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**Lantern Theater Company to Serve as
Host Theater for Fox Fellowship Recipient
Bi Jean Ngo**

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) has awarded a Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship to Philadelphia actress Bi Jean Ngo and an associated Host Theatre Award to Lantern Theater Company.

The Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowships are designed to support actors in their artistic and professional growth in collaboration with a TCG Member theatre through two initiatives: Extraordinary Potential and Distinguished Achievement. The goals of the Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowships are: to further an actor's artistic and professional development; to deepen and enrich his/her relationship with a not-for-profit theatre; to ensure his/her continued professional commitment to live theatre; and to encourage actors to work outside their comfort zone. Ngo is receiving this award in the category of Extraordinary Potential, aimed at helping early to mid-career actors who have completed their training within the last fifteen years. Ngo will receive \$15,000, with an additional \$10,000 available to relieve student loan debt. As the host theater, the Lantern will receive \$7,500 to be applied to costs incurred due to the actor's residency activities.

According to the TCG website, through this Fellowship, Ngo will study classical text and voice through Linklater workshops as well as stage combat, Elizabethan dance, and movement during a month-long intensive workshop at the Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA. She'll also take part in a three-week workshop at Dell'Arte International in the summer of 2017, where she will learn mask, clown, and how to devise theatre through physical movement. Afterward, she'll teach both the classical and contemporary text and movement skills to her peers and mentees of the Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists Group, under the auspices of the Lantern Theater Company. Her plan is to be a vanguard for diverse representation onstage not only in Philadelphia, but in other regions. Her goal is to use her exposure to influence more leading theatre companies to choose plays written by Asians, featuring Asian actors, and directed by Asians, as well

as to create and act in plays that reflect her own ethnic experience and the stories of her immediate community. By acquiring facility with classical theatre from Shakespeare & Company, Bi will be better equipped to add her voice to the company's classical repertoire which is routinely performed throughout the region. The masterclasses that she will conduct after each residency will provide vital training opportunities for emerging Asian performers, helping to give them work and empower their creative voices.

Ngo has worked in the Lantern's *Illumination* program since 2012 where she has taught both After School Activities Programs teacher training and served as an in-school teaching artist for residency programs. In May 2015, she performed as part of a live presentation entitled *Funny, Sad, True and Mad: A Theatrical Exploration of the Medical Life*, for an audience of over 100 students, staff, and community members at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College as part of *The Empathy Project*, a unique partnership between the Lantern and Thomas Jefferson University. This spring she will make her Lantern mainstage debut in *36 Views*. Ngo is excited to collaborate with the Lantern through this Fellowship, stating: "I wanted to work with the Lantern for several reasons. First, the theater is working on creating a more diverse and inclusive environment. The artistic director and staff have a history of mentorship and supporting local talent, and they do great classical theater which is an interest of mine. This seemed like the perfect moment for me and the Lantern to form a forward-thinking partnership."

Ngo is only the third Philadelphia artist to be awarded this Fellowship. Past local recipients include Jennifer Kidwell and Gabriel Quinn Bauriedel, both affiliated with Pig Iron Theatre Company. Other notable past recipients include André De Shields, John Douglas Thompson and F. Murray Abraham, all of whom won "Distinguished Achievement" awards.

The William & Eva Fox Foundation was established in 1987 by Belle Fox in honor of her parents, who founded the Fox Film Corporation. The Foundation has awarded more than \$3 million in fellowships to 335 actors since 1994. The Fox Foundation is the largest U.S. grant maker dedicated to the artistic and professional development of theatre actors, and one of very few that provides direct financial support to individual actors. For more information, visit www.tcg.org/grants/fox/fox_index.cfm and www.thefoxfoundation.org.

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.

About Theatre Communications Group

For over 50 years, Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit American theatre. TCG's constituency has grown from a handful of groundbreaking theatres to nearly 700 member theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide. TCG offers its members networking and knowledge-building opportunities through conferences, events, research and communications; awards grants, approximately \$2 million per year, to theatre companies and individual artists; advocates on the federal level; and serves as the U.S. Center of the International Theatre Institute, connecting its constituents to the global theatre community. TCG is North America's largest independent publisher of dramatic literature, with 13 Pulitzer Prizes for Best Play on the TCG booklist. It also publishes the award-winning AMERICAN THEATRE magazine and ARTSEARCH, the essential source for a career in the arts. In all of its endeavors, TCG seeks to increase the organizational efficiency of its member theatres, cultivate and celebrate the artistic talent and achievements of the field and promote a larger public understanding of, and appreciation for, the theatre. www.tcg.org.