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## **Lantern Theater Company Continues 2026/27 Season with *THE WEIR* by Conor McPherson, Directed by Matt Pfeiffer, November 12 – December 13, 2026**

PHILADELPHIA (October 12, 2026) – Lantern Theater Company continues its 2026/27 season with *The Weir*, by **Conor McPherson**. Guest director **Matt Pfeiffer** leads a cast of Lantern veterans including **Dave Johnson, Anthony Lawton, Campbell O'Hare, Ian Merrill Peakes**, and Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. *The Weir* runs **Thursday, November 12 through Sunday, December 13, 2026**, at St. Stephen's Theater in Center City Philadelphia; a complete schedule of performances and audience enrichment events is included in the fact sheet below. Theater critics and members of the press planning coverage are invited to request press tickets for **opening night on Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m.** by contacting Emily Wilson at [ewilson@lanterntheater.org](mailto:ewilson@lanterntheater.org).

In a small Irish pub on a lonely windswept hillside, a tight circle of local regulars is joined by Valerie, a young woman recently moved from Dublin into a nearby house. Hoping to impress newcomer Valerie, the men exchange tales of strange and unexplained local events. But when Valerie shares her own unsettling experience, the boundary between superstition and truth begins to blur. Conor McPherson's modern masterpiece explores the quiet power of storytelling as a means of human connection.

"The Lantern has such a great legacy of celebrating the theater as oral tradition," said director **Matt Pfeiffer**. "The shared story feels like a hallmark aesthetic of the company. McPherson has said that 'mystery is the philosophical underpinning of life. We don't understand who we are or where we come from. A fear of the unknown is very exciting on stage.' I'm thrilled to bring this mysterious exploration to the Lantern stage. St. Stephen's is filled with ghosts. So I can't think of a better place to share this story with this outstanding cast."

Lantern Theater Company will explore the multiple worlds of *The Weir* on its **Lantern Searchlight on Medium**, available online at [lanterntheater.org/searchlight](http://lanterntheater.org/searchlight). Articles will be published throughout the

production's run, including background on the play, its themes, and behind-the-scenes conversations with the artists.

Tickets for *The Weir* are \$31 – \$49 and are available online at [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org) or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Discounts are available for students, theatergoers under age 30, seniors 65 and up, U.S. military personnel, and groups of 10 or more. All performances will take place at **St. Stephen's Theater**, located at 923 Ludlow Street in Center City Philadelphia.

## About the Playwright

Conor McPherson is a celebrated contemporary Irish playwright and screenwriter, named by *The New York Times* as “the finest playwright of his generation.” McPherson won the George Devine Award in 1997 with his play *St Nicholas* and an Olivier Award for Best New Play in 1999 with *The Weir*. In 2006 he received a Tony Award nomination for *Shining City* and an Olivier Award nomination for Best New Play for *The Seafarer*. His other plays include: *Rum and Vodka* (Fly by Night Theatre Co., Dublin); *The Good Thief* (Dublin Theatre Festival; Stewart Parker Award); *This Lime Tree Bower* (Fly by Night Theatre Co. and Bush Theatre, London; Meyer-Whitworth Award); *Dublin Carol* (Royal Court and Atlantic Theater, New York); *Port Authority* (Ambassadors Theatre, West End, Gate Theatre, Dublin and Atlantic Theater, New York); *The Veil* (National Theatre); *The Night Alive* (Donmar Warehouse, London and Atlantic Theater, New York); *Girl from the North Country* (Old Vic, London) and *The Brightening Air* (Old Vic, London). His work for film includes *I Went Down*, *Saltwater*, *The Actors*, *The Eclipse*, and *Strangers*. He is best known for his atmospheric, dialogue-driven plays, often set in Irish pubs, that blend everyday realism with the supernatural.

## About the Lantern Artists

Philadelphia-based actor and director **Matt Pfeiffer** returns to the Lantern to direct *The Weir*. His previous Lantern directing credits include *The Lifespan of a Fact* (2023), *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2015), the Philadelphia premiere of Athol Fugard's *The Train Driver* (2014), and the world premiere of Anthony Lawton's *The Foocy* (2006). He has also directed productions at theaters across the region, including Arden Theatre Company, People's Light, Walnut Street Theatre, 1812 Productions, Delaware Theatre Company, Bristol Riverside Theatre, InterAct Theatre Company, and the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, among others. He is a thirteen-time Barrymore Award nominee, winning twice for directing *The Whale* and *The Invisible Hand* at Theatre Exile, where he is a resident artist. He is the 2008 recipient of the F. Otto Haas Award and a graduate of DeSales University.

*The Weir*'s cast includes **Dave Johnson** as Brendan (Lantern credits include *Franklinland*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and more), **Anthony Lawton** as Jack (*A Christmas Carol*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Faith Healer*, and more), **Charles McMahon** as Jim (Lantern Artistic Director and co-founder; Lantern acting credits include *Copenhagen*, *The Lady from the Sea*, *Travels with My Aunt*, and more), **Campbell O'Hare** as Valerie (*The Real Thing*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Tartuffe*, *Travesties*, and more), and **Ian Merrill Peakes** as Finbar (*Faith Healer*, *The Lifespan of a Fact*, *Molly Sweeney*, *The Craftsman*).

The creative team for *The Weir* includes scenic designer **Nick Embree** (Lantern credits include *Travesties*, *Molly Sweeney*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*), costume designer **Leigh Paradise** (*Macbeth*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Molly Sweeney*), lighting designer **Alyssandra Docherty** (Lantern debut; theater credits include Azuka Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre), and sound designer **Christopher Colucci** (45th Lantern production, including *Macbeth*, *The Real Thing*, *The 39 Steps*). **Maya Nguyen-Haberneski** will serve as Stage Manager.

## About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994 and now in its 33rd 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 Greater Philadelphia region with award-winning productions and education programming, notably partnering with middle schools and high schools in the Philadelphia School District to provide in-classroom residencies in support of curricular learning. The Lantern became a national leader in streaming theater during the Covid health crisis, producing ten fully designed plays that were created and filmed in the company's resident home at St. Stephen's Theater, garnering coverage in national media including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and reaching more than 30,000 people in 15 countries and all 50 states.

Following *The Weir*, Lantern Theater Company's 2026/27 season continues with ***Hamlet*, William Shakespeare's** timeless tragedy of revenge, morality, and madness, directed by Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon** (**Press Opening: Wednesday, February 10, 2027, at 7 p.m.**); and the Philadelphia premiere of ***Wild With Happy*** by **Colman Domingo**, a vibrant and deeply moving journey through grief and self-discovery (**Press Opening: Wednesday, May 12, 2027, at 7 p.m.**). More information is available online at [\*\*www.lanterntheater.org\*\*](http://www.lanterntheater.org).

**Lantern Theater Company – 2026/27 Season**  
**FACT SHEET**  
*The Weir*

**WRITTEN BY:**

Conor McPherson

**DIRECTED BY:**

Matt Pfeiffer

**CAST:**

Dave Johnson as Brendan  
Anthony Lawton as Jack  
Charles McMahon as Jim  
Campbell O'Hare as Valerie  
Ian Merrill Peakes as Finbar

**CREATIVE TEAM:**

Nick Embree, Scenic Designer  
Leigh Paradise, Costume Designer  
Alyssandra Docherty, Lighting Designer  
Christopher Colucci, Sound Designer  
Maya Nguyen-Haberneski, Stage Manager

**PRESS INFORMATION:**

Stacy Dutton, Executive Director  
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**TICKET INFORMATION:**

Online: [www.lanterntheater.org](http://www.lanterntheater.org)  
By Phone: (215) 829-0395

**TICKET PRICING:**

\$31 – \$49 / Students: \$25

**PERFORMANCES:**

Thursday, November 12 – Sunday, December 13, 2026

**PREVIEWS:**

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

**OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE:**

Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m.

**REGULAR RUN:**

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on November 25 [AIC], December 2 [AIC], and December 9

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on December 2 and December 9

Thursday at 7 p.m. on November 19, December 3, and December 10

Friday at 7:30 p.m. on November 20, November 27, December 4, and December 11

Saturday at 2 p.m. on November 21, November 28, December 5, December 12

Saturday at 8 p.m. on November 21, November 28, December 5, December 12

Sunday at 2 p.m. on November 22 [AIC], November 29 [AIC], December 6, and December 13

**CLOSING PERFORMANCE:**

Sunday, December 13 at 2 p.m.

**ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION [AIC]**

Moderated post-show discussions with the cast immediately follow 2 p.m. performances on Sunday, November 22; Wednesday, November 25; Sunday, November 29; and Wednesday, December 2. Lantern Resident Dramaturg **Meghan Winch** will lead the discussions.

**FOR LISTINGS EDITORS:**

A tight circle of regulars in a small Irish pub on a lonely windswept hillside is joined by Valerie. Just arrived from Dublin, she has moved alone into an old house nearby. Trying to impress the attractive new stranger, they tell tall tales of unexplained local events, until one story turns out to be heartbreaking and hauntingly real. From one of Ireland's greatest living playwrights comes an evening of surprises and masterful storytelling.

**PERFORMANCE VENUE:**

St. Stephen's Theater at 10th and Ludlow Streets (923 Ludlow Street) in Center City Philadelphia