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Lantern Theater Company Announces 2025/26 Season

32nd Season Features a Mix of Classic and Contemporary Work for the Stage, including Plays by William Shakespeare, Tom Stoppard, Pearl Cleage, and Lloyd Suh

PHILADELPHIA (March 26, 2025) – **Lantern Theater Company** is thrilled to announce its upcoming 2025/26 season, which will mark the company's 32nd year of bringing great stories from great writers to Philadelphia and beyond. The Lantern will showcase four extraordinary plays from some of the world's best playwrights, past and present: ***The Real Thing***, Tom Stoppard's wry and moving drama, directed by Peter DeLaurier; ***Macbeth***, William Shakespeare's tragic masterpiece of love and ambition gone wrong, directed by Lantern Artistic Director Charles McMahon; the Philadelphia premiere of ***Blues for An Alabama Sky***, Pearl Cleage's mesmerizing and inventive drama of the Harlem Renaissance, directed by Brett Ashley Robinson; and the Philadelphia premiere of ***Franklinland*** by Lloyd Suh, a new play about Benjamin Franklin just in time to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

Introducing the 2025/26 season, McMahon noted: "These are stories of brilliant people driven by passion and following their hearts' desires, sometimes blessed with success, sometimes cursed with failure, and sometimes both at once. In each play, we explore that what we love most – and what we will do to get it – are the things that shape our lives, define our character, and reveal our humanity."

Season Subscriptions and Flex Packages start at \$116 and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at (215) 829-0395. Single tickets go on sale in summer 2025.

Lantern Theater Company's 2025/26 Mainstage Season

THE REAL THING

By Tom Stoppard

Directed by Peter DeLaurier

September 4 – October 5, 2025

PRESS OPENING: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 7 p.m.

How do you know when it's the real thing or a tragic romance? When Tom Stoppard writes a play about a playwright falling in love, you can be sure that comedy and drama will get married – or at least have a serious fling. *The Real Thing* is Stoppard's masterful exploration of the human heart, at war with itself and the beloved.

MACBETH

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Charles McMahon

October 30 – December 7, 2025

PRESS OPENING: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 7 p.m.

The Fates weave a tangled web for the Thane of Glamis and his Lady. Tempted by a tantalizing prophecy, they risk everything in pursuit of overwhelming ambition and lust for power. For the first time on the Lantern mainstage, *Macbeth* will bring you into the propulsive action, dazzle you with some of Shakespeare's most indelible language, and leave you asking what you might give of yourself to achieve your heart's desire.

BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY

Philadelphia Premiere

By Pearl Cleage

Directed by Brett Ashley Robinson

February 12 – March 15, 2026

PRESS OPENING: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Harlem, 1930. The music is hot, and change is in the air. Angel is a talented singer looking for her big break, and her friend Guy wants to design costumes for Josephine Baker. When a southern stranger enters their lives, will he help them reach their dreams or destroy them? Pearl Cleage's drama of the Harlem Renaissance is mesmerizing, inventive, and soulful.

FRANKLINLAND

Philadelphia Premiere

By Lloyd Suh

Directed by Charles McMahon

May 7 – June 7, 2026

PRESS OPENING: Wednesday, May 23, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Benjamin Franklin played many roles: publisher, inventor, political agitator, diplomat – and he wanted his son to follow him into the sciences. When William rebels and becomes the Royal Governor of New Jersey, the stage is set for a father-son conflict of international proportions. Join us for the Philadelphia premiere of Lloyd Suh's endearing and insightful new play of revolutionary consequences, in the city where it happened.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994 and now in its 31st 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. The Lantern's current 2024/25 season will conclude with *The 39 Steps*, **Patrick Barlow's** rollicking adaptation of the classic **John Buchan** adventure novel and **Alfred Hitchcock** film, also directed by **Charles McMahon (Press Opening: Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7 p.m.)**. More information is available online at www.lanterntheater.org.