CONTACT: Rebecca Dzida

 Community Engagement & Touring Coordinator

 info@nationalplayers.org

 240-722-6016

**Month Day, 2018** – National Players, America’s longest-running touring theatre company, will perform ***Twelfth Night*** by William Shakespeare, at **\*VENUE\*** on **DAY OF WK, MONTH DAY at 0:00 AM/PM**. Admission is $XX. National Players is the professional touring program of Olney Theatre Center in Olney, Maryland.

National Players is an **entirely self-contained and self-sustaining tour**, meaning that the ensemble members who act in the plays also serve as the tour’s stagehands, electricians, truck drivers, wardrobe crew, stage managers and much more. It is an ensemble of true “theatre-makers” in the fullest sense of the word.

One of Shakespeare's most delightful plays, ***Twelfth Night*** is a classic tale of reckless revenge, mistaken identity, and mismatched lovers. All audiences will enjoy the National Players' bright and beachy take on this spirited story.

Shipwrecked and alone, Viola disguises herself as a boy and enters into Duke Orsino's service. Lovesick Orsino sends her to court the Lady Olivia, but Olivia is much more interested in this cute young newcomer... When, unbeknownst to her, Viola's identical twin Sebastian also washes ashore, a merry brand of chaos ensues.

***Twelfth Night*** is directed by **Jenna Duncan**, Olney Theatre Center’s Associate Artistic Director and resident Casting Director. Previously she directed *The Giver* for National Players Tour 71. Other productions include work for Rep Stage, Forum Theatre, National Players, Monumental Theatre Company, Imagination Stage MTC, and American University. Jenna is also a freelance casting director in the DC area and is currently the resident casting director at Theater J.

Duncan’s production is set on the seaside, complete with beach balls and cabanas. “Twelfth Night itself may be a part of the Christmas season, but I can’t think of a place that encourages heightened emotions running wild more than the beach.” says Director, Jenna Duncan. “I know that in matters of love we’ve still not learned how to remain sane, rational, calm, or clear-headed. While it may not always be convenient in our lives, this truth keeps Shakespeare’s play timeless. With so many differences dividing humans in our world today, I’m thrilled to be exploring a universal similarity amongst us: the capability for love to turn our worlds completely upside-down. I hopethe audience finds some of themselves in these characters...in their imaginations, their fears, their leaps of faith, and their love for one another in all forms.”

**Jamie Boller** plays Countess Olivia and **Cedrick L. Riggs, Jr.** the lovesick Duke Orsino. **Zoe Wohlfeld** plays Viola and **Hugh Raup**, her lost twin Sebastian. **Benjamin DeCamp Cole** plays the haughty Malvolio and **Josh Bierman**, his tormentor Sir Toby Belch. **David Reece Hutchinson** joins him as Sir Andrew Aguecheek and **Alanna McNaughton** as the clown Feste. **Deidre Staples** plays Maria, Olivia’s clever assistant and **Alice Kabia** as Antonio, Sebastian’s rescuer.

**Charlie Calvert** (Set Design), **Jeannette Christensen** (Costume Design), **Roc Lee** (Sound Design), **Sarah Tundermann** (Lighting Design) are the creative team for all Tour 70 productions. **Danny Cackley** serves as Fight Director(NP Alumni Tour 65). **Jason King Jones** is Artistic Director of National Players and the Senior Associate Artistic Director of Olney Theatre Center.

**ABOUT NATIONAL PLAYERS**

Established in 1949 and based at Olney Theatre Center since 1952, National Players is America’s longest-running touring company. Founded on the principle of prioritizing areas with limited access to theatre, National Players company consists of 10 early-career theatre artists who spend 10 months touring the United States with their three-play repertory to a variety of diverse populations and venues from performing arts centers, universities, but also public schools, rural community centers, and penitentiaries. National Players also acts as an educational ambassador, teaching theatre-related courses to students of all ages and backgrounds. Though it travels thousands of miles and serves tens of thousands of people each year, National Players always comes home to Olney, Maryland. www.nationalplayers.org

Follow National Players on Instagram/Twitter/Facebook @NationalPlayers

**ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER**

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. 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. In the past five years, Olney Theatre has twice won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Production and produced 8 world premieres. Olney Theatre places a priority on engaging our community by ensuring that we remain affordable, accessible and inviting to new and returning audiences.

Since 1952, National Players has been the touring program of Olney Theatre Center as part of its mission to incubate and educate the next generation of theatre artists and audiences. Located just north of Washington, D.C. in arts-rich Montgomery County, Maryland. Olney Theatre Center is led by Artistic Director Jason Loewith and Managing Director Debbie Ellinghaus.

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Instagram/Twitter/Facebook @OlneyTheatre