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A PANEL OF MATCHMAKERS, ON STAGE TOURS, ARTS AND CRAFTS WITH A PROPS PROFESSIONAL, AND MORE, ARE PART OF OLNEY THEATRE CENTER'S COMMUNITY EVENTS ACCOMPANYING *HELLO, DOLLY!*

Olney, MD – October 15, 2025 — Olney Theatre Center is rolling out a roster of events for the community on its campus and in the community, including story times, panel discussions, trivia, onstage tours, and an arts-and-crafts activity, all inspired by the themes of *Hello, Dolly!* These include a panel discussion with real matchmakers and a licensed psychologist, **From Sweethearts to Swipes: Matchmaking Across the Ages (November 9)**, as well as an opportunity to **meet the matchmakers** after the panel; **musical theatre trivia (November 20)**; **on stage tours** with *Hello, Dolly!* production staff **(November 23 and December 7)**; and an **arts and crafts activity** with props supervisor, Anna Cable **(December 12)**. There is a **story time at Olney Public Library (November 9)** as part of the programming generated by Olney Theatre's Community Engagement program.

Olney Theatre Center's director of community engagement, Shruthi Mukund, states, "*Hello, Dolly!* is the perfect example of an intergenerational celebration—its story of matchmaking and connection resonates across ages and backgrounds. Our behind-the-scenes panel explores both the history and modern meaning of matchmaking, while Maestro Chris Youstra brings everyone together with lively musical trivia, and Props Supervisor Anna Cable leads a fun hat-making activity for all ages. We're also thrilled to feature two pre-show community choirs and a special holiday pop-up choir event. All these activities reflect our commitment to building community and creating joyful, shared experiences around the magic of theatre."

Tickets for Community Events are low or no-cost to patrons but do vary. For more information, visit olneytheatre.org/community

Hello, Dolly! runs November 6 - January 4 in Olney Theatre's Roberts Mainstage Theatre. For information and tickets, visit: <https://www.olneytheatre.org/whats-playing/hello-dolly>

EVENT DETAILS

IN THE COMMUNITY -

Story Time at the Olney Library

November 9, 2025

2:00 pm

Olney Public Library

Free, no RSVP required

As part of our celebration of Hello, Dolly!, we're sponsoring a morning of stories at the Olney Public Library. This is a free family event appropriate for all ages, especially toddlers, preschoolers, and young children. Books to be read are chosen with the help of the Olney librarian.

BEYOND THE STAGE -

From Sweethearts to Swipes: Matchmaking Across the Ages

November 9, 2025

5:00 pm

Robert's Mainstage

\$10 / Free for members

What does Dolly Levi have in common with today's matchmakers—and what sets them apart? Before the opening night performance of Hello, Dolly!, join us at 5 pm for a fascinating Behind the Scenes conversation that compares Dolly's old-world charm with the digital tools and techniques shaping love in the 21st century. Don't miss this engaging conversation as part of Opening Night of Hello, Dolly! — a celebration of love, laughter, and the art of bringing people together, both onstage and off.

BEYOND THE STAGE -

Meet the Matchmakers

November 9, 2025

6:00 pm

Roberts Mainstage

Free, no RSVP required

Join us for a special one-time opportunity to Meet the Matchmakers — Miriam Levitin of Luv with Lev and Jasbina Ahluwalia of Intersections Match by Jasbina. Following our Behind the Scenes panel discussion, From Sweethearts to Swipes: Matchmaking Across the Ages, these two dynamic relationship experts will share insights from their unique approaches to modern matchmaking — blending tradition, intuition, and contemporary connection.

BEYOND THE STAGE -

Happy Hour: Musical Theatre Trivia

November 20, 2025

6:00 pm

Cafritz Lobby

\$10

If your brain is full of random Broadway-related knowledge that you don't know what to do with,

put it to the test at our Musical Theatre Trivia Happy Hour! Sign up with a team, or come as a single and make some new friends. Then, take in a performance of *Hello, Dolly!* (tickets sold separately).

BEHIND-THE-SCENES -

***Hello, Dolly!* Onstage Tours**

November 23, 2025, and December 7, 2025

4:00 pm

Roberts Mainstage

\$10

How does a professional theater bring the magic of a story on stage? We're inviting folks of every age to come on stage and see how we do it. Lighting demonstrations, costume and prop displays, scenery moves... our professional production staff, Philip Snider, Stage Operations Manager & Carissa Gilson, Wardrobe Supervisor/Costume Shop Associate, will take you on an amazing Onstage Tour. RSVP early; this event tends to sell out fast!

BEYOND THE STAGE -

Arts and Crafts Activity with Anna Cable, Props Supervisor

December 12, 2025

11:00 am

Actors Hall

\$10

Join our Props Supervisor, Anna Cable, for a fun and easy hands-on activity inspired by the whimsical world of *Hello, Dolly!* Anna, who helped bring the show's props to life onstage, will guide participants through a simple, step-by-step craft project connected to the colorful hats, parasols, and other turn-of-the-century treasures you'll see in the production. No special skills or supplies needed—just bring your creativity and enjoy making a keepsake you can take home!

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

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.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org.

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Instagram [@olneytheatre](https://www.instagram.com/olneytheatre) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/olneytheatre](https://www.facebook.com/olneytheatre).

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