

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

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**LANTERN THEATER COMPANY PRESENTS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
JOYFUL, MUSIC-FILLED *AS YOU LIKE IT* TO WELCOME SPRING!**

Lantern Theater Company will present William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, directed by the Lantern's Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**, from **March 10 – April 17, 2016**.

As You Like It is the story of Rosalind – Shakespeare's most magnetic and vivid heroine. Oppressed, threatened, and exiled from her life at court by her envious uncle Duke Frederick, Rosalind escapes with her cousin into the wild and unpredictable Forest of Arden. Disguised as a boy, she is able to create a world of her own, reveling in the newfound independence that life offers when freed from court and corset. But chance encounters with the love-struck Orlando, who has followed Rosalind into the woods, complicate this new life. Winding through the enchanting thickets of the forest, will true love find its way? Can one desire too much of a good thing? Find out in this wondrous comedy that celebrates redemption, family, and the liberating power of love.

Lantern Theater Company has made a commitment to produce Shakespeare every season. It is our conviction that these works have a unique place in our cultural and artistic heritage, and that they promote empathy in audiences of all ages. Though his plays are more than 400 years old, we aspire to present these works with crackling urgency and excitement as William Shakespeare's writing transmits essential human knowledge, urgency, and experience to our own age.

ABOUT THE CAST AND PRODUCTION TEAM

A perfect fit for the Lantern's intimate space and vivid performance style, *As You Like It* is a play of uplifting energy and urgency. It represents a mix of Shakespeare's finest high and low comedy – from the genius word play of the famous speech on the "Seven Ages of Man" to the absurd physical comedy of cross-dressing and getting hopelessly lost in the woods – balanced with a compelling story of self-discovery. This piece provides dynamic roles for young actors,

particularly Rosalind, played by Lantern newcomer **Liz Filios**, and her lover Orlando, played by Lantern veteran **Jake Blouch**.

Liz Filios lends significant musical experience to the Lantern stage for this production, in which **Michael Hahn's** sound design highlights the charm and romance of the play's scripted musical interludes. An established musical theater actress in Philadelphia, Filios recently appeared as Fosca in *Passion* at the Arden (2015 Barrymore Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical) and Cinderella in *Into the Woods* at Theater Horizon (2015 Barrymore Award for Outstanding Ensemble in a Musical). She is the recipient of the 2014 F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist and the 2014 Barrymore Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical for *Midsummer [A Play with Songs]* at Inis Nua Theatre Company. Charles McMahon states: "We are thrilled to welcome Liz to the Lantern with *As You Like It*. Classical Shakespeare will mark a significant divergence from much of the theater work she has done in Philadelphia, though Liz is certainly experienced with the artistic elements of love, laughter, and music, which are essential to the storytelling of this piece and the character of Rosalind. She is an ideal performer to capture the spirit and genius of Shakespeare's most captivating heroine."

Jake Blouch has previously appeared at the Lantern in *A Skull in Connemara*, *Emma*, *The Liar*, *New Jerusalem*, *Henry V* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Locally Jake has appeared performed with Theatre Exile, Iron Age, Act II, People's Light, the Arden, the Wilma, BRAT Productions, Simpatico Theatre Project, Philadelphia Artists' Collective, and Delaware Shakespeare Festival. Blouch is also an established musician, headlining as "Ricky Lake Jackson," the lead singer of local southern rock band **Jawbone Junction** (alongside other Lantern veterans Damon Bonetti, Sarah Gliko, and Charlie DelMarcelle).

Chris Anthony (Charles/Silvius/Ensemble) opened this season at the Lantern in *Photograph 51*. **Kirk Wendell Brown** (Duke Senior/Duke Frederick/Ensemble) was most recently seen at the Lantern as Simon in Athol Fugard's *The Train Driver*. **J Hernandez** (Touchstone/Ensemble) returns following his recent portrayal of Petruchio in *Taming of the Shrew*. **Frank X** (Jaques/Ensemble) has appeared many times at the Lantern, including in *King Lear*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Island*. **Adam Altman** (Oliver/Ensemble) was most recently seen at the Lantern in *Julius Caesar*. Rounding out the cast are **Meghan Winch** (Phebe/Ensemble) and **Ruby Wolf** (Celia/Ensemble), who make their Lantern debuts with this production.

Director Charles McMahon is the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Lantern. He has directed all but one of the company's Shakespeare productions over the past 20 years, beginning with *All's Well That Ends Well* in the 1996/97 season. He has been nominated twice for the Barrymore Award for Excellence in Theatre for Outstanding Direction of a Play: in 2006 for *Richard III* and in 2004 for *The Comedy of Errors*. McMahon also directed the Lantern's best-selling production, *New Jerusalem...* by David Ives, and he acted in many of the company's early productions, including *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* by Tom Stoppard, *Copenhagen* by Michael Frayn, and *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett. He directed the world premiere of his new translation of *La Ronde* by Arthur Schnitzler and he co-created the world premiere adaptation of the Dylan Thomas poem *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, which went on to receive

five Barrymore Award nominations including the Independence Award for Outstanding New Play. Most recently, McMahon penned the Lantern's world premiere production of *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*.

The Lantern's Production Manager **Meghan Jones** (*Photograph 51, Hound of the Baskervilles, Arcadia*) will design the set. Costumes will be designed by **Janus Stefanowicz** (*Photograph 51, Doubt, Arcadia*). **Drew Billiau** (*Henry V, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Train Driver*) will handle the lighting design.

Tickets for *As You Like It* 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, in advance or at the door.

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.

AS YOU LIKE IT FACT SHEET

WRITTEN BY: William Shakespeare

DIRECTION BY: Charles McMahon

CAST: Adam Altman as Oliver/Ensemble
Chris Anthony as Charles/Silvius/Ensemble
Jake Blouch as Orlando/Ensemble
Kirk Wendell Brown as Duke Senior/Duke Frederick/Ensemble
Liz Filios as Rosalind/Ensemble
J Hernandez as Touchstone/Ensemble
Meghan Winch as Phebe/Ensemble
Ruby Wolf as Celia/Ensemble
Frank X as Jaques/Ensemble

DESIGNERS: Set Designer – Meghan Jones
Lighting Designer – Drew Billiau
Sound Designer – Michael Hahn
Costume Designer – Janus Stefanowicz
Props Master – Liz Nugent

PRESS INFORMATION: Meg Trelease, Marketing Manager
(215) 829-9002 x106 or mtrelease@lanterntheater.org

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

PREVIEWS: Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 PM
Friday, March 11 at 8:00 PM
Saturday, March 12 at 8:00 PM
Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 PM
Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 PM

OPENING: Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM

PERFORMANCES: Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM on March 22
Wednesday matinee at 2:00 PM on March 23 and April 6
Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM on March 23, 30, and April 6
Thursday evening at 7:00 PM on March 17, 24, 31, and April 7
Friday evening at 8:00 PM on March 18, 25, and April 1, 8
Saturday matinee at 2:00 PM on March 26, and April 2
Saturday evening at 8:00 PM on March 19, 26, and April 2, 9 and 16
Sunday matinee at 2:00 PM on March 20, 27 and April 3 and 10
Special Student Morning Matinees on March 18, 30, 31, April 5, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15

CLOSING: Sunday, April 17 at 2:00 PM

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, April 1 at 8pm and Saturday, April 2 at 2pm

SYNOPSIS: This is the story of Rosalind – Shakespeare's most charismatic and irresistible heroine. Oppressed and exiled from Court under threat of death, she escapes with her cousin into the wild and unpredictable Forest of Arden. Disguised as a boy, she is able to create a world of her own, reveling in her newfound independence. But chance encounters with the love-struck Orlando complicate this new life. Winding through the enchanting thickets of the forest, will true love find its way? Can one desire too much of a good thing? Find out in this wondrous comedy that celebrates redemption, family, and the liberating power of love.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Directors in Conversation: Pre-show discussion with director Charles McMahon on Friday, March 18 at 7PM.

Lantern Pub Night: Complimentary beer/wine and conversation in the Lantern lobby on Friday, March 18 following the 8pm performance.

Young Friends Night: Post-Show networking reception with Lantern staff, cast, and members of the creative team on Friday, April 1.

Artists in Conversation: Discussions with the cast on Sunday, March 20 and Sunday, April 3 following the 2pm performances.

In Conversation: Rosalind's Escape and Why We Should Unplug
Monday April 4 at 7PM

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

Exploring the positive effects of Rosalind's exile in *As You Like It*, we consider how – in the constantly plugged-in culture of the 21st century – we never have the chance to find ourselves. Panelists include **Mary Bly**, Shakespeare scholar, tenured professor at Fordham University, and *New York Times* best-selling romance novelist under the name Eloisa James; and **Susan Moeller**, Director of the International Center for Media and the Public Agenda, Professor of Media and International Affairs in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, and an affiliated faculty member at the School of Public Policy.