

Media Contact:

Anne Shuff, Finance & Communications Consultant
ashuff@lanterntheater.org or (215) 829-9002 x111

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#TempestLTC

Lantern Theater Company Continues New Plays from the Lantern Archives Series with Filmed Version of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, Streaming May 4 – 30, 2021

PHILADELPHIA (April 29, 2021) – **Lantern Theater Company** continues its reimagined 2020/21 season with a filmed version of its 2018 mainstage production of *The Tempest* by **William Shakespeare**, directed by Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**, and streaming **May 4 – 30, 2021**. Part of the company's new **Plays from the Lantern Archives** series that celebrates some of the finest productions from recent seasons brought vividly back to life on screen, *The Tempest* was professionally filmed with a live theater audience by the Lantern's Emmy Award-winning partners at **Natural Light Films** during its original 2017/18 season run. The production features an ensemble cast of Lantern veterans, including **Chris Anthony, Peter DeLaurier, J Hernandez, Dave Johnson, John Lopes, Bi Jean Ngo, Ruby Wolf, and Frank X**. Tickets and additional information are available online at www.lanterntheater.org.

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 examines 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. 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,” noted **Charles McMahon** during the production’s original 2018 run. “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 Stationers’ 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.

Tickets for *The Tempest* are **\$15 per household/device** and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Ticket buyers will receive an email confirmation with full instructions and a private ticket access link, which will provide on-demand access to *The Tempest* for one viewing during the May 4 – 30, 2021 streaming period. The play can be viewed on most internet-connected devices with email/web browser access, including desktops, laptops, tablets, smartphones, and select smart TVs. The Lantern Box Office will be accessible by phone and email for extended hours throughout the streaming period to provide assistance. A **Digital Shakespeare Pass is also available for \$28**, which includes one ticket for *The Tempest* and *Coriolanus* (streaming June 1 – 27, 2021).

About the Artists

The Tempest 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. McMahon has directed all but one of the Lantern’s annual Shakespeare productions, including recent productions of *Othello* (shuttered after one preview performance in March 2020 due to Covid-19), as well as *Measure for Measure* and *Coriolanus*, both of which were filmed and are streaming this spring as part of the Plays from the Lantern Archives series. Other Lantern directing credits include *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *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 adapter), *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*. Recent acting credits include reprising the role of Heisenberg in *Copenhagen*, and writing credits include *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths* and co-creating an original adaptation of Dylan Thomas’ *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*.

Longtime Lantern artistic partner **Peter DeLaurier** takes on the role of the sorcerer Prospero. Celebrating over 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 *Hapgood*, *Red Velvet*, *36 Views*, *The Island*, *Vigil*, and *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*. 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** appears in the dual roles of Gonzalo and Stephano. His long list of Lantern stage credits spans more than 20 years, including *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Othello*, *The Island*, "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 include **Chris Anthony** (*Measure for Measure*, *Coriolanus*, *As You Like It*, *The Heir Apparent*, and *Photograph 51*) as Ferdinand, **J Hernandez** (*As You Like It* and *The Taming of the Shrew*) as Antonio/Caliban, **Dave Johnson** (*The Heir Apparent*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Hound of the Baskervilles*, and *The Liar*) as Sebastian/Trinculo, **John Lopes** (*Othello* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*) as Alonso, **Bi Jean Ngo** (*36 Views*) as Ariel, and **Ruby Wolf** (*The Heir Apparent* and *As You Like It*, Barrymore nomination) as Miranda.

The talented design team includes scenic designer **Lance Kniskern** (Lantern credits include *The Last Match*, *The Heir Apparent*, *The Gospel According To...*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*, Barrymore nomination), costume designer **Natalia de la Torre** (*The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Hapgood*, and *Copenhagen*), lighting designer **Shon Causer** (*Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Gospel According To...*, and *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*, Barrymore nomination), sound designer and composer **Michael Kiley** (*Henry V*), and movement director **Ben Grinberg** (Lantern debut). Actor **Adam Phelan** served as assistant director.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994 and now in its 27th season, Lantern Theater Company's mission is to produce plays that investigate and illuminate what is essential in the human spirit and the spirit of the times. The Lantern serves the Philadelphia region with artistic and educational programming, notably partnering with middle schools and high schools in the Philadelphia School District to provide in-classroom residencies in support of curricular learning. Throughout the Covid-19 health crisis, the Lantern has continued to provide artistic programming on both a free and paid basis, including readings of Shakespeare plays in spring 2020; filmed versions of fully realized

theatrical productions of *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol* in December 2020 and *Molly Sweeney* by Brian Friel in January-March 2021; and the company's new Plays from the Lantern Archives series, which launched in March 2021 with a professionally filmed and edited version of its 2017 world premiere production of *The Craftsman* by Bruce Graham and its 2019 production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*.

Following *The Tempest*, the Lantern's reimagined 2020/21 season will continue with a filmed and edited version of *Coriolanus*, as well as newly created plays that may be safely rehearsed, staged, and filmed. Additional details will be announced as events and dates are confirmed. More information about the Lantern is available online at www.lanterntheater.org.

Lantern Theater Company – 2020/21 Season
FACT SHEET
The Tempest

WRITTEN BY:

William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY:

Charles McMahan

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

CREATIVE TEAM:

Lance Kniskern, Scenic Designer

Natalia de la Torre, Costume Designer

Shon Causer, Lighting Designer

Michael Kiley, Sound Designer & Composer

Ben Grinberg, Movement Director

Rebecca Smith, AEA Stage Manager

Adam Phelan, Assistant Director

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TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: www.lanterntheater.org

By Phone: (215) 829-0395

TICKET PRICING:

\$15 per household/device

\$28 Digital Shakespeare Pass, which includes access to *The Tempest* and *Coriolanus*

STREAMING ON DEMAND:

Tuesday, May 4 – Sunday, May 30, 2021

PLAY SYNOPSIS for LISTING EDITORS:

With poetry that brings the roiling sea to heel, *The Tempest* examines 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. Professionally filmed with a live theater audience in April 2018, *The Tempest* is part of Plays from the Lantern Archives, a

new series celebrating some of the finest productions from recent Lantern seasons brought vividly back to life on screen.