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SINGIN' IN THE RAIN BRINGS A CLASSIC MOVIE MUSICAL TO THE OLNEY THEATRE MAINSTAGE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Marcos Santana returns to direct for the first time since his Helen Hayes Award-winning *In The Heights*

Coat drive to benefit One Warm Coat to accompany the production

Olney, MD – October 3, 2019 – Olney Theatre Center presents its biggest, most technically challenging musical to-date when it produces ***Singin' In The Rain***, November 8, 2019 - January 5, 2020, directed by **Marcos Santana**. Santana, who directed and choreographed *In The Heights*, which won the 2018 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Production, is joined by choreographer **Grady Bowman** who choreographed 2017's *My Fair Lady*. **Press is invited to attend the performance on Thursday, November 14 at 8:00pm**. Keeping with its tradition of partnering with community oriented non-profits during its holiday productions, Olney Theatre will be accepting donations of new or gently used coats to be distributed to community members in-need by **One Warm Coat**.

Based on what is widely regarded as the greatest movie musicals ever, *Singin' In The Rain* is **Betty Comden** and **Adolph Green's** ingenious tale of Hollywood's transition out of the silent era through a classic love story filled with some of the best-loved songs in the American canon by **Nacio Herb Brown** and **Arthur Freed**, including "Make 'Em Laugh," "Moses Supposes," and of course, the title song.

Jason Loewith, Olney Theatre's Artistic Director says, "Bringing multiple generations together for a rousing musical is now a solid holiday tradition at OTC. **Marcos Santana**, who directed and choreographed *In The Heights*, our most popular musical ever is the perfect person to match the energy and optimism that *Singin' In The Rain* brings with it."

Rhett Guter, who amazed audiences as the fleet-footed Burt in *Mary Poppins* and as the balletic Gabey in *On The Town*, returns to Olney Theatre as Don Lockwood, the role made famous by Gene Kelly. In addition to his work at OTC, Guter has starred in leading-man roles at many

regional theatres including the Goodspeed Opera House (Curly in *Oklahoma*, Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie*), The Wolf/Cinderella's Prince/Lucinda in *Into the Woods* at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Mr. Darcy in *Christmas at Pemberley* at St. Louis Rep, and Tulsa in *Gypsy* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

Amanda Castro makes her OTC debut as Kathy Selden, the aspiring actress with whom Don falls head-over-heels in-love. Kathy soon finds herself as the on-screen "voice" of the scheming Lina Lamont who wants to hold onto her stardom (and Don) as the silent era comes to a close. Castro has been a company member of the Urban Bush Women and most recently starred as Anita in the **Lyric Opera's production of *West Side Story***. In that role she earned rave reviews from the Chicago Tribune who praised her as "an excellent dancer... Castro shows us a depth of anxiety; watch her and you'll think about Anita's own hopes and dreams, the extent to which Maria is really an extension of her own self. It's very touching in a way you may not have noticed before."

Returning to OTC are **Chris Genebach** (*Mary Stuart*) as the Hollywood Director Roscoe Dexter and **Michael Russotto** (*The Crucible*) as studio chief R.F. Simpson. Also making OTC debuts are **Jacob Scott Tischler** as Don's sidekick Cosmo and **Farrell Parker** as the threatened silent starlet Lina Lamont.

The ensemble includes **Jennifer Flohr, Andre Hinds, Allie O'Donnell, Olivia Reed, Connor James Reilly, Louisa Tringali, Shawna Walker, Ashleigh King, Michael Wood, Ian Anthony Coleman, Ian Saunders** and **Max P. Fowler. Ariel Meseca** and **Sarah Anne Sillers** serve as swings.

Santana's creative team, in addition to Bowman, includes **Angie Benson** (Music Director), **Daniel Conway** (Set Designer), **Rosemary Pardee** (Costume Designer), **Andrew F. Griffin** (Lighting Designer), **Roc Lee** (Sound Designer), **Casey Kaleba** and **Robb Hunter** (Fight Choreographers) and **Ann Nesmith** (Wig Designer). **John Keith Hall** is the stage manager.

Singin' In The Rain

Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

Songs by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed

Based on the classic Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer film, by special arrangement with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc.

Music published by EMI, all rights administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC.

Music Direction by Angie Benson

Choreographed by Grady Bowman
Directed by Marcos Santana

November 8, 2019 - January 5, 2020

Press Opening: Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 8:00 pm

Regular Performances are Wednesday-Saturday at 8:00 pm; matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm; Wednesdays at 2:00pm on November 13, 27 and December 11 and 18.

There are additional performances on Friday, November 29 at 2:00 pm, Sunday, December 22 at 8:00 pm, Monday, December 23 & 26 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm, Tuesday, December 24 & 31 at 2:00pm.

There will be a **sensory friendly performance** for those on the autism spectrum and their families on Sunday, December 15 at 7:00 pm. Reservations for this performance can only be made by calling the Box Office (Wednesday - Sunday, 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm).

There will be a **sign-interpreted performance** on Thursday, December 5 at 8:00 pm and an **Audio-described performance** for the blind and visually impaired on Wednesday, December 11 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 regular performances on Wednesdays, December 4 and 18 and Thursdays, November 28 and January 2.

Tickets begin at \$42. Discounts available for groups, seniors, military and students.

Special Events:

• **Behind-the-Scenes: Make It Rain!**

Friday, December 27, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

\$10/Free for OTC Members

See how we make it rain onstage (and how we make the rain go-away) along with the sets, props and costumes for *Singin' In The Rain*.

• *Afterwords* will occur after the following Saturday matinee performances: November 16, 23, 30; December 7, 14 and 21.

COAT DRIVE

For too many people in our community, rain is nothing to sing or dance about. They lack a seasonally appropriate warm coat to protect them from wind, rain, and snow. In the spirit of the holiday season, Olney Theatre Center is partnering with One Warm Coat to organize a coat drive during the run of *Singin' In The Rain*. All sizes of new or gently used warm coats will be collected and distributed to local agencies serving those in need.

"We are keenly aware that at this time of year, when we gather to celebrate with family and friends to enjoy a show, there are others who battle every day just to get by," says Joshua Ford, Director of Marketing and Communications for OTC. "Our audiences are extremely generous, and we've had great success in the past with canned food drives to benefit local food banks, pajama drives to benefit Comfort Cases, and this past summer's book drive during *Matilda* to benefit the Maryland Book Bank and Velocity of Books. We are expecting that our audience will react with empathy and generosity to this latest effort."

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces, presents and tours extraordinary performances for a diversity of audiences, and educates and inspires the next generation of theater-makers.

Vision

We strive every day to unleash the creative potential of our artists and audiences, and in so doing, become a nationally-prominent destination for the most impactful theater performance and education.

History

Once a summer stock retreat in rural Maryland, Olney Theatre Center is now an award-winning, year-round regional theatre surrounded in a 15-mile radius by 1.6 million people representing three of the most ethnically diverse counties in America. Since our founding in 1938, some of the biggest names in theatre have appeared on our stages: from "Golden Era" stars like Helen Hayes and Tallulah Bankhead to contemporary artists like Sir Ian McKellen, Robin De Jesús, and many others. OTC welcomed Artistic Director Jason Loewith and Managing Director Debbie Ellinghaus in 2013 and 2014, respectively, who established a new artistic strategy to broaden programming with the goal of nurturing a diversity of voices and audiences. Olney Theatre Center now produces musicals and plays under the three rubrics of Classic, Contemporary and Family programming. Since 2013 Olney Theatre Center has twice won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Production, the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play and presented six world premieres. Complementing this work, OTC fulfills its mission as a

teaching theater with educational programs like the Our Play program in local 5th grade classrooms, a summer camp and a year-round professional apprentice program. National Players, now in its 70th Season, is the hallmark outreach program of OTC, a unique ensemble touring innovative theater to communities large and small across the United States.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org.

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