, modern, and original works. The Lantern seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of its community, exposing audiences to great theater, inviting participation in dialogue and discussion, educating audience members about artistic and social issues, and employing theatrical language and techniques to enrich learning in the classroom. The Lantern has received 88 Barrymore Award nominations, winning 19 times including the 2009 Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service for its innovative education program, *Illumination*. Lantern Theater Company has been in residence at St. Stephen's Theater at 10th & Ludlow Streets in Center City Philadelphia since 1996, managing the performance space and developing it into an affordable multi-purpose performing arts venue. For more information, please visit lanterntheater.org.

**LANTERN THEATER COMPANY'S PRODUCTION OF
UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL FACT SHEET**

WRITTEN BY: Glen Berger

DIRECTION BY: Kathryn MacMillan

CAST: Peter DeLaurier as The Librarian

DESIGNERS: Set Designer – Seth Thomas Schmitt-Hall
Lighting Designer – Peter Escalada Masstick
Sound/Projection Designer – Zack McKenna
Costume Designer – Jill Keys

PRESS INFORMATION: Lauren Tuvell, Marketing Manager
(215) 829-9002 x106 or ltuvell@lanterntheater.org

TICKET INFORMATION: LanternTheater.org or (215) 829-0395

PREVIEWS: Thursday, November 5 at 7:00 PM
Friday, November 6 at 8:00 PM
Saturday, November 7 at 8:00 PM
Sunday, November 8 at 2:00 PM
Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 PM

OPENING: Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 PM

PERFORMANCES: Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM on November 17
Wednesday matinee at 2:00 PM on November 18, 25 and December 2
Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM on November 18, 25 and December 2
Thursday evening at 7:00 PM on November 12, 19 and December 3
Friday evening at 8:00 PM on November 13, 20, 27 and December 4
Saturday matinee at 2:00 PM on November 21 and 28
Saturday evening at 8:00 PM on November 14, 21, 28 and December 5
Sunday matinee at 2:00 PM on November 15, 22 and 29

CLOSING: Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM

NO PERFORMANCE: Thursday, November 26

LOCATION: St. Stephen's Theater, 10th and Ludlow Streets in Center City Philadelphia

TICKET PRICES: Tickets range from \$24-39; Preview tickets are \$24
Opening night tickets are \$56 (limited availability)
Student, Senior Citizen, Military and Group Discounts available

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
Lantern Theater, 10th and Ludlow Streets
(215) 829-0395 or LanternTheater.org

PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:
Ample parking is available near the Lantern at a variety of lots and garages. The Autopark at Jefferson (10th & Ludlow) and LAZ Parking (10th & Chestnut) offer discounts to Lantern patrons. Metered street parking is also available during posted hours.

The theater is accessible by taxi, SEPTA buses and trains, and the PATCO Highspeed line.

ACCESSIBILITY: Open Captioning: Friday, November 27 at 8pm and Saturday, November 28 at 2pm

SYNOPSIS:

A mystery begins with the return of an overdue book to the Hoofddorp Public Library – 113 years too late! A librarian's quest to solve the mystery takes him across the globe and brings him face to face with a solitary figure from Jewish antiquity, a man whose life is a triumphant example of human resilience and fortitude. In this new production of the Lantern's 2003 gem, Peter DeLaurier recreates his Barrymore Award-winning role of The Librarian, which *The Philadelphia Inquirer* called a "masterly performance."

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Directors in Conversation: Pre-show discussion with director Kathryn MacMillan on November 13 at 7 PM.

Lantern Pub Night: Post-show beers and conversation in the Lantern lobby on Friday, November 13 following the performance.

Young Friends Night: Post-Show networking reception with Lantern staff, cast, and members of the creative team on Friday, November 20 following the performance.

Artists in Conversation: Post-show discussions with the cast on Sunday, November 15 and Sunday, November 22 following the 2pm performances.

In Conversation Event – Storytelling and the Jewish Diaspora
Monday, October 5 at 7 PM

Dig into the themes of our plays with fascinating discussions featuring Lantern artists, esteemed scholars, and other special guests. Followed by a wine & dessert reception.

We'll use the stories of *Photograph 51* and *Underneath the Lintel* to explore how Jewish characters face the challenges of planting roots. Moderated by **Dave Heller** (WHYY's *SkyTalk* and *NewsWorks Tonight*), our panel includes **Josh Perelman** (Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections at the National Museum of American Jewish History), **Glen Berger** (Playwright of *Underneath the Lintel*), and **Kathryn MacMillan** (Associate Artistic Director of Lantern Theater Company, and director of *Photograph 51* and *Underneath the Lintel*.)