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**GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS TO OVERCOME GREED AND SELFISHNESS FOR
THE 14TH YEAR IN PAUL MORELLA'S SOLO *A CHRISTMAS CAROL***

**Critically acclaimed performance relies on Dickens's original language for 99% of its
script**

Olney, MD – October 30, 2023 – Olney Theatre Center once again presents Paul Morella's unforgettable solo performance of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas* in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab from November 24–December 31, 2023.

Accomplished actor Paul Morella, who adapted the story himself, is bringing the show back for its fourteenth iteration. The affecting tale has continued to draw crowds and sell out houses as it warms the hearts of DC theatergoers year after year, becoming a holiday tradition for many.

Press may reserve two tickets to attend the official opening on Saturday, December 2 at 7:45 pm by emailing: sstraub@olneytheatre.org

Tickets range from \$51 - \$61 and can be purchased at olneytheatre.org/ACC23 or 301-924-3400.

Star and creator **Paul Morella said**, “**This year's version of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* promises to be even more visceral, intimate, and immersive, always remaining utterly faithful to Dickens' original vision and story.** The show will include even more theatrical magic and visceral imagery, creating a richer, spookier, and even deeper and more intimate experience for the audience. No matter how many times you may have seen it, or if you are seeing it for the first time, it remains an experience unlike any other, a haunting and unforgettable ghost story of redemption, compassion, and transformation. It truly is ***A Christmas Carol*** as Dickens wrote it and intended for it to be experienced. There is nothing else like it.”

Morella's version of the story is distinguished by its faithfulness to Dickens' prose, as well as by the fact that he himself 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*, the *Washington City Paper*, *MD Theatre Guide*, and countless more.

“With *Fiddler on the Roof* running on the Roberts Mainstage and *A Christmas Carol* in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab **we're presenting radically different approaches to the adaptation of work by two canonical writers - Charles Dickens and Sholem Aleichem.** I love that at their core, **both works are about how we can change to become more generous and more inclusive, that we're not hostage to who we've been in the past,**” said Olney Theatre artistic director **Jason Loewith**, “And Paul Morella's virtuoso solo performance of the Christmas classic is as unforgettable an experience as one can have in the theatre. It is an indispensable **part of what makes Olney Theatre my favorite place to be during the holiday season.**”

INFO

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

By Charles Dickens

Adapted and Performed by Paul Morella

November 24 – December 31, 2023

Press Night: Saturday, December 2 at 7:45 pm

Performances are Wednesday-Saturday evenings at 7:45 pm; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3:00pm; Weekday Matinee performances at 3:00 PM on Wednesday December 20, Tuesday, December 26. Additional evening performance on Tuesday, December 26.

Tickets: \$51-\$61. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas is best appreciated by children ages 10 and up due to the use of Victorian language and light references to adult behavior.

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

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 40 full-time staff, 20 part-time positions, 26 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

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