

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

**For further press information:**  
Meg Trelease  
(215) 829-9002 x106

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 26, 2016**

## **Lantern Theater Company to Honor Barrymore Award-Winning Actress Mary Martello and Philanthropist Richard Vague at *Rite of Spring* Benefit**

PHILADELPHIA – **Lantern Theater Company** will host *Rite of Spring*, a festive evening to celebrate the Lantern's 2015/16 season and to present **2016 Luminary Awards** to **Mary Martello** and **Richard Vague** for their significant contributions to the performing arts in Philadelphia, on **Monday, March 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** *Rite of Spring* will be held at the historic **Union Trust**, built in 1888 as home to The Union Trust Company Bank, at 717 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia.

The event begins with a cocktail reception, and will include dinner and a silent auction with live entertainment provided by the **All City Premiere Quartet**. Auction items feature exclusive vacations, fun nights out at the region's finest restaurants and cultural hotspots, sports tickets and memorabilia, priceless collectibles, and other unique items. All proceeds will benefit the Lantern's award-winning artistic and educational programming, which reaches over 20,000 adults and children each year. Ticket prices range from \$200 to \$1,000 and are now on sale at [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org) or by calling **(215) 829-0395**.

### **About the Honorees**

Luminary Award Honoree **Mary Martello** has performed on stages across the United States and is a legend in Philadelphia. At the Lantern, Mary has played Sister Aloysius in *Doubt: A Parable* (2015), Mag Folan in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (2013), and Gertrude in *Hamlet* (2009). She has received 17 nominations for and won five Barrymore Awards.

Luminary Award Honoree **Richard Vague** serves as President of the Board of Directors of FringeArts and as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania Press. He also serves as a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, the Franklin Institute, the Museum of the American Revolution, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and Penn Medicine. He is one of the managing partners of Gabriel Investments and the Chairman of the Governor's Woods Foundation.

*Rite of Spring* is co-chaired by Lantern Board Member **Kevin Kleinschmidt** and his wife **Sarah Kleinschmidt**. The Lantern gratefully acknowledges Spotlight Sponsors **Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals and Jefferson Health** and Torch Sponsors **PNC** for their support of this event.

## About Lantern Theater Company

Lantern Theater Company is committed to an authentic and intimate exploration of the human spirit in its choice of classic, modern, and original works. The company seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of the Greater Philadelphia 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. Each year, the Lantern reaches a loyal and growing audience of more than 20,000 through three award-winning programs: Mainstage Productions that are smart, fun, engaging and connected to our modern world; **In Conversation**, Lantern's audience engagement series that offers an insider's look at each production; and **Illumination**, Lantern's innovative education program that engages 3,500 local students in the world of theater each year, nurturing their artistic expression through in-school residencies, matinee performances and teaching artist training for after-school programs.

*Philadelphia Weekly* named the Lantern "Best Theater Company" in 2008, describing the company's selection of plays as "impressively diverse in genre and style." Since the inception of the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre in 1995, the Lantern has received 88 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service Award. Founded in 1994 by **Charles McMahon** and **Michael Brophy**, the Lantern 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.

# Lantern Theater Company Fact Sheet

## Rite of Spring - A Festive Evening to Benefit Lantern Theater Company

### Event Location:

Union Trust  
717 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

### Event Date:

Monday, March 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

### Tickets:

Visit [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org) or call (215) 829-0395

\$1,000 Benefactor Ticket

\$500 Sponsor Ticket

\$300 Patron Ticket

\$200 Friend Ticket

### BENEFIT CO-CHAIRS

Kevin & Sarah Kleinschmidt

### BENEFIT COMMITTEE

Eugene\* & Joann Bissell

Bruce & Barbara Byrne

Nicholas D. Constan\*

Joan Countryman & Ed Jakmuah

Brendan\* & Christine Cox

Stacy Maria Dutton\*

Stephen Field\*

James & Kay Gately

Leonard and Mary Lee Haas

Betsy Kalish\*

Gregory Kleiber\* & Harriet Ravdin

Joe Kluger & Susan Lewis

Jim McClelland & Lynn Miller

Charles McMahan\*

Donna Saul Millen\*

David Pierson\* & Barrie Trimmingham

Ellen Rosen Rogoff\*

Michael & Nina Rosenthal

Jeanne Sigler\* & James Fratto

Arthur & Miriam Spector

Nick Stuccio & Anne White

Shel & Karen Thompson

Rebecca\* & Rhys Williams

*\*Lantern Board Member*

**Sponsorship Information:**

Sponsorship is a unique way for local businesses and organizations to achieve positive recognition as contributing members of the community. Sponsorship includes several perks, including exclusive reserved table seating, and is available at the following levels:

**Luminary Sponsorship:** \$7,500

**Spotlight Table Sponsorship:** \$2,500

**Torch Table Sponsorship:** \$1,800

**Flare Table Sponsorship:** \$1,250

For more information on the benefits of sponsorship or to become a sponsor, please contact Jessica Doheny, General Manager, at [jdoheny@lanterntheater.org](mailto:jdoheny@lanterntheater.org) or (215) 829-9002 x101.

**Press:**

Press planning coverage of the event may make reservations for *Rite of Spring* by contacting Meg Trelease, Marketing Manager, at [mtrelease@lanterntheater.org](mailto:mtrelease@lanterntheater.org) or (215) 829-9002 x106. Reservations are due by Friday, March 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Capacity is limited.

**2015/16 Season**

Lantern Theater Company will continue its 2015/16 season with the story of Rosalind, Shakespeare's most charismatic and irresistible heroine, in *As You Like It*, directed by **Charles McMahon** and starring Barrymore Award-Winner **Liz Filios** (March 10 – April 17, 2016); and the Philadelphia Premiere of **Naomi Iizuka**'s play *36 Views*, directed by Lantern veteran and 2015 Luminary Award-winner, **Peter DeLaurier**, and starring **Fox Foundation** Resident Actor Fellow, **Bi Jean Ngo** (May 26 – June 26).