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THE ORIGINAL GHOST STORY WASN'T WRITTEN FOR HALLOWEEN, BUT CHRISTMAS. AND PAUL MORELLA IS ITS MASTER INTERPRETER
Morella's one-man version of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* returns to Olney for its 13th year on the boards

Olney, MD – October 31, 2022 – Olney Theatre Center 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 25, 2022–January 1, 2023. Accomplished actor Paul Morella, who adapted the story himself, is now bringing the show back for its thirteenth iteration. The affecting tale has continued to draw crowds and sell out houses as it warms the hearts of DC theatregoers year after year, becoming a holiday tradition for many. **Press may reserve two tickets to attend the official opening on Saturday, December 3 at 7:45 pm by emailing: sstraub@olneytheatre.org**

Star and creator Paul Morella said, "**Once again, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to share *A Christmas Carol* with Olney Theatre audiences**, at a time when its themes of redemption, hope and change are more relevant than ever. This year's production promises to be even more visceral, intimate, imaginative and new, and will be even more of a collaboration with the audience rather than a performance. As always, it remains faithful and true to the original because it IS the original, presented as Dickens wrote it and as he intended for it to be presented."

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.

“We are elated to welcome Paul Morella back to the Olney Theatre Center to perform his masterful adaptation of this Christmas classic,” says Artistic Director Jason Loewith. “This immersive spectacular always delights our audiences, and is the perfect way for theatregoers of all ages to get into the holiday spirit!”

INFO

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

By Charles Dickens

Adapted and Performed by Paul Morella

November 25, 2022 – January 1, 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 14, Tuesday, December 20, Wednesday December 21, Thursday, December 22, Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27. Additional evening performance on Monday, December 26. No performance on Sunday December 25th, and no evening performance on Saturday December 31.

Tickets: \$45-\$55. Discounts 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.

In the Multz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab **face masks are required at all performances of *A Christmas Carol***. This is to protect our sole actor who performs in close proximity to audience members. Food and drink are not allowed in the theatre but may be consumed in the lobby.

As has been the policy since last spring, facemasks are not required in lobby areas.

For masking rules in our other spaces, visit olneytheatre.org/health

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 (OTC) 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, OTC 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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