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Lantern Theater Company Announces 2019/20 Season

Upcoming Season Features a Mix of Classics and New Work, Including a World Premiere Adaptation, Two Philadelphia Premieres, a Classic Drama, the Lantern's Annual Shakespeare Production, and the Return of a New Holiday Tradition

PHILADELPHIA (February 21, 2019; updated August 1, 2019) – **Lantern Theater Company** announces its upcoming 2019/20 season, which will include an ambitious and eclectic mix of classic, contemporary, and new work for the stage. The five plays that comprise the company's mainstage season include **Bertolt Brecht's** *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, a brilliant drama about politics and fear that remains an insightful parable today; the Philadelphia premiere of **Anna Zieger's** *The Last Match*, a funny and moving drama from the author of the Lantern's smash hit *Photograph 51*; the Philadelphia premiere of *The Vertical Hour* by renowned British playwright **David Hare**, a sophisticated drama about the shifting alliances of family; **William Shakespeare's** tragedy *Othello*; and a world premiere adaptation of **Molière's** *The Misanthrope*. This new adaptation by revered Philadelphia theater artist **Peter DeLaurier** will enthrall audiences as the action moves to modern-day Washington, D.C.

"The five plays that make up our 2019/20 mainstage season are stories of the lifelong passions that drive us: passion for power, for truth, for excellence, for love," said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. "Great stories by great playwrights. William Shakespeare, Molière, and Bertolt Brecht give us timeless tales of love, ambition, and deception, and the damage we do to one another in the pursuit of these. We are also proud to bring the important modern voices of Anna Zeigler and David Hare back to Philadelphia for two local premieres, and a season of great plays for interesting times."

The Lantern will also present a remount of its original adaptation of **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol**, a new holiday tradition co-created by Philadelphia theater artists **Anthony Lawton, Christopher Colucci, and Thom Weaver**.

Season subscriptions and flex packages start at \$105 and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at (215) 829-0395. Single tickets for all productions go on sale on August 15, 2019.

Lantern Theater Company's 2019/20 Mainstage Season

THE RESISTABLE RISE OF ARTURO UI

Philadelphia Premiere

By Bertolt Brecht

Translation by Ralph Manheim

Directed by Charles McMahon

September 5 – October 13, 2019

Press Opening: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7 p.m.

A shady businessman turns to politics, using gangster instincts to grab and hold power. He rapidly learns how to sway a crowd using fear and false promises. Will the people reject his appeal or succumb to his demands? In the midst of a world war, Bertolt Brecht brought forth this brilliant drama that remains an insightful parable for our time. (Venue: St. Stephen's Theater, 923 Ludlow St. in Center City Philadelphia)

THE LAST MATCH

Philadelphia Premiere

By Anna Ziegler

Directed by M. Craig Getting

November 7 – December 15, 2019

Press Opening: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 7 p.m.

What does it take to become a champion and how is an athlete's character and mettle tested on that journey? From the playwright of *Photograph 51* comes this funny and moving drama about an American tennis star, the Russian player aiming to topple him, and the women in their lives who may hold the key to becoming the best in the world. (Venue: St. Stephen's Theater, 923 Ludlow St. in Center City Philadelphia)

THE VERTICAL HOUR

Philadelphia Premiere

By David Hare

Directed by Kathryn MacMillan

January 9 – February 16, 2020

Press Opening: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 7 p.m.

A brilliant and charismatic American war correspondent-turned-professor is set to marry into an accomplished British family. But is she too much of a renegade to fit in? Renowned British playwright David Hare lays bare

the shifting alliances of a family trying to come together and the past secrets that may keep them apart. (Venue: St. Stephen's Theater, 923 Ludlow St. in Center City Philadelphia)

OTHELLO

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Charles McMahon

March 12 – April 19, 2020

Press Opening: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Othello is the ultimate outsider but he inspires the love of a daughter of Venice's elite. Their marriage enrages everyone close to them – none more so than Iago, one of Shakespeare's most dangerous villains. Racism, pride, jealousy, and betrayal collide in this timeless tragedy. (Venue: St. Stephen's Theater, 923 Ludlow St. in Center City Philadelphia)

THE MISANTHROPE

A World Premiere Adaptation by Peter DeLaurier

From the play by Molière

Directed by Claire Moyer

May 21 – June 28, 2020

Press Opening: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 7 p.m.

When everyone loves the wrong person, hearts are going to get broken and polite society upended. Molière's classic comedy of manners satirizes idealists, cynics, lovers, and influencers equally. Reimagined in modern-day Washington, DC, this world premiere adaptation by revered Philadelphia theater artist Peter DeLaurier will enthrall contemporary audiences with a new take on a great work. (Venue: St. Stephen's Theater, 923 Ludlow St. in Center City Philadelphia)

2019/20 Holiday Production

CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

An Original Adaptation by Anthony Lawton

In Collaboration with Christopher Colucci and Thom Weaver

December 6 – 29, 2019

Press Opening: Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 2 p.m.

In this wonderfully clear and direct telling of Charles Dickens' novella, acclaimed playwright and actor Anthony Lawton brings the story boldly to life as only live theater can. Come rediscover Dickens' timeless story of a miser's miraculous redemption from a life of bitterness, greed, and isolation. Back by popular demand, this heartwarming adaptation captured the hearts of theater critics and audiences alike, inspiring a new holiday tradition for the entire family. (Venue: The Proscenium Theatre at The Drake, 302 S. Hicks St. in Center City Philadelphia)

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company entered its current 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. 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.

***NOTE: This press release was modified on August 1, 2019,
with updated dates and expanded play descriptions.***