

**Media Contacts:**

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

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

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## Lantern Theater Company Presents the Philadelphia Premiere of Obie and Lucille Lortel Award-Winning *An Iliad*, Nov. 10 – Dec. 11, 2016

*Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare's Gripping Adaptation of Homer's Epic Masterpiece Features Peter DeLaurier and Liz Filios*

PHILADELPHIA (October 27, 2016) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its 2016/17 season with the Philadelphia premiere of *An Iliad*, written by **Lisa Peterson** and Tony Award-winning actor **Denis O'Hare** and based on **Robert Fagles'** acclaimed translation of **Homer's Iliad**. **M. Craig Getting** directs a cast that includes Barrymore Award-winners **Peter DeLaurier** and **Liz Filios**; Filios also serves as co-composer, working with sound designer **Michael Hahn** to create the evocative original music that scores the production. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to attend **opening night on Wednesday, November 16 at 7 p.m.** *A full schedule is included in the fact sheet below.*

“Every time I sing this song, I hope it’s the last time,” says the Poet with a heavy heart as he begins. 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. *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.

Called “virtuosic” and “a cracking good yarn” by *The New York Times* and “incredibly powerful” and “stunning for its nuance, tenderness, and concrete detail” by *The Guardian*, *An Iliad* condenses Homer’s classic tale of war into a modern evening of theater at its best: intimate, incisive, urgent. Actor **Denis O'Hare** (2003 Tony Award-winner for *Take Me Out*; two-time Emmy Award nominee for his work on *American Horror Story*) and

director **Lisa Peterson** developed the play over a five-year period, winning Drama Desk, OBIE, and Lucille Lortel Awards for the original New York production in 2012. The play has gone on to productions across the country, winning major theater awards in Chicago, San Diego, and Seattle.

“Homer’s story of the Trojan War has a remarkable and haunting resonance with our own time,” said Lantern Theater Company Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. “A great and confident power from the West is bogged down in a military stalemate that has continued for so long that no one remembers how or why it started – it’s the original quagmire. The genius of the story is to involve us fully in the madness of war, making us feel the seductive pull of violence while shining an unflinching light on the terrible consequences of abandoning ourselves to rage.”

“*An Iliad* is theatrical storytelling at its finest,” said director **M. Craig Getting**. “Stripped down. Intimate. Powerful. I’m also excited to work with Peter DeLaurier and Liz Filios, longtime friends who will be appearing onstage together for the first time. They’re both such gifted artists, and I know they will find the beauty in this devastating story about the perpetual allure and unconscionable cost of conflict.” Getting has previously directed Lantern productions of *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*, *QED*, *Heroes*, and *A Skull in Connemara*. *An Iliad* marks Getting’s third collaboration with DeLaurier. Getting serves as the Lantern’s education director, overseeing the award-winning [Illumination](#) education program as well as [The Empathy Project](#), the Lantern’s partner program with the Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. He also co-hosts a popular weekly literary podcast called *Overdue*.

Tickets for *An Iliad* start at \$24 and are available online at [www.lanterntheater.org](http://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. 4-Play subscriptions and flex packages are also available starting at \$84. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts. in Center City Philadelphia.

## **Cast and Production Team**

Longtime artistic partner **Peter DeLaurier** (The Poet) has graced the Lantern stage in productions of *Underneath the Lintel*, *QED*, *The Train Driver*, *Emma*, *Heroes*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *Skylight*. His Lantern directing credits include *36 Views*, *The Island*, *Vigil*, and *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*. *An Iliad* marks a return to Homer’s epic poem for DeLaurier; he originated the role of Patroklos in People’s Light’s *Kabuki Achilles*, an adaptation developed over a five-year period that took the acting company to central Cyprus followed by an international tour that included performances in Cyprus, Hungary, and Philadelphia’s Mythos Festival. DeLaurier is a seven-time Barrymore Award nominee and received the award twice: for his role as The

Librarian in *Underneath the Lintel* at the Lantern and as Kent in *King Lear* at People's Light. He is an artistic associate at People's Light and has been a member of their resident company since 1991.

**Liz Filios** (The Muse) appeared on the Lantern stage as Rosalind in last season's production of *As You Like It*. Also a virtuoso musician, Filios is collaborating with sound designer Michael Hahn to create the original music that will score *An Iliad*. Filios' acting and musical directing credits have taken her to Italy, Canada, South Africa, and Indonesia, as well as local work with People's Light, The Wilma Theater, Arden Theatre Company, Theatre Horizon, Inis Nua Theatre Company, and the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. She is an Independence Foundation Fellow and a six-time Barrymore Award nominee, winning the 2014 F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist and back-to-back awards for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Musical in 2014 and 2015.

The talented design team for *An Iliad* includes scenic designer **Meghan Jones**, costume designer **Natalia de la Torre**, lighting designer **Shannon Zura**, and sound designer and co-composer **Michael Hahn**, who received a 2016 Barrymore Award nomination for his original music in last season's *As You Like It*. Author, teacher, and ancient/modern Greek language expert **Therese Sellers** will coach Peter DeLaurier on the Greek dialect.

## **About Lantern Theater Company**

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company has launched its twenty-third 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 enrichment events. Last season, 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 94 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service Award for its innovative education program, *Illumination*. The Lantern's 2016/17 season continues with *Informed Consent* by Deborah Zoe Laufer (January 12 – February 12, 2017), *Coriolanus* by William Shakespeare (March 9 – April 16, 2016), and *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord* (June 1 – July 2, 2017). More information is online at [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org).

# FACT SHEET

## An Iliad

### WRITTEN BY:

Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare

Adapted from Homer's *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles

### DIRECTED BY:

M. Craig Getting

### CAST:

Peter DeLaurier as The Poet

Liz Filios as The Muse

### PRODUCTION TEAM:

Scenic Design – Meghan Jones

Costume Design – Natalia de la Torre

Lighting Design – Shannon Zura

Sound Design and Original Music – Liz Filios and Michael Hahn

Dialect Coach – Therese Sellers

Stage Manager – Rebecca Smith

### PRESS INFORMATION:

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[ashuff@lanterntheater.org](mailto:ashuff@lanterntheater.org) or (215) 888-6220

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Stacy Dutton, Executive Director

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### TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org)

By Phone: (215) 829-0395

In Person: Lantern Box Office, 10th & Ludlow Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19107

### TICKET PRICING:

Tickets are \$24 – \$42

Discounts available for students, seniors, military, and groups of 10 or more

### PREVIEWS:

Thursday, November 10 at 7 p.m.

Friday, November 11 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 12 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 13 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m.

### OPENING:

Wednesday, November 16 at 7 p.m.

### REGULAR RUN:

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on November 29

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on November 23 and 30

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on November 23 and 30, and December 7  
Thursday at 7 p.m. on November 17 and December 1 and 8  
Friday at 8 p.m. on November 18 and 25, and December 2 and 9  
Saturday at 2 p.m. on November 26 and December 10  
Saturday at 8 p.m. on November 19 and 26, and December 3 and 10  
Sunday at 2 p.m. on November 20 and 27, and December 4 and 11

**CLOSING:**

Sunday, December 11 at 2 p.m.

**PERFORMANCE VENUE:**

St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19107

**PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:**

Ample parking is available at nearby lots and garages, including The Autopark at Jefferson (10th & Ludlow Sts.) and LAZ Parking (10th & Chestnut Sts.). Metered street parking is available during posted hours. Venue is also accessible by taxi, SEPTA buses and trains, and the PATCO Highspeed line.

**ACCESSIBILITY:**

Open captioned performance on Friday, November 25 at 8 p.m.

**PLAY SYNOPSIS:**

Featuring virtuosic performances and original live music, this Obie Award-winning adaptation condenses Homer's epic masterpiece into an evening of theater at its best: intimate, incisive, and urgent. 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. *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.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Lantern Pub Night**

Lively conversation over a complimentary pub beverage immediately following 8 p.m. performances on Friday, November 18 and 25

**Artists in Conversation**

Post-show discussions with the artists following 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, November 20; Wednesday, November 23; Sunday, November 27; and Wednesday, November 30