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For Release
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Ford's Theatre Society Hosts Sensory-Friendly Performance For *A Christmas Carol*

Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets Now On Sale

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Society will host a sensory-friendly performance for *A Christmas Carol* on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m. This performance is designed for those with sensory sensitivities who might benefit from an adjusted theatrical environment, including individuals with autism or other social, learning or cognitive disabilities. Please note that this performance is limited to those who reach out to our box office regarding sensory-friendly offerings, to keep the experience comfortable for sensory-friendly audiences. It is not a general public performance.

Theatrical adjustments for this performance of *A Christmas Carol* may include: lessening of lighting focused on the audience; quieter stage sound levels, especially for sudden or loud sounds; allowances for audience talking, movement and use of tablets and smartphones for communication; and designated areas outside the auditorium for anyone who needs a break. Printed and digital resource materials from Ford's accessibility department will be available to prepare attendees for their visit.

This year's production marks the fully staged return of **Michael Wilson's** adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic. **José Carrasquillo** recreates **Michael Baron's** original direction, assisted by Associate Directors **Craig A. Horness** and **Erika Scott**. Acclaimed actor **Craig Wallace** returns as the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, who encounters the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future in a production heralded as a "rich visual and vocal treat" (*TheaterMania*) and "infectiously jolly" (*The Washington Post*). Other returning cast members include **Stephen F. Schmidt** as Jacob Marley, **Rayanne Gonzales** as the Ghost of Christmas Present, **Justine "Icy" Moral** as the Ghost of Christmas Past, **Jonathan Atkinson** as Bob Cratchit, **Tom Story** as Mr. Fezziwig and more. Expect traditional caroling, exuberant choreography and hallmarks that have made our productions of *A Christmas Carol* one of Washington's favorite holiday traditions for over 40 years.

Ford's Theatre accessibility programs are supported by the **Liberty Mutual Foundation**.

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Tickets to Sensory-Friendly Performance

A limited number of tickets are available to allow ample space for patron movement needs. Tickets for the sensory-friendly performance range **\$25-30**. To reserve a ticket, please reach out to the Box Office directly at (202) 347-4833 ext. 6 or boxoffice@fords.org. Ford's Theatre staff are trained to assist patrons in finding the best seating options for their needs. Tickets are refundable until the start of the performance.

In 2018, Ford's Theatre enlisted the support of consultants **Diane Nutting** and **Roger Ideishi** and piloted a sensory-friendly performance. In the time since, Ford's Theatre staff has taken the lead for multiple sensory-friendly productions and museum events, creating preparatory materials for theatregoers and environment adjustments at Ford's and training the front-of-house team, cast and crew to welcome our audience for the sensory-friendly performance.

Ford's Theatre is excited to once again partner with Nutting and Ideishi to bring this reimagined production to life in a way that is welcoming and accessible for our audience.

"We are thrilled to once again welcome audiences to a sensory-friendly performance of *A Christmas Carol* and make this holiday tradition accessible," said **Cristina Diaz, Ford's Theatre Patron Services, Theatre and Access Manager**. "We hope to provide an inclusive, safe space where individuals and families can relax during the holiday season and be who they are in a theatrical environment tailored to be understanding of their experiences."

Sensory-friendly performances are offered at Ford's Theatre for every production, along with other accessibility and outreach programs. For this year's production of *A Christmas Carol*, **audio-described** performances will be on December 7 at 7:30 p.m. and December 17 at 2 p.m. An **ASL sign-interpreted** performance will be on December 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Ford's also offers captioning for performances through the [GalaPro](#) app, the **Free First Preview** program, [Generation Abe](#) nights for patrons younger than age 35, **Student Matinees** and more. Please visit www.fords.org/visit/accessibility for more information.

COVID-19 Health and Safety

Face coverings are strongly encouraged. Ford's Theatre's COVID-19 guidance is developed in collaboration with the George Washington Medical Faculty Associates (GW MFA). As one of the largest physician groups in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, GW MFA is recognized for excellence in clinical care, research and training of future care providers. The advice and expertise of the medical staff at the GW MFA, which is based on data and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has helped Ford's Theatre Society strengthen its safety procedures to better serve and protect patrons, artists and staff as productions and daytime visits resume.

For more information about Ford's Theatre COVID-19 health and safety protocols, visit www.fords.org/performance-safety.

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Ford's Theatre Society

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer **Frankie Hewitt**, who, during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of **Paul R. Tetreault** as Director, critics and the theatre-going public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung In Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit www.fords.org.

#FordsCarol

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