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#OthelloLTC

Lantern Theater Company Presents William Shakespeare's *Othello*, March 12 – April 26, 2020

Annual Shakespeare Production Already Extended To Meet Overwhelming Demand By Schools and Local Audiences

PHILADELPHIA (March 11, 2020) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its 2019/20 season with *Othello*, part of the company's ongoing commitment to produce the timeless stories of **William Shakespeare** for both the general public and local school students. Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon** directs an ensemble cast that includes **Lindsay Smiling** as Othello, **Trey Lyford** as Iago, and **Campbell O'Hare** as Desdemona, with **David Bardeen**, **Andrew Criss**, **Trevor William Fayle**, **Suli Holum**, **John Lopes**, and **Krystal Ortega**. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to request press tickets for opening night on **Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Anne Shuff at ashuff@lanterntheater.org. *Othello* runs **Thursday, March 12 through Sunday, April 26, 2020**; a complete schedule of performances and audience enrichment events is included in the fact sheet below.

“*Othello* is unusual in Shakespeare tragedies in that it is psychological forces that drive the action rather than external events,” said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**, who helms the production. “Iago is a character who perplexes literary and dramatic critics. His motivations for his actions seem implausible, not nearly equal to the enormity of the actions themselves. And yet the real world gives us countless examples of clever manipulators like Iago, who suddenly seem ready to burn down the world for the flimsiest of reasons. Othello himself is another kind of mystery, a self-made man who seems invincible, but whose self-assurance and decisiveness are transformed from his greatest strength into a devastating weakness. These two characters come together in a series of the most extraordinary dramatic scenes ever written.”

McMahon will discuss his production team's artistic approach to creating *Othello* at **In Conversation with Charles McMahon on Monday, March 24, 2020 at 5 p.m.** The conversation will be hosted by the Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia, located at 18 S. 7th St. Admission is free.

Lantern Theater Company will also delve into the world of *Othello* on its **Lantern Searchlight blog**, available online at lanterntheater.org/searchlight. Published articles will explore Shakespeare's world of exceptional outsiders, the pathological psychology of Iago, Venice in *Othello*'s time, the fascinating and barrier-breaking story of American actor Ira Aldridge, behind-the-scenes interviews with the *Othello* artists, and much more. New stories will be added throughout the production's run.

Tickets for *Othello* start at \$28 and are available online at lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Discounts are available for students, seniors 65 and up, U.S. military personnel, and groups of 10 or more. All performances of *Othello* will take place at the Lantern's resident home at St. Stephen's Theater, 923 Ludlow St. in Center City Philadelphia.

About the Cast and Creative Team

Othello director **Charles McMahon** co-founded Lantern Theater Company in 1994 and serves as artistic director in addition to directing, writing, and acting for the company. He has directed all but one of the Lantern's annual Shakespeare productions, including recent stagings of *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, and *Coriolanus*. Other Lantern directing credits include *As You Like It*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Henry V*, *New Jerusalem*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *La Ronde* (also translator and adaptor), *Richard III* (Barrymore Award), *The Comedy of Errors* (Barrymore nomination), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King Lear*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, and *A Doll's House*. His acting credits include reprising the role of Heisenberg in the Lantern's 2017 production of *Copenhagen*, and his writing credits include *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths* and co-creating an original adaptation of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. In the Lantern's recently announced 2020/21 season, McMahon will direct Tom Stoppard's *Travesties* and Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*.

[Lindsay Smiling](#) takes on the title role of Othello, his third production with the Lantern following *Informed Consent* and *Richard III*. Other local credits include productions with Philadelphia Theatre Company, Arden Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre, People's Light, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, InterAct Theatre Company, Bristol Riverside Theatre, and The Wilma Theater, where he serves as a member of the Wilma HotHouse. Regional stage credits include Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Baltimore Center Stage, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Syracuse Stage, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Two River Theatre Company, Victory Gardens, A

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994, Lantern Theater Company launched its 26th season with a growing patron base and 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 106 nominations and 19 awards, including the 2009 Award for Excellence in Theatre Education and Community Service. Following *Othello*, the Lantern's 2019/20 season will conclude with a world premiere adaptation of *Molière's The Misanthrope* by Peter DeLaurier, commissioned and developed through the Lantern's New Works Program (May 21 – June 28, 2020; **press opening is Wed., May 27, 2020 at 7 p.m.**). More information is available online at lanterntheater.org.

Lantern Theater Company – 2019/20 Season
FACT SHEET
Othello

WRITTEN BY:

William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY:

Charles McMahan

CAST:

David Bardeen as Roderigo

Andrew Criss as Brabantio/Lodovico/Harbor Master

Trevor William Fayle as Cassio

Suli Holum as Emilia

John Lopes as Montano/Duke

Trey Lyford as Iago

Campbell O'Hare as Desdemona

Krystal Ortega as Bianca

Lindsay Smiling as Othello

PRODUCTION TEAM:

James F. Pyne, Jr., Scenic Designer

Marla Jurglanis, Costume Designer

Drew Billiau, Lighting Designer

Michael Hahn, Sound Designer & Composer

Shannon Ryan, Props Master

J. Alex Cordaro, Fight Director

Colleen Hughes, Intimacy Director

Rebecca Smith, AEA Stage Manager

David Bardeen, Associate Director

Janet Embree, Production Manager

PRESS INFORMATION:

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TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: www.lanterntheater.org

By Phone: (215) 829-0395

In Person: Lantern Box Office, 923 Ludlow Street in Center City Philadelphia

TICKET PRICING:

\$28 and up

PERFORMANCES:

Thursday, March 12 – Sunday, April 26, 2020

PREVIEWS:

Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m.
Friday, March 13 at 8 p.m.
Saturday, March 14 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m.
Tuesday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT:

Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

REGULAR RUN:

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on March 24 and March 31 only
Wednesday at 2 p.m. on March 25 [AIC], April 1 [AIC], April 8, and April 15
Wednesday at 7 p.m. on March 25, April 1, April 8, and April 15
Thursday at 7 p.m. on March 19, March 26, April 2, and April 9 only
Friday at 8 p.m. on March 20, March 27 [PUB], April 3, April 10, April 17, and April 24
Saturday at 2 p.m. on March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11, April 18, and April 25
Saturday at 8 p.m. on March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11, April 18, and April 25
Sunday at 2 p.m. on March 22 [AIC], March 29 [AIC], April 5, April 12, April 19, and April 26

CLOSING PERFORMANCE:

Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **In Conversation with Charles McMahon: Monday, March 24 at 5 p.m.**
Hosted by the Independence Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia (18 S. 7th St.), *Othello* director Charles McMahon will discuss his artistic approach to adapting, designing, and directing the production, providing a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process.
- **[AIC] Artists in Conversation**
Moderated post-show discussions with the cast immediately follow 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, March 22; Wednesday, March 25; Sunday, March 29; and Wednesday, April 1. Lantern artistic director and *Othello* director **Charles McMahon** will moderate on Wednesday, March 25; Lantern dramaturg **Meghan Winch** will moderate all other dates.
- **[PUB] Lantern Pub Night**
Lively conversation over complimentary pub drinks immediately follows the 8 p.m. performance on Friday, March 27.

PLAY SYNOPSIS:

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. Race, pride, jealousy, and betrayal collide in this timeless tragedy.

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

St. Stephen's Theater at 923 Ludlow Street in Center City Philadelphia

PARKING/TRANSPORTATION:

Ample parking is available at nearby lots and garages, including The Autopark at Jefferson (10th & Ludlow Streets) and Jefferson Hospital Parking Garage (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.