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**MICHAEL RUSSOTTO RETURNS FOR ANOTHER RUN IN THE SOLO VERSION OF  
*A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS***

**Production will continue to use Paul Morella's adaptation, which is 99% Dickens' original language**

**Olney, MD – November 5, 2025** – Renowned Washington actor, **Michael Russotto**, will reprise his role in the 16th edition of **Paul Morella's** solo adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas* at Olney Theatre Center. Senior Associate Artistic Director **Hallie Gordon** writes, "We're so very fortunate that **Michael Russotto**, who stepped in for creator **Paul Morella** last year, has **agreed to return for another run** up the theatrical mountain of this solo show, which requires him to inhabit nearly fifty different characters over the course of its action. Those of you who have seen both Paul's and Michael's performances know that they're different, but both share **precise attention to the rhythms and humor in Dickens' language, and the warm heart at the center of this tale.**"

Previews begin in the Multz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab on the day after Thanksgiving, November 28, 2025. The show runs through December 28, 2025. **Press may reserve two tickets to attend the official opening on Saturday, December 6, at 8:00 pm by emailing:**  
[sstraub@olneytheatre.org](mailto:sstraub@olneytheatre.org)

**Tickets range from \$52 - \$86 and can be purchased at [olneytheatre.org](http://olneytheatre.org) or 301-924-3400.**

Russotto stepped in last year, after a serious medical episode meant that Morella could not return to perform the show he created. While Morella continues to recover, his son Michael Morella says, "Everything is still trending in the right direction, albeit very, very, very slowly. We'll take it, but we'll continue to hope for more -- and he's getting good care."

**Morella's version of the story is distinguished by its faithfulness to Dickens' prose, as well as by the fact that a single actor plays every one of the play's nearly fifty characters.** This unique retelling of the classic tale has been referred to by DC Theater Arts as "the story's most authentic form," "beautifully detailed," and the "purest and truest version out there," as well as by DC Theatre Scene as a "remarkable journey" and "magical experience," offering "a wonder that continued to affect me days after seeing the show." It has also been praised by

critics writing for outlets including *The Washington Post*, *Washington City Paper*, *MD Theatre Guide*, and countless more.

### **INFO**

#### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS**

By Charles Dickens

Adapted by Paul Morella

Performed by Michael Russotto

**November 28 – December 28, 2025**

**Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab**

**Press Night: Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 pm**

Performances are Wednesday-Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm; Weekday Matinee performances at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, December 23, Wednesday, December 24, and Friday, December 26.

Tickets: \$52-\$86. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

*A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas* is best appreciated by children ages 11 and up due to the use of Victorian language and light references to adult behavior.

### **Accessible Performances**

Audio-Described Performance – Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm

ASL Interpreted Performance – Thursday, December 18 at 7:30 pm

### **About Paul Morella (adapter)**

Paul Morella performed in his adaptation of *A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas* for 14 years (2009 - 2023). He also 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 Michael Russotto (performer)**

Michael Russotto is honored to return to Olney Theatre Center in Paul Morella's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. Other productions at Olney include *The Joy That Carries You*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Bakersfield Mist*, and *Neville's Island*, to name a few. Most recently, he played Meckel in

Theater J's production of *The Hatmaker's Wife*, where he has also appeared in *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *The Christians*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, and *Falling Out of Time*. In the Spring of 2024, Michael played Chauncey Miles in the 1st Stage production of *The Nance*. Prior to that, he toured Michigan in *Tuesdays With Morrie* (Morrie) for the 25th anniversary of the play. Other credits include *My Lord What a Night* (Abraham Flexner), *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror # 3), and *Death of a Salesman* (Charley) at Ford's Theatre. Michael has performed regionally at Cleveland Play House, The Kennedy Center, Arena Stage, Signature Theatre, Round House Theatre, and The Folger Shakespeare Theatre. He is a member of the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, and has received numerous Helen Hayes Award nominations for performances in the DC area. Film and television work includes *Playing Through*, *The Battle of Bloody Lane*, and *Death of a Nation*. Michael can be heard on the L.A. Theatre Works recording of *Seven Days in May*, with Ed Asner. He has also narrated hundreds of audiobooks for Books on Tape and The Library of Congress.

## **ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

### **Mission**

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports, and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

### **Vision**

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

### **History**

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center now produces world and American premieres of plays and musicals, and reimaginings of familiar titles year-round; presents the work of leading companies and artists; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors a more inclusive generation of theatremakers. For more than 8 decades, Olney Theatre has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in the Washington, DC region.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia d'Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others.

Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best-educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded

land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non-profit organizations, and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and are a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

Olney Theatre Center employs more than 40 full-time staff, 20 part-time positions, 13 early career apprentices and players, and more than 400 professional artists annually. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit [olneytheatre.org/history](http://olneytheatre.org/history)

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