



PEOPLE'S
LIGHT &
THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2011

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People's Light & Theatre Unites National and International Artists with Youth in an Exciting New Research and Development Lab

(Malvern, PA) – People's Light & Theatre is bringing together both adults and young people, local artists and international artists, for a freshly-conceived research and development laboratory. This project takes place July 31 through August 12, 2011 and is funded by **The Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative (PCMI)**.

Six artists from the **Epic Theatre Ensemble** of New York City will lead fifteen adult artists from People's Light, twenty young people ages 13-15 from the City of Chester and Chester County, and four artists from **Citizens Theatre in Glasgow** and the **National Theatre of Scotland** in a collaborative exploration of a classical text. This group will use Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale* to investigate how their responses to this rich, multi-layered material might inspire useful projects and programs.

Funded by the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative, this Lab continues a multi-year process at People's Light that will extend and deepen long-established efforts to bring together projects in art and learning.

"We want the plays we present to become springboards and source material for Theatre School classes, for residencies with schools, and for workshops with libraries and community centers." Artistic Director Abigail Adams begins. "Our work with young people will increasingly inform our productions. For example, we expect this summer's Lab to lead to a future production of *A Winter's Tale*. We also expect that our summer research will lead to the development of new work for new audiences, a key part of our efforts to bring young people and professional artists together in creative relationships. This structural integration will help us discover, acquire, and organize the additional financial and intellectual resources to enable more opportunities for public engagement at every level of our community."

Epic, National Theatre of Scotland, and Citizens believe, as People's Light does, that theatres must commit major resources to support work for and by the young people who will be our future. Adams continues, "Serious creative work by young people in collaboration with skilled adults translates out of the classroom into their larger lives. Serious work by professional artists in collaboration with young people brings new energy and depth to their daily work. Epic, NTS, and Citizens share our values, and have developed different ideas and methods to express them. In summer 2012, Scottish artists will lead

the second R & D Lab. We expect these Labs to move all of us toward new projects, programs, and productive relationships that can inspire, complement, and support each other.”

For more information on our partner theatres, please visit Epic Theatre at www.epictheatreensemble.org, Citizens Theatre of Glasgow at www.citz.co.uk, and The National Theatre of Scotland at www.nationaltheatrescotland.com. For more information on the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative, please visit www.pcah.us/management.

ABOUT PEOPLE’S LIGHT

People’s Light, a professional, not-for-profit theatre in Chester County, Pennsylvania, makes plays drawn from many sources to entertain, inspire, and engage our community. We extend our mission of making and experiencing theatre through arts education programs that excite curiosity about, and deepen understanding of, the world around us. These plays and programs bring people together and provide opportunities for reflection, discovery, and celebration. Founded in 1974, we produce seven to nine plays each season, in two black box theatres with 350 and 170 seats respectively, mixing world premieres, contemporary plays, and fresh approaches to classic texts for our 6-Play and Discovery Series.

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