

BELMONT MANSION

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**NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ACTOR DAVID ALFORD AND MUSICIAN PAUL CARROL BINKLEY
PRESENT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF "A SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS SAMPLER"
AT THE HISTORIC BELMONT MANSION**

A treasured Music City tradition returns as ABC/CMT *Nashville* star, David Alford, musician Paul Carrol Binkley, and actors Jenny Littleton and Erin Ramsey return to Belmont Mansion with a favorite Nashville Christmas event, *Southern Christmas Sampler*. The centerpiece is Alford's brilliant telling of Truman Capote's best-loved short story, "A Christmas Memory," with live original music by Paul Carrol Binkley. Alford and Binkley present a treasured favorite for Nashvillians for 30 years and touches hearts in a way few Christmas performances manage to do. David and Paul are the 2025 recipients of the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Awards by the Clarksville Arts & Heritage Council.



Details:**Event:** *Southern Christmas Sampler – 30th Anniversary***Dates:** December 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, and 28**Time:** Evening performances Dec 10, 11, 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 PM.

Sunday matinée performances Dec 14 and 28 at 2:30 PM.

Ticket prices: \$45 (plus Eventbrite fees)**To purchase tickets:** SouthernChristmasSampler.com**Venue:** Belmont Mansion**Address:** 1900 Belmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37212**GPS:** Belmont Mansion Visitor Parking**Event notes:** Belmont Mansion is decorated for a Victorian Christmas with the first floor open for touring on performance dates. A portion of the ticket price will be donated to the historic Belmont Mansion.

Southern Christmas Sampler brings David Alford's rendition of Truman Capote's beloved "A Christmas Memory" back to Nashville's Belmont Mansion. Performed in the historic Belmont Mansion Grand Salon and accompanied with original music by Paul Carrol Binkley, this is a highlight of Nashville's holiday season.

David Alford — "I first worked with Paul on 'A Christmas Memory' way back in 1995, and it became the centerpiece for holiday shows through the years. Its first appearance was part of 'A Southern Christmas Sampler' presented by my company Mockingbird Theatre and Rene Copeland, and later with 'Christmas Down Home.' 'A Christmas Memory' will be the performance audiences have come to know and love. Just me and Paul doing the entire story as Capote wrote it."

Alford goes on to share, "I've been so fortunate; first, just to say Capote's words, but also to be a part of something that's meant so much to so many people. It's really humbling and gratifying."

Myers Brown, Executive Director of Belmont Mansion — "Belmont Mansion is thrilled to be hosting David Alford and Paul Carrol Binkley for these Christmas performances that include work from one of the nation's and certainly one of the South's greatest storytellers, Truman Capote. The fully restored Grand Salon of Belmont Mansion provides a beautiful historical backdrop that perfectly complements these performances. David and Paul are joined by actors Jenny Littleron and Erin Ramsey and accompanied by musicians Antonia Ferguson, Russell Davis, and Brad Albin to create a unique holiday experience that is a one-man play, a concert, and an ensemble performance of extraordinary talent all rolled into one unforgettable experience. Don't miss an opportunity to be a part of this Nashville tradition set within the legendary Belmont Mansion."

Paul Carrol Binkley — "I remember when David first gave me a copy of 'A Christmas Memory.' He had this idea that he could simply tell the story, and I should compose underscoring music and accompany him as he did so. I remember reading the story on an airplane headed somewhere with tears streaming down my face. Since then, we have performed the piece together hundreds of times, and I still fight back tears every time (sometimes unsuccessfully), though I'm also guilty of laughing out loud. I sit just a bit lower, to the right, and slightly upstage in the best seat in the house! Whether you know the story or not, you will never experience a better telling than David Alford's."

“A Christmas Memory”

A Capote favorite, this poignant story centers around 7-year-old Buddy and his only friend and elderly cousin Miss Sook, as they complete their Christmas traditions. They make fruitcakes, trek through the woods to choose the perfect Christmas tree and fly their homemade kites on Christmas day. As the story unfolds, themes of love and friendship are revealed, wrapped up in the heart of the holiday.

About the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award

Each year, the Clarksville Arts & Heritage Council recognizes individuals who have made significant, long-term contributions to the artistic and historical cultural life of Montgomery County. Established in 2006, this award honors artists, arts scholars, patrons, or promoters who have made outstanding contributions to the artistic and cultural life of Clarksville and Montgomery County. The 2025 award winners are David Alford and Paul Carrol Binkley.

About David Alford

A native and resident of Adams, Tennessee (pop. 600), David Alford is a graduate of the Juilliard School for Drama. He was the founder and Artistic Director of Mockingbird Theatre in Nashville, and later Executive Artistic Director of Tennessee Repertory Theatre (now Nashville Rep). He is currently serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Acting at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio.

David appeared as Bucky Dawes in the television series *Nashville* for its six seasons. Other screen credits include *The Good Fight* (CBS) *The Blacklist* (NBC), *The Last Castle* (DreamWorks), *A Death in the Family* (PBS/Masterpiece Theatre), *Stoker* (Warner Bros), and the web series *Local Air*.

Recent stage credits include Mr. Marshall in the Broadway revival of "Little Foxes" (Manhattan Theatre Club), Billy in the workshop production of Donald Margulies' "Long Lost" (Illinois Theatre), and the title role in "The Columnist" (Tennessee Rep). His performance of Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory" has been a holiday staple for Nashville audiences since 1995.

David's writing credits include two historical plays produced annually in his hometown: "Spirit: The Authentic Story of The Bell Witch of Tennessee" and "Smoke: A Ballad of The Night Riders." Other credits include a stage adaptation of Alan Lightman's "Einstein's Dreams" (with Brian Niece), the documentary theatre piece "Boycott: Pulaski, Tennessee" and the "Legacy of the Ku Klux Klan," the screenplays "On Music Row" (MTV Networks), and the independent releases "Prisoner," "Adrenaline," and "Deadbox."

His book [Living The Dream: The Morning After Drama School](#) (with Brian Horner) is available through Kendall Hunt Publishing.

About Paul Carrol Binkley

Paul Carrol Binkley has been playing the guitar and composing his own music since he was nine years old. He trained at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Austin Peay State University, and Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt. His solo recordings have received national recognition on such broadcasts as "Music from the Hearts of Space" and NPR's "All Things Considered". He has performed his original music

worldwide on platforms as different as, NPR's "All Things Considered", to the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, to the Singapore Jazz Festival. His performances and recordings span a wide range of musical styles for a diverse group of artists including Percy Sledge, The Fifth Dimension, Lorrie Morgan, Jim Nabors, Nashville Opera, Nashville Jazz Orchestra, Nashville Symphony, Modern Jazz Tuba Project, Cosmic Jazz Faculty, Conversation, Nexus Chamber Orchestra, Marty Raybon, Lari White, Mandy Barnett, the McCarters, and five years spent performing with country super group Alabama.

Paul has music directed, sound designed and composed for over 25 years for theatre companies including Tennessee Repertory Theatre, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, Nashville Children's Theatre, Vanderbilt University Theatre (Artist in Residence, 2011-2014), Iowa Theatre Artist Company, Coterie Theatre (Kansas City), Hudson Theatre (Hollywood), and Falcon Theatre (Burbank). He also worked with Jerry Lewis and Rupert Holmes during the world premiere production of Marvin Hamlisch's last musical, *The Nutty Professor* at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. His original musical *Jack's Tale* (co-written by Scot Copeland) enjoyed its 2015 world premiere at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. to much critical acclaim.

About Jenny Littleton

Jenny is most recognized for her role as Debbie in a 14-year run of the *Doyle and Debbie* show. She has performed with Nashville Repertory Theatre, Nashville Children's Theatre, Actor's Bridge Ensemble, The No Small Endeavor live radio show, Nashtrash Tours and many other wonderful folks. She can also be heard as Pearl Squirrel in the animated series *The Dead Sea Squirrels*.

About Erin Ramsey

Erin Ramsey is a native of Robertson County and a Vanderbilt graduate, who has worked extensively acting and stage managing with local theatre companies including Tennessee Repertory Theatre (now Nashville Rep), Nashville Children's Theatre, Studio Tenn, Nashville Shakespeare Festival and the Tennessee Shakespeare Festival. Other credits include Iowa Theatre Artist Company and Falcon Theatre (now Garry Marshall Theatre, Burbank). She was one of the original cast members of *The Southern Christmas Sampler* with Mockingbird Theatre.

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For more information or to schedule an interview with David Alford or Paul Carrol Binkley, please contact Lauren Batte at (615) 460-5459 or lauren.batte@belmont.edu.