

**Media Contact:**

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

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#BetrayalLTC

## Lantern Theater Company Presents Harold Pinter's Masterpiece *Betrayal*, January 10 – February 17, 2019

PHILADELPHIA (January 10, 2019) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its 25th anniversary season with *Betrayal* by **Harold Pinter**, a devastatingly honest exploration of love, sex, marriage, and friendship, and widely regarded as the influential playwright's masterpiece. Lantern resident director **Kathryn MacMillan** directs a cast that includes Lantern veterans **Geneviève Perrier**, **Jered McLenigan**, and **Gregory Isaac**, and **Ryan Hagan** in his Lantern debut. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to request tickets for **opening night on Wednesday, January 16 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Anne Shuff at [ashuff@lanterntheater.org](mailto:ashuff@lanterntheater.org). The expanded six-week performance schedule runs **Thursday, January 10 through Sunday, February 17, 2019**; a full schedule of performances and audience enrichment events is included in the fact sheet below.

*Betrayal* begins in 1977 with a meeting between Emma and Jerry, two years after their love affair has ended. Pinter's narrative employs reverse chronology, moving backwards and concluding with the affair's beginning in 1968 in the home of Emma and Robert – Emma's husband and Jerry's best friend. By casting its eye backwards across the nine-year affair, Pinter's sophisticated drama deftly reveals the ways we betray each other – and ourselves.

*Betrayal* director **Kathryn MacMillan** notes that Pinter's innovative use of timeline means “we know things the characters can't know yet, and our foreknowledge shapes our understanding of their choices and creates moments of suspense out of seemingly mundane encounters. Ultimately, Pinter's characters are at the mercy of time. They will be betrayed by it, as much as they are betrayed by spouses, lovers, and friends.”

“Emma, Jerry, and Robert could turn up across the table at a dinner party, and no one would see anything unusual about them,” said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. “Each of these characters is hurtling

through space, inadequately connected but craving connection. With *Betrayal*, Pinter has created one of the most honest and heartbreaking pictures ever of human aspiration, vanity, need, and self-deception.”

Lantern Theater Company will delve into the world of *Betrayal* on its **Lantern Searchlight** blog, available online at [lanterntheater.org/searchlight](http://lanterntheater.org/searchlight). Published articles will explore Pinter’s extraordinary influence on 20th century theater, London in the 1960s, creative use of timeline in building narrative, and more. New content will be added throughout the production’s run.

Tickets for *Betrayal* are \$28 – \$43 and are available online at [lanterntheater.org](http://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 industry 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 Harold Pinter

Harold Pinter (1930-2008) was a British playwright, screenwriter, actor, director, poet, political activist, and Nobel laureate. He is one of the 20th century’s literary giants, joining the ranks of writers like Shakespeare, Dickens, and Orwell by having his name turned into an adjective. Pinteresque plays are noted for their use of understatement, small talk, reticence, and silence to convey the substance of characters’ thoughts, which often lay several layers beneath and contradict their speech. In addition to creating 29 plays over the course of his 50-year career, Pinter wrote for radio, television, and film – including the screenplay for the 1983 film version of *Betrayal* starring Jeremy Irons, Ben Kingsley, and Patricia Hodge. *Betrayal* has a uniquely personal resonance among Pinter’s work: it is based on his seven-year affair with TV presenter Joan Bakewell. Pinter was appointed CBE in 1966 and became a Companion of Honour in 2002. Other notable honors include the 2005 Nobel Prize for Literature, the Légion d'honneur in 2007, and the 1979 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play for *Betrayal*.

## About the Cast and Creative Team

*Betrayal* director **Kathryn MacMillan** has directed nearly 40 productions in the Philadelphia region, including Lantern productions of *Don’t Dress for Dinner*, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*, *Underneath the Lintel*, *Photograph 51*, *Arcadia*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and Pinter’s *The Hothouse*, for which she was nominated for a Barrymore Award for Outstanding Direction of a Play. MacMillan’s directing credits also include productions with Delaware Theatre Company, Theatre Horizon, InterAct Theatre Company, Inis Nua Theatre Company, Shakespeare in Clark Park, and Tiny Dynamite, where she serves as producing artistic director.

**Geneviève Perrier** takes on the role of Emma in *Betrayal*, her seventh Lantern production. Her previous Lantern credits include *Photograph 51* (Barrymore nomination), *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Barrymore Award for Outstanding Ensemble), *Private Lives* (Barrymore nomination), *The Lonesome West* (Barrymore nomination), *The Screwtape Letters*, and *Skylight*, for which she was honored with the 2008 Barrymore for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Play. Perrier has also worked locally with Azuka Theatre, Arden Theatre Company, The Berserker Residents, EgoPo Classic Theater, Headlong Dance Theater, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and Pig Iron Theatre Company.

**Jered McLenigan** is Jerry, Emma's lover and Robert's best friend. *Betrayal* marks McLenigan's seventh Lantern production, including *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths* (Barrymore nomination), *Julius Caesar* (Barrymore Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play), *A Skull in Connemara*, and *Henry IV, Part I*, among others. Other local credits include productions with Walnut Street Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, 1812 Productions, and The Wilma Theater, where he is a member of the HotHouse Company. He will return to the Lantern for this spring's production of *Measure for Measure*.

**Gregory Isaac** is Robert, Emma's husband and Jerry's best friend. Isaac previously appeared at the Lantern as Thomas Jefferson in *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson*, *Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord*. Other local credits include productions with Quintessence Theatre Group, 1812 Productions, and Delaware Shakespeare; he was a 2017 Barrymore Award nominee for his work as Achilles in *Iphigenia at Aulis* with the Philadelphia Artists' Collective. National credits include productions with the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Alliance Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

**Ryan Hagan** makes his Lantern debut as the Waiter and a member of the *Betrayal* run crew. Hagan is a recent DeSales University graduate and has appeared onstage at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Act II Playhouse, and the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble.

The design team for *Betrayal* includes scenic designer **Meghan Jones** (Lantern credits include *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Craftsman*, and *Coriolanus*), costume designer **LeVonne Lindsay** (Lantern debut), lighting designer **Shannon Zura** (*The Craftsman* and *An Iliad*), and sound designer and composer **Christopher Colucci** (co-creator of the Lantern's recent world premiere adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* and sound for *Hapgood*, *The Heir Apparent*, and many others).

## About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company entered its 25th anniversary 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 100 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service. Following *Betrayal*, the company's 2018/19 season continues with *Measure for Measure* by William Shakespeare and the world premiere of *Minors*, a new musical by Philadelphia-based artists Kittson O'Neill and Robert Kaplowitz, which was commissioned and developed through the Lantern's New Works Program. More information is online at [lanterntheater.org](http://lanterntheater.org).

**Lantern Theater Company – 25th Anniversary Season**  
**FACT SHEET**  
*Betrayal*

**WRITTEN BY:**

Harold Pinter

**DIRECTED BY:**

Kathryn MacMillan

**CAST:**

Geneviève Perrier as Emma

Jered McLenigan as Jerry

Gregory Isaac as Robert

Ryan Hagan as Waiter / Run Crew

**PRODUCTION TEAM:**

Meghan Jones, Scenic Designer

LeVonne Lindsay, Costume Designer

Shannon Zura, Lighting Designer

Christopher Colucci, Sound Designer & Original Music

John Wendling, Props Master

Colleen Hughes, Intimacy Choreographer

Leonard Kelly, Dialect Coach

Rebecca Smith, AEA Stage Manager

Tori Mittelman, Assistant Director

**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 \$28 – \$43

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

**PERFORMANCES:**

Thursday, January 10 – Sunday, February 17, 2019

**PREVIEWS:**

Thursday, January 10 at 7 p.m.

Friday, January 11 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, January 12 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, January 13 at 2 p.m.

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

**OPENING NIGHT:**

Wednesday, January 16 at 7 p.m.

**REGULAR RUN:**

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on January 22, January 29, February 5, and February 12

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on January 23 [AIC], January 30 [AIC], February 6, and February 13

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on January 23, January 30, February 6, and February 13

Thursday at 7 p.m. on January 17, January 24, January 31, February 7, and February 14

Friday at 8 p.m. on January 18, January 25 [PUB], February 1, February 8, and February 15

Saturday at 2 p.m. on January 19, January 26, February 2, February 9, and February 16

Saturday at 8 p.m. on January 19, January 26, February 2, February 9, and February 16

Sunday at 2 p.m. on January 20 [AIC], January 27 [AIC], February 3, February 10, and February 17

**CLOSING PERFORMANCE:**

Sunday, February 17 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, January 20; Wednesday, January 23; Sunday, January 27; and Wednesday, January 30.

▪ **[PUB] Lantern Pub Night**

Lively conversation over complimentary pub drinks immediately follows the 8 p.m. performance on Friday, January 25.

**PLAY SYNOPSIS:**

The heart wants what the heart wants, and so we tell each other – and ourselves – the lies needed to get it. This sophisticated drama is a devastatingly honest exploration of love, sex, marriage, and friendship. Told backwards from the end to the beginning, Harold Pinter's narrative masterpiece has spawned many imitators since its 1978 London premiere.

**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. The venue is also easily accessible by taxi, SEPTA buses and trains, and the PATCO Speedline.