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#TheTempestLTC

## Lantern Theater Company Presents *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, Mar. 15 – Apr. 29, 2018

### ***The Lantern's Annual Shakespeare Production Extended Through April 29 To Meet Extraordinary Demand from the General Public and Local School Groups***

PHILADELPHIA (March 1, 2018) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its record-smashing 24th season with *The Tempest* by **William Shakespeare**. Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahan** will direct a cast that includes some of Philadelphia's finest actors: **Chris Anthony, Peter DeLaurier, J Hernandez, Dave Johnson, John Lopes, Bi Jean Ngo, Ruby Wolf, and Frank X.** Theater critics and members of the press are invited to request tickets for **opening night on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Anne Shuff at [ashuff@lanterntheater.org](mailto:ashuff@lanterntheater.org). Performances run **Thursday, March 15 through Sunday, April 29, 2018; a full schedule is included in the fact sheet below.**

*The Tempest* continues the Lantern's annual commitment to produce the timeless stories of William Shakespeare, both for the general public and local school students. Believed to be his final solo play, *The Tempest* shows Shakespeare working at an unparalleled level of creativity, psychological complexity, and with a staggering command of his unique poetic gifts. Set on an enchanted island and teeming with poetry that brings the roiling sea to heel, this tale of magic, betrayal, and reconciliation commands us to examine what happens when one ruler is exiled, his successor washed up on shore, and both must choose between conflict and reconciliation. Can old grievances lead to new hope or are we compelled to repeat our past sins? In this great comic fable of his artistic maturity, Shakespeare explores how the choices we make lead to unexpected consequences. Power becomes magic. Exile leads to revenge. Love paves a path to reconciliation, and poetry triumphs over all. By turns frightening, funny, and staggeringly beautiful, *The Tempest* ranks among the finest plays ever written.

“Shakespeare’s great farewell to the theater is a transfixing combination of adventure, comedy, fantasy, and fairy tale,” said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**, who will direct the production. “The inner struggle between the forces of vengeance and forgiveness gives rise to some of the most beautiful and memorable language Shakespeare ever wrote. The author embodies himself in the great magician Prospero, investing this story with layers of deep revelations about the human mind and heart, which in the end lead us into still greater mysteries.”

Likely written in 1610-11, *The Tempest* was first performed in 1611 and in 1623 was entered into the Stationer’s Register, a record book for printers and publishers. It is believed to be inspired in part by accounts of the Sea Venture, a British ship that wrecked on Bermuda in 1609 while en route to Jamestown. All crew and passengers survived and lived on the island for ten months, and their stories began to reach London by 1610. Like many of Shakespeare’s later plays, *The Tempest* is classified as a “romance,” meaning that it is neither comedy nor tragedy – though it contains elements of both. The romances all contain supernatural elements and usually resolve from averted tragedy into forgiveness.

The Lantern will further explore the world of *The Tempest* on its **Lantern Searchlight** blog, available online at [www.lanterntheater.org/searchlight](http://www.lanterntheater.org/searchlight). Published articles will include a look at the history of British exploration, Shakespeare’s transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, *The Tempest* as early science fiction, the Sea Venture wreck that likely inspired the play, and behind-the-scenes interviews with the artists. New content will be added throughout the production’s run.

Tickets for *The Tempest* are \$26 – \$43 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 ten minutes before curtain with valid ID. Discounts are also available for theater professionals (\$10 in advance or at the door), seniors 65 and up, groups of 10 or more, and U.S. military personnel. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Sts. in Center City Philadelphia.

## About the Cast and Production Team

Longtime Lantern artistic partner **Peter DeLaurier** will take on the role of the sorcerer Prospero. Now celebrating 50 years as a professional theater artist, DeLaurier has graced the Lantern stage in productions of *An Iliad*, *Underneath the Lintel*, *QED*, *The Train Driver*, *Emma*, *Heroes*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *Skylight*. His Lantern directing credits include *Red Velvet*, *36 Views*, *The Island*, *Vigil*, *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*, and next season’s *Hapgood*. DeLaurier is a seven-time Barrymore Award nominee and has 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.

Longtime Lantern artistic partner **Frank X** also returns to the Lantern stage in the dual roles of Gonzalo and Stephano. His long list of Lantern stage credits spans more than 20 years, including *As You Like It*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Othello*, “*Master Harold*”...and the boys, *Death and the King’s Horseman*, and the title role in *King Lear*. An eight-time Barrymore Award nominee and one-time recipient, he has performed nationally with Seattle Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and the Folger Theatre, and locally with Arden Theatre Company, InterAct Theatre Company, Theatre Exile, and the McCarter Theatre.

Additional cast members returning to the Lantern stage include **Chris Anthony** (*Coriolanus*, *As You Like It*, *Photograph 51*, and the upcoming *Don’t Dress for Dinner*) as Ferdinand, **J Hernandez** (*As You Like It* and *The Taming of the Shrew*) as Antonio/Caliban, **Dave Johnson** (*The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Liar*) as Sebastian/Trinculo, **John Lopes** (*Mrs. Warren’s Profession*) as Alonso, **Bi Jean Ngo** (*36 Views*) as Ariel, and **Ruby Wolf** (*As You Like It*, Barrymore nomination) as Miranda.

The talented design team that will create *The Tempest*’s physical world includes scenic designer **Lance Kniskern** (*The Gospel According To...*, *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*, for which he received a Barrymore nomination), costume designer **Natalia de la Torre** (*Copenhagen* and *An Iliad*), lighting designer **Shon Causer** (many Lantern credits including Barrymore-nominated designs for *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths* and *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*), sound designer and composer **Michael Kiley** (*An Iliad*), and movement director **Ben Grinberg** (Lantern debut).

## About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company launched its current 2017/18 season with a record number of subscribers and a growing community of theater artists engaged in its productions and audience enrichment events. The Lantern’s innovative **Theater Artist Fair Pay Initiative** was featured in *American Theatre* magazine as a leading national success story for increasing artist compensation through a combination of fundraising and higher ticket sales. The Lantern seeks to be a vibrant and 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 been recognized with 96 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service. The Lantern’s current season will conclude with the Philadelphia premiere of *Don’t Dress for Dinner* by Marc Camoletti. The company recently announced its upcoming 25th anniversary season, which will include *Hapgood* by Tom Stoppard, *The Heir Apparent* by David Ives, *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter, *Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare, and the world premiere of *Minors*, a new musical by Kittson O’Neill and Robert Kaplowitz, which was commissioned by the Lantern under the auspices of the company’s New Works Program. More information is online at [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org).

# FACT SHEET

## *The Tempest*

### WRITTEN BY:

William Shakespeare

### DIRECTED BY:

Charles McMahon

### CAST:

Chris Anthony as Ferdinand

Peter DeLaurier as Prospero

J Hernandez as Antonio / Caliban

Dave Johnson as Sebastian / Trinculo

John Lopes as Alonso

Bi Jean Ngo as Ariel

Ruby Wolf as Miranda

Frank X as Gonzalo / Stephano

### PRODUCTION TEAM:

Lance Kniskern, Scenic Designer

Natalia de la Torre, Costume Designer

Shon Causer, Lighting Designer

Michael Kiley, Sound Designer & Composer

Ben Grinberg, Movement Director

Dale Roth Nadel, Props Master

Rebecca Smith, AEA Stage Manager

Adam Phelan, Assistant Director

Robin Stamey, Production Manager

### PRESS INFORMATION:

Anne Shuff, Finance & Communications Consultant

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

### TICKET INFORMATION:

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

By Phone: (215) 829-0395

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

### TICKET PRICING:

Tickets are \$26 – \$43

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

### PERFORMANCES:

Thursday, March 15 – Sunday, April 29, 2018

### PREVIEWS:

Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m.

Friday, March 16 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 17 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 18 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m.

**OPENING NIGHT:**

Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m.

**REGULAR RUN:**

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on March 27 and April 3

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on March 28 [AIC], April 4 [AIC], April 11, and April 18

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on March 28, April 4, April 11, and April 18

Thursday at 7 p.m. on March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12, and April 26

Friday at 8 p.m. on March 23, March 30 [PUB], April 6, April 13, and April 20

Saturday at 2 p.m. on March 24, March 31, April 21, and April 28

Saturday at 8 p.m. on March 24, March 31, April 7, April 14, April 21, and April 28

Sunday at 2 p.m. on March 25 [AIC], April 1 [AIC], April 8, April 15, April 22, and April 29

**CLOSING PERFORMANCE:**

Sunday, April 29 at 2 p.m.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

▪ **[AIC] Artists in Conversation**

Moderated post-show discussions with the cast immediately follow 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, March 25; Wednesday, March 28; Sunday, April 1; and Wednesday, April 4.

▪ **[PUB] Lantern Pub Night**

Lively conversation over complimentary pub drinks immediately follows the 8 p.m. performance on Friday, March 30.

**PLAY SYNOPSIS:**

With poetry that brings the roiling sea to heel, *The Tempest* commands us to examine what happens when one ruler is exiled, his successor washed up on shore, and both must choose between conflict and reconciliation. Can old grievances lead to new hope or are we compelled to repeat our past sins? In the great comic fable of his artistic maturity, Shakespeare explores how the choices we make lead to unexpected consequences. Power becomes magic. Exile leads to revenge. Love paves a path to reconciliation, and poetry triumphs over all.

**PERFORMANCE VENUE:**

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

**PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:**

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