

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The State Theatre**

**Contact:**

Katie Perkowski  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
kperkowski@asf.net  
334.271.5326

**ASF Tree- Lighting in Blount Cultural Park, November 19th  
Family-Friendly & Free Holiday Event!**

**Montgomery, AL (November 7, 2016) - Santa Claus is coming town!** The **Alabama Shakespeare Festival** proudly announces the third annual ASF Tree Lighting, **Saturday, November 19 at 4 p.m.**, sponsored by **Baptist Health** and **TrueSouth Properties**. **TrueSouth Properties** provides a beautiful 40 foot Leyland Cypress Christmas tree that will be on display in front of the Festival Theatre throughout the holiday season.

Bring the whole family out to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival at **4 p.m.** on **November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Enjoy the dulcet holiday sounds of the **Upbeat Combo** along with free hot chocolate and donuts from **Krispy Kreme**. Additional community partners including **ASU, WVAS, Huntingdon College, Chappy's Deli, AUM's Confucius Institute, Craver's Candy Apples & Treats, Popcorn Pizazz, Zoe's Kitchen, Sinclair's, and Tucker Pecan** will have a presence at the event, many offering free samples and treats. The **Alabama State University Honeybeez** will entertain the crowd with a dance, and members of the **Montgomery Chorale** will be on hand along with cast members of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's **A Christmas Carol** to lead the crowd in a festive carol sing. **Spectrum Media** sponsors the classic film *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, shown in the Shakespeare Garden. Santa will parade through the park in a **Capitol City Carriage** and light our tree, after which he will be available for family photographs, assisted by the **Teen Team Elves of Eastdale Mall**. **Capitol City Carriage** will have two carriages offering free carriage rides in our beautiful park – pictures encouraged!

Through an initiative with **ASU's WVAS 90.7 FM Public Radio Station**, ASF will serve as a collection point for Christmas gifts for needy families in the community through December 8th. Visitors to ASF are invited to bring a donation; those who donate will receive a special discount on ASF tickets. More information, including a list of requested items, can be found at [asf.net/communityevents](http://asf.net/communityevents).

This family-friendly community event is generously sponsored by **Baptist Health** and **TrueSouth Properties**. Event media sponsorship provided by **Cumulus Broadcasting (Mix 103 with JT & Leanne)** and **The Montgomery Advertiser**.

**WORLD-CLASS THEATRE IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH!**

*The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount's gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park. This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

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