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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN UPDATE FOR FORD'S THEATRE

Performances of *A Christmas Carol* Continue Through December 30, 2018

Aftermath Exhibits at Center for Education and Leadership Will Remain Open

Washington, D.C. – In case of a government shutdown on December 22, 2018, Ford's Theatre Society (FTS) announced that the Aftermath Exhibits, located in the Center for Education and Leadership (514 Tenth Street NW), will remain open to daytime visitors from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Performances of *A Christmas Carol*** featuring Craig Wallace as Scrooge and directed by Michael Baron, will continue as scheduled through December 30, 2018.

In the event of a shutdown, the National Park Service will provide information about the impacts to their operations, including daytime visits to the historic site, museum and Petersen House.

The Ford's Theatre National Historic Site is operated through a public-private partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service. Ford's Theatre Society is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and does not use any federal funding or federal employees for its performances. Because its productions do not utilize public money, Ford's Theatre Society will be able to continue mainstage performances during a government shutdown. The Center for Education and Leadership is owned and operated by the Society and includes three floors of exhibits about Lincoln's assassination and legacy.

A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens; Adapted by Michael Wilson
Directed by Michael Baron
Through December 30, 2018
Tickets: \$24-\$107 at www.fords.org

Join the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future as they lead the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey of transformation and redemption. Conceived by Michael Baron, this music-infused production captures the magic and joy of Dickens's Yuletide classic. Craig Wallace plays Scrooge in this "musically high-spirited" and "infectiously jolly" (*The Washington Post*) production.

The company of the 2018 production of *A Christmas Carol* has selected D.C.'s **Homeless Children's Playtime Project** as recipient of this year's donation drive inspired by the themes of charity in Dickens's holiday classic. During the curtain calls for performances, the *A Christmas Carol* company will collect monetary donations on behalf of the Washington-based non-profit. Patrons may also make donations through the Ford's Theatre Box Office. All donation checks should be made payable to "Homeless Children's Playtime Project."

Visiting Virtually

Virtual historic site visits are available through the Ford's Theatre website at www.fords.org/visit/virtual-tour. A virtual reality experience of the Petersen House named *Voices of the Petersen House*, which includes interactive photographs and first-person accounts of the men and women who witnessed Abraham Lincoln's final hours, is available for free via the TimeLooper app. To download, visit the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Aftermath Exhibits at the Center for Education and Leadership (514 Tenth Street NW)

The Center for Education and Leadership, owned and operated by the Society, will remain open in case of government shutdown; hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during a government shutdown. Housed in a building directly across the street from the historic theatre, the Center features a 34-ft sculpture of Lincoln books and two floors of permanent exhibits that bring the values and ideals of Lincoln from the past into the present, examining the immediate aftermath of Lincoln's death and his multi-faceted legacy.

Ford's Theatre Society and National Park Service Partnership

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 ideals and leadership principles: courage, integrity, tolerance, equality and creative expression.

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 theatregoing 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 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 our American life. In 2018, the Society was awarded a Platinum rating in GuideStar and a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

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

For more information on the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, please visit www.nps.gov/foth

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