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**A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION**

**Paul Morella's one-of-kind solo performance more dependable than Santa, more faithful to Dickens than any other version**

**Olney, MD – November 4, 2019** – Olney Theatre Center presents Paul Morella's unique solo performance of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab from November 29 – December 29, 2019*. Morella, who adapted the story himself, has been performing the show for ten years.

Back for its tenth anniversary season, Morella's one-of-a-kind adaptation has been universally hailed by critics. *The Washington Post* declared "Interpretations of the Dickens classic must run into the thousands, and if you have a favorite — well, God bless you, every one. Right now, mine is actor Paul Morella's solo version at the Olney Theatre Center." *MD Theatre Guide* said, "Mr. Morella ignites the imagination with his natural storytelling abilities." *Washington City Paper* said "no single performance can compare with Olney's Paul Morella."

Morella plays almost 50 characters in his time-honored retelling, imagining the novella with a different twist each year. He remains faithful to Dickens' prose, imagery, and characterizations, yet year after year, delves deeper into each character.

According to Morella, "It's hard to believe that what began as a modest and humble adaptation, produced on a shoestring budget in a tiny venue, has now reached its 10th Anniversary at Olney Theatre. In true Dickensian fashion, this year's production promises to be even more immersive and haunting than ever, as we return to the ghostly origins of the story, and bring the classic tale to life in ways that remain fresh and immediate. The spectral world will be reimagined with more gothic touches, a heightened soundscape, evocative projections, and atmospheric lighting and special effects. At the heart of it all, of course, remains the brilliant simplicity and beauty of Dickens' words, characters, and imagery, presented as the author originally intended. Its theatre in its essence - a magical experience that combines storytelling, performance and stagecraft."

This heartwarming tale of holiday redemption and renewal has received critical acclaim, sold-out houses, and become a holiday tradition for many DC theatregoers.

“Paul’s masterful solo performance presents Dickens’ novel like you’ve never seen it before,” says Olney Theatre Center Artistic Director Jason Loewith. “This holiday season audiences can rediscover this classic story of *A Christmas Carol* and be immersed in the wonderful atmosphere created for this theatrical adventure. All of us at Olney are proud to continue the tradition of presenting this intimate *A Christmas Carol*, now for the tenth time!”

*A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas* is made possible in part by production sponsors James Pape and Nancy Newman-Pape.

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

By Charles Dickens

Adapted and Performed by Paul Morella

**November 29 – December 29, 2019**

**Press Night: Saturday, December 7 at 7:45 pm**

Performances are Thursday-Saturday evenings at 7:45 pm; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00pm; There are additional performances on Wednesday, December 18 at 3:00pm at 7:45pm, Monday, December 23 at 3:00pm and 7:45pm, Tuesday, December 24 at 3:00pm, and Thursday, December 26 at 3:00pm. No performances on December 4 & 5, Wednesday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 25. No evening performance on Wednesday, December 26.

Tickets: \$20-\$50. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more.

*A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas* is intended for ages 10 and up.

### **About Paul Morella**

Paul Morella has previously appeared at Olney Theatre Center in *Mary Stuart*, *The Crucible*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Awake and Sing!*, *The Tempest*, *Rancho Mirage*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Over the Tavern*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Opus*, *Dinner With Friends*, *A Passion For Justice*, *The Millionaires*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *Sight Unseen*, *The Mousetrap*, *Private Lives*, ‘Art’, *Coffee with Richelieu*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Rivals*, *Becket*, *Broken Glass*, *M. Butterfly*, *Monster*, *Night Must Fall*, and *The Time of Your Life*. Other regional appearances include leading roles at Folger Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Arena Stage, Signature Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Studio Theatre, Round House Theatre, MetroStage, Potomac Theatre

Project, Theater J, Everyman Theatre, Rep Stage, The Delaware Theatre Company, Two River Theatre, and The Kennedy Center.

### **About Olney Theatre Center**

Olney Theatre Center is an award-winning, nonprofit, Equity theatre. Located just north of Washington, D.C. in arts-rich Montgomery County, Maryland, Olney Theatre Center offers a diverse array of professional productions year-round. It is situated on 14 wooded acres in the heart of the beautiful Washington-Baltimore-Frederick "triangle," within easy access to all three cities and is also home to the National Players, America's longest-running touring company. Olney Theatre Center is led by Artistic Director Jason Loewith and Managing Director Debbie Ellinghaus. For more information, please visit [olneytheatre.org](http://olneytheatre.org).

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