



The Lost Colony, 1409 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954 www.thelostcolony.org

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THE LOST COLONY SOON TO SET STAGE FOR 2007 SEASON

-- Rehearsals to begin May 14 under the direction of
dedicated artistic staff --

(Manteo, N.C., May 2, 2007) – Manteo’s Waterside Theatre is quiet now. But beginning May 14, *The Lost Colony* outdoor drama’s amphitheatre and rehearsal halls will pump up the volume when 120-some actors, singers, dancers and technicians report to work. There are costumes to unpack, lines to learn, stages to set and lights to hang. It’s an intense three-week rehearsal period that consumes both days and nights. But by the time *The Lost Colony* opens June 1, America’s longest-running symphonic play will be pitch perfect – thanks to the expertise of the production’s artistic staff.

“For our 70th anniversary season and reunion year, we are delighted that all of our artistic staff are returning to *The Lost Colony*,” said Carl Curnutte, the outdoor drama’s executive director and producer. “Some are joining us for their second or third consecutive season, while others are coming back after a few years’ break. Their collective experience working at Waterside Theatre will really let us put the polish on this year’s production.”

At the drama’s helm is Jane McCulloch, who returns for a second year to direct the production. An acclaimed director of the London stage, she is the founder and artistic director of the prestigious English Chamber Theatre (ECT), now in its 22nd season. At



Director Jane McCulloch returns to Waterside Theatre to direct *The Lost Colony*. This year marks the 70th anniversary season of the long-running drama. Three weeks of rehearsals begin May 14 in preparation for Opening Night June 1. For ticket information, contact 252-473-3414 or visit www.thelostcolony.org

ECT, McCulloch has created over 30 new works, many of which have featured the great names in English theatre, including Dame Judi Dench, who currently serves as the ECT'S president.

Last year, it was McCulloch who persuaded the celebrated actress Lynn Redgrave to accept a guest-starring role as Queen Elizabeth I during the first week of *The Lost Colony's* performances. The two attended school together at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London.

This past fall, McCulloch returned to the United States to direct the Savannah Shakespeare Festival's *Othello*. She also presented a new translation of Franz Lehar's *The Merry Widow* performed by Opera UK.

Joining McCulloch at *The Lost Colony* are:

- Production Designer William Ivey Long, a four-time Tony Award-winning costume designer whose ties to *The Lost Colony* date to his childhood. The first exhibition of Long's acclaimed theatrical designs is on display now through Oct. 14 at Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, N.C.
- Choreographer Barbara Dare Hartwig, who started her professional career as a child in *The Lost Colony*. As a performer, she appeared with The San Antonio Ballet, on Broadway, at the White House, in national tour shows and in the film, *Annie*.
- Music Director Ken Clifton, an accomplished music director and conductor. As a vocal coach, he worked with the national tours of *Oliver!*, *The Full Monty*, *Rent*, and *Sweet Charity*, working with Molly Ringwald. Recently, Clifton prepared Jennifer Hudson for her Academy Award-winning role in the film *Dreamgirls*.
- Lighting Designer Chris Lau, whose extensive résumé includes work with the Busch Entertainment Corporation and numerous national theatres. Specializing in designing illuminations in outdoor environments, he designed the lighting for the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota.
- Associate Lighting Designer Joshua C. Allen, who has designed more than 100 productions for theatre, dance and television. Highlights include designs for Broadway's *The Postman Delivers*; performances for Geoffrey Holder and José Limón dance companies; and *The Guiding Light* for CBS.
- Sound Designer Michael Rasbury, an assistant professor of theatre (in sound design) at the University of Virginia. He has extensive experience in recording,

composition and sound design, and is a published ASCAP writer of most musical styles.

- Fight Director Robert Midgette, a former physical education teacher and coach. Carrying on a family tradition, he has been associated with *The Lost Colony* for 36 years, including 26 years playing the role of Chief Manteo.

For complete biographies of *The Lost Colony's* artistic staff, go to www.thelostcolony.org

About The Lost Colony

First staged in 1937, *The Lost Colony* tells the real-life story of America's "lost colony" of men, women and children who sailed from Plymouth, England, in 1587 to establish an English colony on Roanoke Island (N.C.). Predating Jamestown by 22 years and Plymouth by 35 years, the settlement disappeared with hardly a trace, leaving historians and archaeologists with a mystery that has never been solved.

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green, *The Lost Colony's* 70th anniversary season opens June 1 and plays nightly except Sunday through Aug. 20, 2007 at Manteo's Waterside Theatre, on North Carolina's Outer Banks. It is the nation's premier and longest-running symphonic drama. During the summer, *The Lost Colony* produces other shows and special events as well. This year's lineup includes *Cinderella*, *South Pacific*, Shakespeare Under the Stars, Tea with the Queen, Backstage Tours and more. A reunion weekend for former *Colony* company members is planned for July 6-8.

For tickets and information, go to www.thelostcolony.org or call (252) 473-2127 or (252) 473-3414 (May through August).

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