

For Immediate Release

Contact: Camilla Ross

Phone: 860 -705-9711

Email: cross@emersontheatercollaborative.org

**INTRODUCING MR. CHARLES DICKENS, A CONNECTICUT PREMIERE,
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY ALBERT CREMIN
To Open at the Olde Mistick Village Meeting House on November 28, 2008**

Emerson Theatre Collaborative will present *Introducing Mr. Charles Dickens* at the Meeting House in the **Olde Mistick Village, Mystic, CT** on **November 28-30** and **December 5-7**. For more information call (860) 705-9711 or visit www.emersontheatercollaborative.org.

Introducing Mr. Charles Dickens is written and performed by veteran actor Albert Cremin. Mr. Cremin, the cast of one, creates over thirty-five characterizations in his original work, which focuses on Charles Dickens, the performer. Interpreting scenes from *Oliver Twist*, *Captain Boldheart*, *The Pickwick Papers*, *David Copperfield*, and *The Old Curiosity Shop*, Mr. Cremin recreates moments from Dickens' American and English tours in the middle of the 19th century. In addition, the actor, as himself and in the character of Dickens, gives us background information on the famous writer and reveals some of the inner workings of the man. Mr. Cremin states, "My heartfelt wish with this play is to inspire young people to read. Over the years, the play has evolved into a concise and entertaining show for Dickens' fans and neophytes alike."

This Connecticut premiere of the original work written and performed by Albert Cremin was first produced by Performers' Studio in Boston, in 1984, as a full-scale production. The show has toured schools and colleges in New England and had a successful run at The Lark Studio Theatre in NYC. Its present revival, in one act, scales down production elements and spotlights the work of the actor.

Albert Cremin received his BA and MA degrees in Theatre from Emerson College, Boston, where he was recipient of The Carol Burnett Award for the Performing Arts, the highest honor awarded to a performing arts graduate. Emerson College has a rich history of oral interpretation of literature, the format for this show, in which one person assumes the role and point of view of the narrator while playing all the other characters, as well. Mr. Cremin was honored by the college when highlights of this show were featured at The 100th Anniversary of The Southwick Recital, which dedicates itself to the preservation of this art form.

Mr. Cremin's past credits are a testimony to his acting ability, especially his versatility in creating multiple characterizations. In the New England premiere of Terrence McNally's *LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!* he played the double role John and James, for which The Boston Herald said, **"...a talented group of actors, especially Cremin in the dual roles of the Jeckell brothers."** For his character work in another McNally play, *The Lisbon Traviata*, The Boston Globe wrote, **"Albert Cremin is just about perfect as Mendy."** In reviews covering the many characters he played in an original musical *Mr. Gilbert & Mr. Sullivan*, The Williamstown Advocate wrote, **"Albert Cremin displays a versatility in his acting, is able to switch parts effectively and delight us..."** The Waterbury Republican wrote, **"Cremin's portrayal of various characters is done with imagination, tact, and superb timing."** The Stratford Bard said, **"Albert Cremin lights up the stage with his comic flair"**, and from The Milford Citizen, **"Sparks literally fly when he is onstage."** As Felix in *The Odd Couple*, the Free Press in Pennsylvania told its readers, **"Cremin's performance is unmatched."**

Emerson Theater Collaborative is pleased to present this production as the second of its first season. ETC serves youth, underrepresented communities, and artists with an emphasis on diversity by producing innovative and exhilarating theater in southeastern Connecticut. By exploring timely themes and issues through original works and modern theatrical classics, ETC develops and nurtures emerging and professional artists by collaborating with the Emerson College network of alumni and students. Its first

production, John Patrick Shanley's *Doubt*, was presented in Mystic last August to critical acclaim.

ETC president **Camilla Ross** states, "We looked around at the theater being offered in southeastern Connecticut and considered the people who live and visit here and we felt there was an opportunity that has been overlooked – and that is to present quality, professional theater that would entertain, inspire and get people talking and thinking. ***Introducing Mr. Charles Dickens*** is the perfect follow up to our first production, something thought-provoking yet accessible to younger audiences. We also hope the performance and its setting will help get audiences in the holiday spirit."

Introducing Mr. Charles Dickens has been directed by Deborah Cothren O'Neill with original poster and program illustrations by Elissa Della Piana.

Key Dates and Information

What: Emerson Theater Collaborative presents, ***Introducing Mr. Charles Dickens***, written and performed by Albert Cremin.

When: November 28, 29, 30 Performances @ 8:00pm and December 5,6,7 all performances are at 7:00pm, except for December 6th at 4:00pm and 7:00pm.

Where: Olde Mistick Village Meeting House, Mystic CT

How: Tickets are \$18 (\$16 for Seniors and Students) - and can be obtained by calling (860) 705-9711. A portion of the profits will go to the Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality (MASH), which finds homes for homeless families. Additional information at www.EmersonTheaterCollaborative.org.

###

Contact: Camilla Ross
Phone: 860 -705-9711
Email: cross@emersontheatercollaborative.org