



Old Globe Theatre | Cassius Carter Centre Stage | Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

News

Jack O'Brien, *Artistic Director*
Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
Craig Noel, *Artistic Director*

P.O. Box 122171 Tel 619/231-1941
San Diego, CA Fax 619/231-5879
92112-2171 www.theoldglobe.org

For Immediate Release: October 15, 2003

Contact: Becky Biegelsen: (619) 231-1941

Web: www.theoldglobe.org

SAN DIEGO'S BELOVED HOLIDAY TRADITION, DR. SEUSS' *HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!* RETURNS TO GLOBE FOR SIXTH EXCITING YEAR

***OLD GLOBE JOINS IN SEUSSENTENNIAL CELEBRATING
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY***

NEW GRINCH FAMILY EXPERIENCE RAISES FUNDS FOR GLOBE EDUCATION PROGRAMS; PROVIDES HANDS-ON THEATRE ACTIVITIES FOR SAN DIEGO CHILDREN & FAMILIES

San Diego – The Tony® Award-winning Old Globe is pleased to present San Diego's premiere holiday event, Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, directed by Globe Artistic Director Jack O'Brien, with book and lyrics by Timothy Mason and music by Mel Marvin, playing **November 9 through December 31, 2001** (opening night: **Thursday, November 13 at 7:00pm**).

Now in its sixth amazing year, this wonderful musical will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe stage. The Globe is also pleased to announce that the *San Diego Union-Tribune* will return as a **Presenting Sponsor** of this delightful annual production. Launched in November 1998, the Globe is pleased to bring back this family favorite year after year. "*How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* has become a San Diego tradition," said Globe Executive Director Louis G. Spisto. "We thank Audrey Geisel for her generous gift to the Globe and to the San Diego community of this timeless holiday classic."

As in previous years, the Globe is making 4,000 free tickets available to children in the community through a special ticket outreach program. Ten percent of all the tickets to *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* have been underwritten by the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and Audrey Geisel, with generous additional support from San Diego corporations. These tickets will be provided free to deserving children and families throughout San Diego. In addition, all children's tickets (17 and under) are offered at a significantly reduced price.

– more –

This year's presentation of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* also incorporates festivities surrounding the Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) "Seussentennial" celebration. In commemoration of what would have been Mr. Geisel's 100th birthday on March 2, 2004, The Old Globe will join in a yearlong tribute, in conjunction with Dr. Seuss Enterprises, to honor the man known and loved by generations of Americans as Dr. Seuss.

The Globe's Seussentennial events will kick off this November with its production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, along with several events throughout the year. The first of these is the **Seuss-abration for Kids**, an annual event brings 600 underserved children to Globe to see this magical holiday production free of charge. The 2003 Seuss-abration for Kids will take place on November 13 at 9:00am, with all 600 seats, lunch, and gift bags being underwritten by Audrey Geisel, *The San Diego Union Tribune*, and local corporations.

This year's Seuss-abration for Kids event also incorporates a new component with the Globe's first annual **Grinch Children's Reading Initiative**, an ongoing literacy project involving the 600 children who attend Seuss-abration. Beginning in September of 2003, Globe staff met with participating schools to develop literacy criteria and reading goals for the year. Before attending the performance, these students will have been asked to read at least six books (including Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*), in preparation for seeing the show. At the event, the children will participate in a fun pre-show festival that includes lunch, entertainment, presentations by the San Diego Zoo, as well as a matinee performance of *Grinch*. Following their visit, the students will be presented with a new challenge: to read 100 books as a classroom before March 2, 2004, which marks Dr. Seuss' birthday and "Read Across America" Day. On that day, Globe staff, cast members and sponsors will participate in classroom readings.

Another exciting Globe event inspired by the Seussentennial celebration is the Globe's **Grinch Family Experience**, a fun new event created to help raise money for the Globe's education outreach programs, while offering an exciting day of hands-on theatre activities for children and families. Chaired by Audrey Geisel, the celebration will take place on Saturday, November 15, beginning at 11:30am, with activities taking place in the Globe's rehearsal studios in the House of Charm, where children can experience the interactive elements of how a production is mounted, including scenic, costume and prop design, stage movement, and much more. The event also includes a special luncheon and a matinee performance of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*. In addition to priority theatre seating, VIP ticket holders will also be treated to an on-stage meet & greet with the *Grinch* cast, as well as a workshop on stage following the performance, to learn the popular "Whatchama-who" dance featured in the production.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! has been hailed by critics: "This *Grinch* is a smash," wrote the *L.A. Times*, while the *San Diego Union-Tribune* raved, "Jack O'Brien scaled this Globe holiday show...to the heartfelt humanity of the season." As an added feature of this holiday celebration, the Globe again plans to feature many wonderful characters and graphic elements from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* in a mini *Who*-ville on the outdoor Copley Plaza throughout the run of the production.

The 2003 cast of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* includes a brand new “Grinch,” to be played by local San Diegan **David Brannen**. Returning in their acclaimed roles of “Mama Who” and “J.P. Who” are **Melinda Gilb** and **Steve Gunderson**, who created these roles in the original production in 1998. Also reprising their roles are **Rusty Ross** as “Young Max,” **Robert MacAulay** as “Grandpa Seth Who,” and **Eileen Bowman** as “Grandma Who.” This year Ken Page joins the *Grinch* cast as “Old Max,” while “Cindy Lou Who” will be played by newcomers **Shawn Sullivan** and **Natalie Verhulst**, who will alternate in the role. David Cabinian (“Boo Who”), Nicholas Felizardo (“Danny Who”), Jennica Vargas (“Annie Who”), and Alexa Haley Bergman and Mary Frances McClay (“Betty Who” on alternate performances), will round out the Who family.

The adult ensemble includes: Alex Apostolidis, Danielle Forsgren, Phil Johnson, Warren G. Nolan, Jr., James Vasquez and Jessa Watson. The children’s ensemble consists of fourteen local children, who rotate into their roles every third performance. They include: Corey Alexander Hable, Gina Holslag, Caroline Hyatt, Alejandra Jimenez, Steven Jones, Ari Lerner, Anita Deshea Lewis, Shanna McCue, Rebecca Lauren Myers, Joy Newbegin, Anna Strickland, Kathleen Sullivan and Charlotte Wen.

O’Brien assembled an internationally-renowned creative team, including John Lee Beatty (scenic design), Globe Associate Artist Robert Morgan (costume design), Pat Collins (lighting design), and John DeLuca (choreography), who have given life to this incredible production. Their main artistic goal was to remain as faithful to the original book as possible. Dr. Seuss’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has been designed and built on-site in The Globe Theatres scene and costume shops in Balboa Park.

Tickets for Dr. Seuss’ *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* can be purchased by calling the Old Globe’s Ticket Services Department at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, by visiting the Globe box office in Balboa Park or on line at www.TheOldGlobe.org. Ticket prices range from \$15-25 for children 17 years of age and under; \$20-\$55 for adults.

The internationally-acclaimed, Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theaters in the country and has stood as San Diego’s flagship arts institution for over 68 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 12-14 plays and musicals on its three stages, including the highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theater artists from around the world, as exemplified by Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan, Tina Landau, Nora Ephron and John Goodman, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Imaginary Friends, The Full Monty and Damn Yankees, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country. Under the leadership of Artistic Directors Jack O’Brien and Craig Noel and Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation’s leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.

DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

- WHAT:** **Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!***
Book and lyrics by Timothy Mason; music by Mel Marvin
- WHERE:** Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park
- WHEN:** November 9 through December 31, 2001 (Press Opening: **November 13 at 7:00pm**)
- CREW:** Director: Jack O'Brien
Lighting Design: Pat Collins
Sound Design: Paul Peterson
Choreography: John DeLuca
Scenic Design: John Lee Beatty
Costume Design: Robert Morgan (Associate Artist)
Stage Managers: D. Adams, Tracy Skoczelas
Musical Director: Lisa LeMay
- CAST:**
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Eileen Bowman | <i>Grandma Who</i> |
| David Brannen | <i>The Grinch</i> |
| Melinda Gilb | <i>Mama Who</i> |
| Steve Gunderson | <i>J.P. Who</i> |
| Robert MacAulay | <i>Grandpa Seth Who</i> |
| Ken Page | <i>Old Max</i> |
| Rusty Ross | <i>Young Max</i> |
| Shawn Sullivan | <i>Cindy Lou Who</i> (alternate performances) |
| Natalie Verhulst | <i>Cindy Lou Who</i> (alternate performances) |
| David Cabinian | <i>Boo Who</i> |
| Nicholas Felizardo | <i>Danny Who</i> |
| Jennica Vargas | <i>Annie Who</i> |
| Alexa Haley Bergman | <i>Betty Who</i> (alternate performances) |
| Mary Frances McClay | <i>Betty Who</i> (alternate performances) |
- Adult Ensemble: Alex Apostolidis, Danielle Forsgren, Phil Johnson, Warren G. Nolan, Jr., James Vasquez, Jessa Watson
- Child Ensemble: Corey Alexander Hable, Gina Holslag, Caroline Hyatt, Alejandra Jimenez, Steven Jones, Ari Lerner, Anita Deshea Lewis, Shanna McCue, Rebecca Lauren Myers, Joy Newbegin, Anna Strickland, Kathleen Sullivan, Charlotte Wen
- TICKETS:** Adults: \$20 – 55 / Children (17 years of age and under): \$15 - 25
- Performance Schedule
- Previews: Nov 9 at 5:30pm; Nov 11 and Nov 12 at 7pm
 - Tuesdays at 7pm (Dec 23 and Dec 30 at 2pm & 7pm; no performances Nov 18 & Nov 25)
 - Wednesdays at 7pm (Dec 31 at 1pm and 5:30pm; no performance Nov 19)
 - Thursdays at 7pm (no performance Thanksgiving & Christmas Days)
 - Fridays at 7:30pm (Nov 28 at 2pm & 7:30pm; Dec 5 at 5pm; Dec 26 at 1pm & 5:30pm)
 - Saturdays at 2pm & 7:30pm (Nov 15 at 7:30pm only; Dec 6 at 1pm & 5pm)
 - Sundays at 1pm & 5:30pm
 - Monday, Dec 22 and 29 at 7pm
- BOX OFFICE:** (619) 23-GLOBE or order tickets on-line at www.TheOldGlobe.org
–Hours: Mondays: noon to 6pm; Tuesdays - Sundays: noon to 8:00pm
–MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express accepted