

Media Contacts:

Stacy Maria Dutton, Executive Director
sdutton@lanterntheater.org or (610) 420-1121

Anne Shuff, Finance & Communications Consultant
ashuff@lanterntheater.org or (215) 888-6220

Online Press Room:

www.lanterntheater.org/press

Tickets Now On Sale For Lantern Theater Company's 2016/17 Season

Season Includes a Classic Shaw Comedy, Three Philadelphia Premieres, and a Shakespearean Tragedy Starring Internationally-Acclaimed Actress/Author/Educator Tina Packer

PHILADELPHIA (August 15, 2016) – Single tickets go on sale today at 10 a.m. for all 2016/17 season productions, including an ambitious and eclectic mix of classical and contemporary work: season opener ***Mrs. Warren's Profession*** by **George Bernard Shaw**; the Philadelphia premiere of ***An Iliad***, adapted from **Homer** by **Lisa Peterson** and **Denis O'Hare**; the Philadelphia premiere of ***Informed Consent*** by **Deborah Zoe Laufer**; the rarely performed ***Coriolanus*** by **William Shakespeare**; and the Philadelphia premiere of ***The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord by Real Time*** with **Bill Maher** writer **Scott Carter**.

“Our 2016/17 season offers compelling plays with timely themes presented through thoughtful and intimate storytelling,” said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. “We are excited to collaborate with some of Philadelphia’s finest artists again this season, including **Mary Martello**, **Peter DeLaurier**, and **Liz Filios**. We are also thrilled to welcome new artistic partners to the Lantern: **James Ijames** is one of our city’s most prominent up-and-coming directors and **Tina Packer** not only brings expertise, but truly understands and supports the Lantern’s educational mission through our work with Shakespeare.”

Single tickets are \$24 – \$39 and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Student tickets are \$15 in advance; \$10 student rush tickets are available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID. Discounts are also available for theater industry professionals (\$10 in advance or at the door), seniors 65 and up, groups of 10 or more, and U.S. military personnel. Season subscriptions and flex packages are also available starting at \$95. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts. in Center City Philadelphia.

Lantern Theater Company's 2016/17 Mainstage Season

MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION

By George Bernard Shaw

Directed by Kathryn MacMillan

September 8 – October 9, 2016

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Philadelphia stage legend Mary Martello plays the title role in George Bernard Shaw's scathing comedy about social hypocrisy and the excesses of capitalism. Mrs. Kitty Warren worked her way out of the London slums and now lives abroad, having provided her daughter Vivie with the education and means to grow into a smart, independent young woman of strong convictions. When Mrs. Warren returns, mother and daughter discover that neither is the woman they thought they knew.

AN ILIAD

Philadelphia Premiere

Adapted from Homer by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare

Directed by M. Craig Getting

November 10 – December 11, 2016

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7 p.m.

The war in Troy is over – and the Poet saw it all. Back from the frontlines, he spins a tale of unquenchable rage, disputatious gods, and grieving widows. Telling the story of the war, like the war itself, both seduces and ravages the Poet; it emboldens, burdens, and threatens to overwhelm him. Featuring Lantern favorite Peter DeLaurier and virtuoso musician Liz Filios, *An Iliad* weaves humanity's unshakable attraction to warfare with the music of the muses, capturing the contradictory conditions of glory and violence with spellbinding modernity.

INFORMED CONSENT

Philadelphia Premiere

By Deborah Zoe Laufer

Directed by Kathryn MacMillan

January 12 – February 12, 2017

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Ambitious geneticist Jillian races to solve scientific mysteries that could save both an ancient people and her own family. She jumps at the chance to do groundbreaking research on a Native tribe in the Grand Canyon whose members are ravaged by diabetes. But her research threatens to destroy the tribe's most sacred traditions. At the same time, Jillian and her husband confront a monster lurking in her own DNA – and possibly their 4-year-old daughter's. This penetrating new play from acclaimed playwright Deborah Zoe Laufer asks: are our identities defined by our bodies or by our most sacred stories?

CORIOLANUS

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Charles McMahon

March 9 – April 16, 2017

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Famine threatens Rome, and the people's hunger swells to an appetite for political change. A war hero from a powerful family, Coriolanus seems destined to be elected consul – but the people find his pride an unforgivable insult, exploding the long-simmering tensions between the fracturing state's governing elite and deprived masses. This timely story of radical class division is also a compelling psychological portrait of Coriolanus and his politically savvy mother, Volumnia, played by internationally acclaimed actress, director, and author Tina Packer.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THOMAS JEFFERSON, CHARLES DICKENS AND COUNT LEO TOLSTOY: DISCORD

Philadelphia Premiere

By Scott Carter

Directed by James Ijames

June 1 – July 2, 2017

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, June 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.

A Founding Father, a Victorian literary celebrity, and a Russian aristocrat/anarchist clash in a provocative new comedy that sets three of the world's greatest thinkers against each other in a battle of wits and wills. Jefferson, Dickens, and Tolstoy find themselves locked in a room with no exit. Attempting an escape, they ransack the philosophies of their lives and work, searching for a truth that will set them free. From playwright and former stand-up comedian Scott Carter (writer of HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*), this whip-smart comedy examines just what happens when great men of history are forced to repeat it.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company is entering its twenty-third season with a record number of subscribers, its largest-ever operating budget at \$1.3 million, and a growing community of theater artists engaged in its productions and audience enrichment events. In 2015, the Lantern launched the **Lantern Theater Artist Fair Pay Initiative**, a pioneering program to increase the compensation of its contract theater artists by 50% over the prior season. 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. More information is online at www.lanterntheater.org.