



OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kristina Erwin

Assistant Director of Marketing

301-924-4485 ext. 105

kerwin@olneytheatre.org

HOLIDAYS SURE TO BE FULL OF CHEER AS *ELF THE MUSICAL* RECEIVES DC RESIDENT THEATRE PREMIERE

Broadway musical is based on one of the most popular modern Christmas movies

Olney, MD – October 16, 2018 – Olney Theatre Center continues its tradition of holiday musicals with the Resident Regional Premiere of *Elf the Musical* from November 9, 2018 - January 6, 2019, directed by Michael Bobbitt. Bobbitt, who choreographed the holiday hit *Guys and Dolls* in 2015, is joined by choreographer **Tara Jeanne Vallee** who choreographed the 2016 *Mary Poppins* as well as this past summer's *On the Town*. Press is invited to attend the performance on Thursday, November 15 at 8:00pm.

"Holiday musicals for the entire family are an Olney Theatre tradition, and we're lucky this year to have snagged the rights to the resident professional premiere of *Elf the Musical*," said Jason Loewith, Artistic Director of OTC. "Two of my favorite artists - director Michael Bobbitt and choreographer Tara Jeanne Vallee - are bringing it to life for us, with an outrageously talented ensemble including OTC music-theater phenoms Patricia Hurley (*Mary Poppins*), Kevin McAllister (*Annie*), Nova Y. Payton (*Godspell*), David Schlumpf (*South Pacific*), and Bobby Smith (*On the Town*)."

David Schlumpf stars as Buddy, a human accidentally transported to the North Pole as a baby and raised there with the misbelief that he, like everyone around him except Santa (played by **Kevin McAllister**) and Mrs. Claus is an elf. Upon learning the truth, he journeys to New York City to find his father (**Bobby Smith**). Arriving in the big, bad city, he is distraught to learn that his birth father is on the "naughty" list and that his half-brother Michael (**Tyler Smallwood**) doesn't believe in Santa. Luckily, Buddy makes some new friends in the city, including love-interest Jovie (**Patricia Hurley**), his step-mom Emily (**Janine Sunday**) and even Walter's secretary Deb (**Nova Y. Payton**). Even still, things go badly with his father and Buddy seems more lost than ever, but when Santa's sleigh is stranded in New York, Buddy rallies those around him to help Santa and save Christmas!

Completing the Ensemble of elves, santas, (both “authentic” and “department store”) and Manhattan inhabitants is: **Jessica Bennett, Michelle Carter, Jennifer Flohr, Isabel Garcia, Andre Hinds, Marty Austin Lamar, Calvin McCullough, Christian Montgomery, Taylor Elise Rector, Connor James Reilly, Sarah Anne Sillers, David Singleton** and **Lara Zinn**. **Eli Langer** serves as the standby for the role of Michael, while **Ashleigh King** is scheduled to take over the role of Deb from December 26 through the end of the run. **Amanda Kaplan** and **James Mernin** serve as swings.

Bobbitt’s creative team, in addition to Vallee, includes **Angie Benson** (Music Director), **Daniel Ettinger** (Set Designer), **Kendra Rai** (Costume Designer), **Max Doolittle** (Lighting Designer), **Kylie Clark** (Puppet Designer), **Sarah Tundermann** (Projections Designer), **Matt Rowe** (Sound Designer) and **Dori Beau Seigneur** (Wig Designer). **John Keith Hall** is the stage manager.

Elf the Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan & Bob Martin

Music by Matthew Sklar

Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based on the New Line Cinema film by David Berenbaum

Music Direction by Angie Benson

Choreography by Tara Jeanne Vallee

Directed by Michael Bobbitt

November 9, 2018 - January 6, 2019

Press Opening: Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 8:00 pm

Regular Performances are Wednesday-Saturday at 8:00 pm; matinees on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm;

There are additional performances on Friday, November 23 at 2:00 pm, Friday, December 21 at 2:00 pm, and Monday, December 31 at 2:00 pm.

There will be Audio-described performances for the blind and visually impaired on Wednesday, November 28 at 8:00 pm and Saturday, December 1 at 2:00pm and a sign-interpreted performance on Thursday, December 6 at 8:00 pm. Audience members who wish to use these services should contact Julie Via, Patron Services Manager (jvia@olneytheatre.org) to confirm.

There are no performances on Thursday, November 22, Wednesday, December 5 or Wednesday, January 2, 2019. There is no performance at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, December 19.

Tickets begin at \$59. Discounts available for groups, seniors, military and students.

Special Events:

- ***Behind-the-Scenes: Backstage tour of ELF***

Sunday, November 18 at 11:00 am

Get a peek behind the curtain when we invite you on stage to see how Buddy goes from Santa's workshop at the North Pole to the streets of New York City.

- ***Afterwords*** will occur after the following Saturday matinee performances: November 17, December 1, 8 and 15.

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Olney Theatre Center is an award-winning, nonprofit, Equity theatre now in its 81st Season. Our mission is to produce, present and tour extraordinary theatre and performance for an ever-more diverse audience, and to educate the next generation of theatremakers. We strive every day to unleash the creative potential of our artist and audiences, and in so doing, become Maryland's premier center for theatre performance and education. In the past five years, Olney Theatre has had eleven world or regional premieres, including Andrew Hinderaker's *Colossal* (2015 Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play or Musical), and Jennifer Hoppe-House's *Bad Dog* (2015 Steinberg Award nominee). Olney Theatre places a priority on engaging our community by ensuring that we remain affordable, accessible and inviting to new and returning audiences.

Located just north of Washington, D.C. in arts-rich Montgomery County, Maryland, Olney Theatre Center offers a diverse array of over 300 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 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.

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Twitter and Instagram @olneytheatre and on Facebook at facebook.com/olneytheatre.

#