A Christmas Carol
A Ghost Story of Christmas
by Charles Dickens • performed by Paul Morella
Dear Friend of Olney Theatre Center,

The most special thing about the holiday season is its focus on traditions: no matter our differences, traditions unite us, and allow us to celebrate the best of ourselves and our community. That’s why we work hard at Olney Theatre Center to embrace tradition all over campus at this time of year. Whether you’re experiencing the magical musical *Mary Poppins* on the Mainstage, enjoying Olney Ballet Theatre’s *The Nutcracker* on the Historic Stage, or in the Mulitz-Gudelsky Theatre Lab for *A Christmas Carol*, you’re celebrating the season with extraordinary performances of our culture’s most extraordinary stories.

And *A Christmas Carol* is the season’s über-classic, isn’t it? Dickens’ dynamic tale of greed transformed to generosity pointedly reminds us what the season is about: not the Black Friday sales, not the rushing from party to party, but a simple act of grace, and the possibility within all of us that we can change for the better.

We know there are many theatre options for you to choose, especially during this time of year, but we think you’ve made a vivid and engaging choice by coming to Olney to see *A Christmas Carol*... because our production ignites your imagination in the most remarkable way. Paul Morella, one of our theater’s best-loved performers (fresh off of his acclaimed run as Otto Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*), takes on every role, from the Ghost of Christmas Past right down to Tiny Tim, and weaves his tale with an effortless magic. It’s a thrill to behold. Imagine that Charles Dickens himself is reading his novella to you by the quiet, haunting crackle of fire in his Victorian parlor, while a light snow falls on the gas-lit streets of London.

We hope you love Paul’s virtuoso performance, and that you’re celebrating this classic with those closest to you. What better way to enjoy the holidays? Let us know what you think at Jason@olneytheatre.org or Debbie@olneytheatre.org. Keep the family together and come back to check out *Mary Poppins* on the other side of our campus, or Olney Ballet Theatre’s *Nutcracker* in the Historic... we want Olney Theatre Center to be your home for the holidays. Thanks for being a big part of our tradition!

With great good wishes for a wonderful season,

Jason Loewith
Artistic Director

Debbie Ellinghaus
Managing Director

A NOTE FROM JASON AND DEBBIE
A Christmas Carol
A Ghost Story of Christmas

Adapted by Paul Morella from the novella by Charles Dickens

*A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas was first produced in partnership with the City of Gaithersburg at the Arts Barn Theatre on December 3, 2009

featuring

Paul Morella*

Lighting Designer
Sonya Dowhaluk

Sound Designer
Edward Moser

Production Stage Manager
Elisabeth Ribar*

Production Consultant
Jeffery Westlake

Director of Production
Dennis A. Blackledge

Associate Artistic Director/
Director of Education
Jason King Jones

*Member, Actors’ Equity Association
Mr. Morella is an Olney Theatre Center Artistic Associate and a National Player Alum.

This production is made possible in part by contributions from
Production Sponsors James A. Pape and Nancy Newman-Pape
and Artist Sponsor Jane T. Larsen (in memoriam)
WHO’S WHO


Sonya Dowkuluk (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be returning to Olney Theatre for another year of A Christmas Carol. Olney Theatre: Dial M for Murder, Godspell, The Tempest, Grease (co-design), and National Players Tour 63. Television: Assistant Lighting Director at CNN. Education: BA, The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; MFA, The University of Maryland.

Edward Moser (Sound Designer) is a regional audio production veteran whose theatrical work encompasses over 50 DC-area productions in the past seven years. Previous Olney Theatre Center credits include Doubt, I Am My Own Wife, Trumpey, and Mousetrap (which featured Paul Morella). Sound design credits include the National Players Tour 60: As You Like It and 1984. The American Century Theater: multiple designs including Marathon 33 and An Evening with Danny Kaye. The Quotidian Theatre Company: also many designs including Master Harold and the Boys and A Walk in the Woods. The Smithsonian’s Rasmuson Theatre: The Conversion of Ka’ahumanu. Favorite musical credits include Arena Stage: Senior Discretion Himself, The Clarice: Urinetown, Theater J: David in Shadow and Light, and Olney Theatre Center: Godspell. Ed has also designed for Paul’s Tuesdays With Morrie and Underneath The Lilent.


Jeffery Westlake (Production Consultant) was the Artistic Director of the Arts Barn Theatre Series when he commissioned this production of A Christmas Carol in 2009. Past producing credits include: Producing Artistic Director of NOVA SummerStage and the Associate Producer of High Tor for Summer Theatre — at the time, one of the last of the classic summer stock theaters in New England.

Jason Loewith (Artistic Director) recently directed the co-production of Angels in America: Part I - Millenium Approaches at Round House Theatre. Previous Olney Theatre Center productions include Marjorie Prime, Carousel, the NNPN Rolling World Premiere of Steven Dietz’s Rancho Mirage, Avenue Q and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (2015 Helen Hayes Award nomination for Outstanding Musical). Jason won Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle, and Jeff Awards for Best New Musical for Adding Machine: A Musical, which he co-wrote with composer Joshua Schmidt (off-Broadway, 2008). His latest musical is Big Nate: The Musical which premiered in 2013 at Adventure Theatre-MTC, co-written with Olney’s Associate Artistic Director Christopher Youstra. Recent regional work as a director includes the world premiere of Brake (Alliance Theatre, Atlanta), Time Stands Still (Everyman, Baltimore), Crime and Punishment, and Working It Out (Center Stage, Baltimore), Adding Machine: A Musical (Studio Theatre, DC), and a dozen plays for Chicago’s Next Theatre Company, where he served as Artistic Director from 2002-08. Those credits include the Chicago area premieres of Dying City, Defiance, The Long Christmas Ride Home, and Fabulation. He conceived and directed the world premiere of The American Dream Songbook, and produced Chicago premieres by Caryl Churchill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Carson Kreitzer, Sam Shepard, Daol Orlandersmith, and many more. He is a three-time grantee from the NEA for Artistic Excellence, a recipient of support from the Rockefeller MAP Fund and MacArthur’s International Connections Fund, and a TCG New Generations Future Leaders grant. Jason joined Olney as Artistic Director in 2013 after serving four years as Executive Director of the National New Play Network. Jason is the proud recipient of a 2015 Montgomery County Executive’s Award for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities, and serves on the board of Governors for the theatreWashington.

Debbie Ellinghaus (Managing Director) joined Olney Theatre Center in August 2014. At Olney, she partners with Artistic Director Jason Loewith to lead the staff and execute the mission and vision of the Theatre. She also serves as a liaison to Olney Theatre’s Board of Directors, of which she is a member. Prior to joining Olney, she was the Director of Development at the University of Maryland, College of Arts and Humanities where she raised major gifts to help advance student scholarship and academic programming. From 2005-2011, she was the Senior Associate Director of Development at Yale School of Drama/Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, CT. At Yale, she she was part of a university-wide campaign that raised more than $3.8 billion and included transformational gifts for Yale Rep from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Robinia Foundation, which established the Binger Center for New Theatre. Ms. Ellinghaus was the Director of Development at Jean Cocteau Repertory (New York, NY) and held positions at the Guggenheim Museum, the Cathedral School (NY) and the Epiphany School (NY). She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Maryland (College Park) and is a graduate of the New Actors Workshop, where she studied with George Morrison, Mike Nichols, and Paul Sills. Since 2013, Ms. Ellinghaus has served as Chair of the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission, a not-for-profit organization that helps to preserve the cultural significance of Merriweather Post Pavilion and provides support to other arts and culture organizations in Howard County, MD.
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OLNEY THEATRE CENTER FOR THE ARTS is a professional theater employing members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States. Actors' Equity Association, founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the U.S. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society.

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Nicely-Nicely Johnson (Tobias Young) and the cast of Olney Theatre Center’s production of GUYS AND DOLLS. Photo by Stan Barouh.