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#CoriolanusLTC

Lantern Theater Company's Plays from the Lantern Archives Series Concludes with Filmed Version of William Shakespeare's Political and Psychological Thriller *CORIOLANUS*, Streaming June 1 – 27, 2021

*Rarely Performed Shakespeare Classic Features Internationally Acclaimed Actress, Director,
Author, and Shakespeare & Company Founder and Former Artistic Director Tina Packer*

PHILADELPHIA (May 27, 2021) – [Lantern Theater Company](http://www.lanterntheater.org) continues its reimagined 2020/21 season with a filmed version of its 2017 mainstage production of *Coriolanus* by William Shakespeare, directed by Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**, and streaming **June 1 – 27, 2021**. Filmed with a live theater audience by the Lantern's Emmy Award-winning partners at **Natural Light Films** during its original run, *Coriolanus* is the final installment in the **Plays from the Lantern Archives** series, which celebrates some of the finest productions from recent Lantern seasons brought vividly back to life on screen.

The production features an ensemble cast that includes internationally acclaimed actress, director, and author **Tina Packer** as Volumnia and **Robert Lyons** as Coriolanus, with **Chris Anthony**, **David Bardeen**, **Mary Lee Bednarek**, **Kirk Wendell Brown**, **Charlie DelMarcelle**, **Leonard C. Haas**, **Adam Hammet**, **Brian McCann**, **Han Van Sciver**, and **Brock D. Vickers**. Tickets and additional information are available online at www.lanterntheater.org.

In Shakespeare's timely story of politics and radical class division, famine threatens Rome and the people's hunger swells to an appetite for change. A war hero from a powerful family, Coriolanus seems destined to be elected consul – but the people find his pride an unforgivable insult, exploding the long-simmering tensions between the governing elite and deprived masses.

“In *Coriolanus*, Rome is a young republic where institutions are failing when a restive working class makes angry demands of the Senate and a powerful foreign enemy presses them from the outside,” noted **Charles McMahon** during the production’s original 2017 run. “In writing about Rome, Shakespeare was offering perspective on the turmoil in his own time, as angry populist leaders in the countryside mobilized against a remote and out of touch landowning class. *Coriolanus* is a fascinating political and psychological play, and one that has chilling echoes through the ages. I believe audiences will find that the play feels both current and timeless.”

Tickets for *Coriolanus* are **\$15 per household/device** and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Closed captioning is available. Ticket buyers will receive an email confirmation with full instructions and a private ticket access link, which will provide on-demand access to *Coriolanus* for one viewing during the June 1 – 27, 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.

About the Artists

Coriolanus 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 *The Tempest*, both of which were streamed 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*.

Internationally acclaimed actress, director, and author **Tina Packer** stars as Volumnia, *Coriolanus*’ politically powerful mother. One of the country’s foremost experts on Shakespeare and theater arts, Packer founded Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., in 1978 and served as artistic director until 2009. Born in England and trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Packer was an associate artist with the Royal Shakespeare Company and performed in the West End and on BBC television. She has twice received the Elliot Norton Award from the Boston Theater Critics Association as well as Massachusetts’ highest cultural honor, The Commonwealth Award. She has directed nearly every Shakespeare play and has taught the entire canon at

multiple colleges and universities, including Harvard, Columbia, and MIT. She has also published several books about Shakespeare, including *Power Plays: Shakespeare's Lessons in Leadership and Management*; *Tales from Shakespeare*, a retelling of Shakespeare plays for young people; and *Women of Will: Following the Feminine in Shakespeare's Plays*, which explores love, loss, freedom, and power through Shakespeare's heroines. Her performance piece *Women of Will* has traveled across America as well as internationally.

In his Lantern debut, New York-based actor **Robert Lyons** plays the title role of Coriolanus. He is a graduate of Shakespeare Theatre Company's Academy for Classical Acting and the Stella Adler Studio and has worked extensively in New York and Germany, including at the renowned Berliner Ensemble.

Coriolanus cast members returning to the Lantern stage include **Chris Anthony** as Titus Lartius/Ensemble (Lantern credits include *The Tempest*, *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It*, *The Heir Apparent*, and *Photograph 51*), **David Bardeen** as Sicinius/Ensemble (eleven Lantern productions over the past 20 years, including *Othello*, *Red Velvet*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, and *Oscar Wilde: From the Depths*, for which he received a Barrymore Award nomination), **Mary Lee Bednarek** as Virgilia/Ensemble (*The Craftsman* and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*), **Kirk Wendell Brown** as Cominius/Ensemble (*Measure for Measure*, *Hapgood*, *As You Like It*, and *The Train Driver*), **Charlie DelMarcelle** as Aufidius/Ensemble (*A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, and *Romeo & Juliet*), **Leonard C. Haas** as Brutus/Ensemble (*Private Lives* and *Romeo & Juliet*), **Adam Hammet** as Ensemble (*Measure for Measure*, *The Heir Apparent*, and *Red Velvet*), and **Brian McCann** as Menenius/Ensemble (*The Gospel According To...*). Making their Lantern debut with *Coriolanus* are **Han Van Sciver** (Valeria/Ensemble) and **Brock D. Vickers** (Ensemble).

The talented design team for *Coriolanus* includes scenic designer **Meghan Jones** (*Don't Dress for Dinner*, *An Iliad*, *As You Like It*, and *Photograph 51*), costume designer **Janus Stefanowicz** (*Measure for Measure*, *Red Velvet*, and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*), lighting designer **Drew Billiau** (*Measure for Measure* and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*), sound designer and composer **Robert Kaplowitz** (*Minors* and *A Child's Christmas in Wales* at the Lantern, and an OBIE and Tony Award-winner for *Fela!*), and projection designer **Michael Long** (Lantern debut). Longtime Lantern collaborator and fight director **J. Alex Cordaro** (*Don't Dress for Dinner*, *As You Like It*, and *Romeo & Juliet*) choreographed the meticulously staged fights and battle scenes.

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 this spring's Plays from the Lantern Archives series, which included professionally filmed and edited versions of its 2017 world premiere production of *The Craftsman* by Bruce Graham, and three recent Shakespeare productions: *Measure for Measure* (2019), *The Tempest* (2018), and *Coriolanus* (2017).

Following *Coriolanus*, the Lantern's reimagined **2020/21 virtual season will extend into fall 2021 with three newly filmed productions:** the American premiere of *The Plague* by **Neil Bartlett**, adapted from *La Peste* by **Albert Camus**; the world premiere of *American Jadoowalla* by **Shreyash Palshikar**; and *Me and the Devil*, a world premiere by **Steve H. Broadnax III** and **Charles Dumas** about the great American blues musician Robert Johnson, directed by Broadnax. Additional information about these productions will be announced in the coming weeks as dates are confirmed.

More information about the Lantern is available online at www.lanterntheater.org.

Lantern Theater Company – 2020/21 Season
FACT SHEET
Coriolanus

WRITTEN BY:

William Shakespeare

DIRECTED BY:

Charles McMahon

CAST:

Chris Anthony as Titus Lartius/Ensemble
David Bardeen as Sicinius/Ensemble
Mary Lee Bednarek as Virgilia/Ensemble
Kirk Wendell Brown as Cominius/Ensemble
Charlie DelMarcelle as Aufidius/Ensemble
Leonard C. Haas as Brutus/Ensemble
Adam Hammet as Ensemble
Robert Lyons as Coriolanus
Brian McCann as Menenius/Ensemble
Tina Packer as Volumnia
Han Van Sciver as Valeria/Ensemble
Brock D. Vickers as Ensemble

CREATIVE TEAM:

Meghan Jones, Scenic Designer
Janus Stefanowicz, Costume Designer
Drew Billiau, Lighting Designer
Robert Kaplowitz, Sound Designer & Composer
Michael Long, Projection Designer
J. Alex Cordaro, Fight Director
Rebecca Smith, AEA Stage Manager

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TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: www.lanterntheater.org
By Phone: (215) 829-0395

TICKET PRICING:

\$15 per household/device

STREAMING ON DEMAND:

Tuesday, June 1 – Sunday, June 27, 2021

PLAY SYNOPSIS for LISTING EDITORS:

Famine threatens Rome, and the people's hunger swells to an appetite for political change. A war hero from a powerful family, Coriolanus seems destined to be elected consul – but the people find his pride an unforgivable insult, exploding the long-simmering tensions between the fracturing state's governing elite and deprived

masses. This timely story of radical class division is also a compelling psychological portrait of Coriolanus and his politically savvy mother, Volumnia, played by internationally acclaimed actress, director, and author Tina Packer. Professionally filmed with a live theater audience in April 2017, *Coriolanus* is the final installment in Plays from the Lantern Archives, a series celebrating some of the finest productions from recent Lantern seasons brought vividly back to life on screen.