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Lantern Theater Company Presents
In Conversation: Rosalind's Escape and Why We Should Unplug

Philadelphia – Lantern Theater Company will present the third of a four-part *In-Conversation* series on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7pm. The 2015/16 *In-Conversation* series consists of four one-night events on Monday evenings throughout the season, expanding on themes found in each of the mainstage productions.

Rosalind's Escape and Why We Should Unplug will explore the positive effects of Rosalind's exile in *As You Like It*. The panel will consider how – in the constantly plugged-in culture of the 21st century – we never have the chance to find ourselves. Moderated by **Kathryn MacMillan** (Lantern Associate Artistic Director), the panel will 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.

Mary Bly is a Shakespeare scholar and tenured professor at Fordham University in New York City with degrees from Harvard, Oxford, and Yale. At Fordham, she lectures on William Shakespeare, and she has served as Director of Graduate Studies in the English Department as well as the head of Fordham's Creative Writing Program. She is also a *New York Times* best-selling romance novelist under the name Eloisa James. She kept her two careers and identities separate for years until she "came out" to her university colleagues and the public. Since then she has spoken extensively on how her two careers coexist. She says, "I took an enormous amount

of pleasure in my double life. It's fun having two lives, it's fun having two names." She is the daughter of American poet Robert Bly and short story author Carol Bly.

Susan Moeller is the director of the International Center for Media and the Public Agenda, an academic center that forms a bridge between the College of Journalism and the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is 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. In 2008, Moeller was the recipient of the State of Maryland Board of Regents Teaching Award, where she was recognized for both her work in the university classroom and for her work in helping to found a new global education program, the Salzburg Academy on Media and Global Change, where she is the co-director and lead faculty member. Moeller's books include [*Packaging Terrorism: Co-opting the News for Politics and Profit*](#); [*Compassion Fatigue: How the Media Sell Disease, Famine, War and Death*](#); and [*Shooting War: Photography and the American Experience of Combat*](#). Moeller consults on issues relating to media, media literacy, terrorism, and conflict for such institutions and organizations as the Salzburg Global Seminar, the World Bank, UNESCO, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), the International Committee of the Red Cross, Save the Children, and World Vision. Moeller is a regular commentator in the media.

Moderator MacMillan says, "I am particularly excited about presenting *Rosalind's Escape and Why We Should Unplug* to our audiences during this election cycle. What is the cost of being plugged-in 24 hours a day and being constantly bombarded with every thought and impulse of anyone with internet access? What are the long-term effects of this new information age in which we have no time for contemplation or critical thinking? In *As You Like It*, Rosalind escapes to the Forest of Arden to gain clarity – how can we find our modern day Forest of Arden? I think we have the perfect panel to explore these issues: Mary Bly is not only a Shakespeare scholar, but a woman who, like Rosalind, has lived a life in disguise as best-selling romance novelist Eloisa James; and Susan Moeller has made a career out of studying the effects of news-as-entertainment and media saturation. This is sure to be a lively, passionate evening of conversation, and I look forward to the insights of not only the panelists but the audience as well."

In Conversation: Rosalind's Escape and Why We Should Unplug begins at 7pm and will last approximately an hour and a half, including the panel discussion and an audience question and answer session. The event will be followed by a wine and cheese reception in the Lantern lobby, the cost of which is included in the price of a ticket.

Single tickets: \$15 for individuals; \$12 for Lantern subscribers. Tickets are available by calling (215) 829-0395 or visiting www.lanterntheater.org/inconversation.

The final *In Conversation* topic for the 2015/16 season will be:

- ***Art-World Movers and Shakers***, an examination of works of Asian art specific to the Lantern's production of ***36 Views***, the ethics of trading foreign works, and an insider's perspective on the secrets and surprises in the buying and selling of art. Panelists include **Frank Chance** (Associate Director of Academics, Center for East Asian Studies) and **Linda Chance, Ph.D.** (Associate Chair of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania); **Richard Cervantes** (Department Head for Asian Arts at Freeman's Auction House); and **Asaki Kuruma** (Artistic Consultant and Movement Specialist for *36 Views*).

2015/16 *In Conversation* Series

Rosalind's Escape and Why We Should Unplug

Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7pm

Art-World Movers and Shakers

Monday, June 20, 2016 at 7pm

2015/16 Mainstage Season

- **William Shakespeare's** timeless comedy *As You Like It*, directed by **Charles McMahon** featuring **Adam Altman, Chris Anthony, Jake Blouch, Liz Filios, J Hernandez, Kirk Wendell Brown, Meghan Winch, Ruby Wolf, and Frank X** (March 10 – April 17, 2016).
- Philadelphia Premiere of *36 Views* by **Naomi Iizuka**, directed by **Peter DeLaurier** and starring **Joanna Liao, Bi Jean Ngo and Joe Guzman** (May 26 – June 26, 2016).

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 www.lanterntheater.org.

