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Lantern Theater Company Receives \$25,000 Grant from The Philadelphia Foundation's Fund for Children in Support of *Illumination* Education Program

PHILADELPHIA (April 11, 2016) – **Lantern Theater Company** has received a \$25,000 grant from **The Philadelphia Foundation's** Fund for Children for fiscal year 2016 in support of the Lantern's *Illumination* program. Announcement of the grant was made by Pedro A. Ramos, President and CEO of the Foundation.

Illumination, the Lantern's award-winning education program, engages local students in the world of theater and nurtures their artistic expression, reaching the Greater Philadelphia region through in-school residencies, discount matinee performances, and after school drama clubs throughout the city. Lantern Theater Company Education Director **M. Craig Getting** expressed the Lantern's appreciation for the grant saying, "We are thankful for the generous continued support from The Philadelphia Foundation's Fund for Children, which allows us to carry on the vital partnerships that bring drama to classrooms in some of Philadelphia's most underserved schools."

The Philadelphia Foundation's Fund for Children is supported through generous annual contributions from the **Philadelphia Eagles** and the **Philadelphia Phillies**.

About Lantern Theater Company

Lantern Theater Company is currently producing its twenty-second season with a record number of subscribers, its largest-ever operating budget at \$1.3M, and a growing community of theater artists engaged in its productions and audience engagement events. The company recently launched the **Lantern Theater Artist Fair Pay Initiative**, a pioneering program to increase the compensation of its contract theater artists by 50% beginning with the current season. Founded in 1994, the Lantern seeks to be a vibrant, contributing member of

its community, exposing audiences to great theater, inviting participation in dialogue and discussion, engaging audience members on artistic and social issues, and employing theatrical language and techniques to enrich learning in the classroom. 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 for its innovative education program, *Illumination*. The Lantern's 2015/16 season continues with Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (now through April 17, 2016), followed by the Philadelphia premiere of *36 Views* by Naomi Iizuka (May 26 – June 26, 2016). For more information, please visit www.lanterntheater.org.

About The Philadelphia Foundation

Since 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation has been committed to improving the quality of life in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. It links those with financial resources to those who serve societal needs. The Foundation grows more than 900 charitable funds established by its donors and distributes about \$20 million annual in grants and scholarships to about 1,000 effective nonprofit organizations. Through this support, the Foundation builds healthy communities, strengthens children and families, advances economic opportunities and enhances culture and recreation. For more information, please visit www.philafound.org.