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High-res production photos available now at:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2013

Lantern Theater Company Announces One-Week Extension of Jane Austen's *Emma* through November 3, 2013, Adds New Event to Close *Regency & Revelry: The Jane Austen Festival*

PHILADELPHIA – **Lantern Theater Company's** Philadelphia premiere production of **Jane Austen's *Emma*** will be extended an additional week through **Sunday, November 3, 2013** to meet audience demand. *Emma* is one of the first **Barrymore Recommended** productions of the 2013/14 season under **Theatre Philadelphia's** relaunched Barrymore Awards program. In conjunction with *Emma*, the Lantern is hosting ***Regency & Revelry: The Jane Austen Festival***, which will close on Sunday, October 20 with ***Emma & Adapting Austen***, a free discussion and audience Q&A led by Professor **Janine Utell** of Widener University.

The following performances have been added:

Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 31 at 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m.

Phindie's **Debra Miller** raved: "the production is ambitious, full and rich, and every second is thoroughly engaging. Director Kathryn MacMillan captures all the detailed observations, upper-class spectacle, and lively characters of the novel with satiric wit and 19th-century British decorum." Also in Phindie, **Michael Fisher** declared *Emma* "a blast of an evening in Austenland." WHYY's **Howard Shapiro** praised **Lauren Sowa's** performance, saying she "makes an excellent Emma, transmitting all the coyness, naiveté and judgmental qualities the character embodies. She's just a girl who can't stay out of other people's business although she hasn't really got her own in order – a paradox you can see in Sowa's body language, but mostly in her eyes."

Emma Woodhouse is Jane Austen's most maddening, endearing heroine. Handsome, clever and rich, young Emma is also a bit *too* accustomed to having her own way, although only her

friend Mr. Knightley seems to notice. Nearly 200 years after its publication, *Emma* continues to delight, both as a coming-of-age tale and as a lively satire of Austen's elegant and quirky characters. This sparkling stage adaptation of the beloved classic novel features a spectacle of Regency dance, revelry, and romance that will welcome new audiences into Austen's witty, captivating world while reminding longtime fans why they fell in love with *Emma* in the first place.

“Every romantic novel today has been influenced, directly and indirectly, by Jane Austen’s novels,” says *Emma* director and Lantern associate artistic director **Kathryn MacMillan**, who fell in love with *Emma* – and Jane Austen – as a teenager. “Her characters stand the test of time, and her stories are adapted so often and so well because they are truthful and funny. *Emma* is a case study in folly and eccentricity. It’s fun to watch what have become familiar tropes, like the ‘too clever for her own good’ young girl, yet the interpersonal relationships are still surprising and Austen’s ability to create an ironic detachment keeps it modern.”

The Lantern will further explore these themes on **Sunday, October 20 at 5:00 p.m.** with a FREE discussion and Q&A entitled *Emma & Adapting Austen*, presented as the final event of its *Regency & Revelry: The Jane Austen Festival*. As she began writing *Emma*, Jane Austen wrote, “I am going to take a heroine whom no one but myself will much like.” For almost 200 years, readers and audiences have been proving Austen wrong as Emma has become one of British literature’s most beloved and enduring characters. Professor **Janine Utell** will lead a conversation about the differences between the page and the stage, how Austen's style and insight into her characters come to life in performance, and whether the book really *is* always better than the movie. Utell is Associate Professor and Chair of English at Widener University, where she teaches composition and 19th and 20th century British literature. She also facilitates book groups for adults at the Swarthmore Public Library. She holds a B.A. (summa cum laude) in English and French from Barnard College and a Ph.D. in English from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Tickets for *Emma* are \$30 – \$38 and are available online at lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. \$10 student rush tickets are available 10 minutes before curtain with valid ID; cash only. Additional discounts are available for seniors, groups of 10 or more and U.S. military personnel. Lantern Theater Company is located at St. Stephen's Theater, 10th & Ludlow Streets in Center City Philadelphia.

Jane Austen’s Emma

Philadelphia Premiere

Adapted by **Michael Bloom**

Directed **Kathryn MacMillan**

Now – November 3, 2013

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Jake Blouch as Frank Churchill/ Robert Martin

Peter DeLaurier as Mr. Woodhouse/Ensemble

Trevor William Fayle as Mr. Elton

Nathan Foley as Mr. Weston

Lee Minora as Jane Fairfax/Ensemble

Charlotte Northeast as Mrs. Weston/Miss Bates

Angela Smith as Harriet Smith/ Mrs. Elton

Harry Smith as Mr. Knightley

Lauren Sowa as Emma Woodhouse

Production Team

Meghan Jones, Production Manager
Dirk Durossette, Scenic Designer
Alisa Sickora Kleckner, Costume Designer
Shelley Hicklin, Lighting Designer
Christopher Colucci, Original Music & Sound Designer
K.O. DelMarcelle, Choreographer
Monique Gaffney, Wig & Makeup Designer
Anthony Giruzzi, Properties Master
Mark Valenzuela, Associate Sound Designer
Marla Burkholder, Dialect Coach
Gigi Naglak, Dramaturg
Rebecca Smith, Stage Manager
Elaina Di Monaco, Assistant Director

2013/14 Season

Lantern Theater Company's 20th Anniversary Season continues with **Charles McMahan** and **Sebastienne Mundheim**'s WORLD PREMIERE adaptation of **Dylan Thomas**' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (December 5, 2013 – January 5, 2014); **William Shakespeare**'s *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, directed by **Charles McMahan** (February 6 – March 16, 2014); the PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE of **Athol Fugard**'s new drama, *The Train Driver* (April 10 – May 4, 2014), and a limited return engagement of Philadelphia actor/playwright **Anthony Lawton**'s adaptation of **C.S. Lewis**' *The Screwtape Letters* (May 27 – June 15, 2014).

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