



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

News

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OLD GLOBE PRESENTS ROCKIN' NEW YEAR'S MUSICAL

STRIKING 12, FEATURING HIP TRIO GROOVELILY

EXCITING COUNTDOWN PARTY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 31ST PERFORMANCE!

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present *Striking 12*, a fun and upbeat holiday musical written by Brendan Milburn, Rachel Sheinkin and Valerie Vigoda; directed by Ted Sperling, playing in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage **December 7 – 31, 2003** (press opening: **Wednesday, December 10 at 8:00pm**).

Performed by the popular rock group, **GrooveLily**, this unique show blends the contemporary tale of a grumpy guy home alone on New Year's Eve, with Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl." Keyboardist/singer Brendan Milburn plays a melancholy man sitting at home on the annual end-of-year holiday, until a pretty door-to-door saleswoman, played by Valerie Vigoda (on vocals and electric violin), offers to sell him special light bulbs to help chase away "Seasonal Affective Disorder," or SAD. Brendan sends her off, but soon regrets his rude dismissal upon re-reading the poignant fairy tale about the poor 19th century Danish match seller. The group's drummer and third lead vocalist, Gene Lewin, also chimes in with various funny incidental characters throughout the show, and all ends happily in this lively, original New Year's Eve musical.

The Philadelphia Inquirer wrote, "This holiday-themed show by the pop trio GrooveLily is an inventive presentation that is part theater piece, part concert, and wholly entertaining." Filled with smart pop writing, virtuoso musicianship and riveting vocals by all three performers, this charming production gives audiences a fun twist on the holidays along with an enchanting concert evening with GrooveLily.

GrooveLily, the dynamic rock trio featuring founder Valerie Vigoda on electric violin, Brendan Milburn on keyboards and Gene Lewin on drums, plays smart pop with a contagiously effervescent sound that links sharp wit with intelligent original songwriting. The group combines elements of rock, jazz, folk and popular music, along with lush vocal harmonies. The band has been rising steadily on the concert and music festival circuit, having performed on the main stages at Kerrville, Philadelphia, Ottawa and many others. Their music has been featured nationally on: *All My Children*, *The Young and the Restless*, NPR's *World Café* and *Pure Oxygen*. More information about GrooveLily can be found at www.groovelily.com.

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The Old Globe also plans to host an exciting New Year's Eve party surrounding the final performance of *Striking 12* on December 31. Patrons will be treated to the 10pm performance of this entertaining production, along with cocktails, refreshments, champagne at midnight, and a countdown to 2004 with GrooveLily as part of this unique New Year's Eve celebration – all for just \$95 per person. Please call (619) 23-GLOBE for tickets and information.

Gene Lewin sings, plays the drums, and hails from Princeton, NJ. After graduating from Princeton University, Gene earned a Master's degree in Jazz and Commercial Music from the Manhattan School of Music. He has appeared on CDs with George Coleman, John Patitucci, and many others. In between GrooveLily shows, Gene continues to feed his jazz habit, performing and recording frequently with saxophonist/composer Andy Parsons and many others in New York City.

Brendan Milburn (keyboards, vocals) originally came to New York City to write musical theatre, only to find himself inexorably drawn into a rock band, touring the US and Canada in a small van. Mr. Milburn is delighted and mystified to find his road time with GrooveLily has proven to be a way back into writing musicals. Cabaret performers in NYC are frequently found singing songs from his GrooveLily side project, "brendan and the extenuating circumstances." He has a BA in Music for the Theatre from Pomona College and an MFA from NYU's program in Musical Theatre Writing, and he's played with both Ben Harper and Clarence Clemons. He often yearns for his native San Francisco.

Rachel Sheinkin's collaborative work in musical theater has been presented or developed at the Bridewell Theatre in London, the National Music Theater Conference at the O'Neill, with support from the Daryl Roth/New Voices series and the Norwegian Consulates in New York and London, and with GrooveLily at Prince Music Theater and TheatreWorks, Palo Alto. She has been a Manhattan Theatre Club Playwriting Fellow, a MacDowell Colony Fellow, and recipient of a Dean's Fellowship at NYU. She is currently an adjunct faculty member at NYU's Graduate Musical Theater Writing Program.

Valerie Vigoda, electric violinist and singer, is originally from McLean, VA. She has toured the world with Cyndi Lauper (opening for Tina Turner and Cher), Joe Jackson, and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Valerie is a classically trained musician, former Army lieutenant, and an honors graduate of Princeton University. She founded GrooveLily (originally "The Valerie Vigoda Band") in 1994. Critically acclaimed releases include "Inhabit My Heart" (1994), "jungle and sky" (1996), "Little Light" (2000), "Just The Three Of Us (LIVE)" (2002), and the newest GrooveLily CD, "Are we there yet?" (2003).

Tickets (\$19 - 47) for *Striking 12* can be purchased by calling Globe Ticket Services at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, by visiting the Globe Box Office in Balboa Park or on line at www.TheOldGlobe.org.

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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, Pride's Crossing 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.

