

# NEWS FROM THE GLOBE

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## **GLOBE KICKS OFF SEASON 2003 WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF OLDEST LIVING CONFEDERATE WIDOW TELLS ALL**

**BEST-SELLING NOVEL BECOMES HIT ONE-WOMAN PLAY STARRING  
ACADEMY AWARD-WINNER ELLEN BURSTYN**

San Diego – The Globe Theatres is pleased to announce the opening production for its Winter Season 2003: ***Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All***, adapted for the stage by **Martin Tahse**, from the best-selling novel by **Allan Gurganus**, directed by **Don Scardino** and starring Tony and Academy Award-winner **Ellen Burstyn**. The production will run in the Old Globe Theatre January 26 through March 8, 2003 (press opening: February 1).

Adapted from the best-selling novel by Allan Gurganus, this heartwarming and often hilarious one-woman drama chronicles the life of a Confederate captain's wife, from early courtship through the present day, offering a unique perspective on this fascinating period in American history. Through a series of vignettes, Lucy Marsden, played by the incomparable Ellen Burstyn, tells the story of her marriage at the tender age of 15 to 50-year-old Captain William Marsden, a Civil War veteran, along with many colorful episodes in the incredible 99-year oral history of her life.

Reviews of Gurganus' book, *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, have been unanimous in their praise: "This remarkable first novel is a gem: entertaining, engrossing and memorable," wrote *Publisher's Weekly*. "Feisty, irreverent and with a caustic tongue...Lucy's outspoken opinions crackle with dark humor...She distills the essence of the war, evokes the atmosphere of the small town of Falls, North Carolina – interspersing social commentary about the South, its women and the institution of slavery – and draws the portrait of a singular marriage." *The Evening Standard* raved, "This is a work generous, imaginative and brave...an amazing novel of the American South," while *The New York Times* dubbed the book "an overwhelming performance."

*Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All* was on the *New York Times* Best-Seller list for five months and was the Main Selection of the Book of the Month Club. Translated into twelve languages, the novel sold over four million copies in hardback and millions more in two paperback editions.

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Born Edna Rae Gillooly in Detroit, Michigan, **Ellen Burstyn** debuted on Broadway in 1957 in *Fair Game*. Her starring role in *Same Time, Next Year* in the 1974-75 season brought her a Tony Award as Best Actress, as well as the Drama Desk and Outer Circle Critics Awards. In 1978, she created the role in the film version and was awarded a Golden Globe and received an Academy Award nomination. Her other theatre credits include *84 Charring Cross Road* and *Park Your Car in Harvard Yard*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Shimada*, *Sacrilege*, *The Trip to Bountiful* and *Death of Papa*. Most recently, Ms. Burstyn starred in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night* at Houston's Alley Theatre and at Hartford Stage in Connecticut.

A five-time Academy Award nominee, Ms. Burstyn's role in Martin Scorsese's *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* won her the Oscar for Best Actress in 1974 (making her the first actress to win a Tony and an Oscar in the same year). She has been nominated for Oscars in four other film roles: *The Last Picture Show* (1971), *The Exorcist* (1973), *Resurrection* (1980), and *Requiem for a Dream* (1999). Other film credits include *Goodbye Charlie*, *Providence*, *Twice in a Lifetime*, *Hannah's War*, *Dying Young*, *The Cemetery Club*, *The Spitfire Grill* and *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, among others. On television, Ms. Burstyn received an Emmy nomination for her title role in *The People vs. Jean Harris*. She received a second nomination for her starring role in *Pack of Lies*, a 1987 Hallmark Hall of Fame television production. She also starred in *Act of Vengeance* (HBO), *Into Thin Air* (CBS), *Getting Out* (ABC), *My Brother's Keeper* (CBS), Disney's *Flash*, Showtime's *Mermaid*, and the CBS series *That's Life*, among many others. Ms. Burstyn has received Career Achievement Awards from the 2000 Boston Film Festival and from the National Board of Review in 2001. She was nominated for a Grammy (Best Spoken Word category) as the narrator of *Growing Old Along With Me*, *The Best Is Yet To Be*. Ms. Burstyn was the first woman to be elected President of Actor's Equity Association (1982-85), and served as the Artistic Director of the Actors Studio for six years, where she studied with the late Lee Strasberg. She continues to serve there as Co-President with Al Pacino and Harvey Keitel. Ms. Burstyn also teaches in the Actors Studio/New School M.F.A. program at the New School for Social Research and lectures throughout the country on a wide range of topics. She is also in the process of writing her autobiography, which will be published by Riverhead Press in 2003.

**Martin Tahse** began his theatrical career in summer stock as a producer. After three years, he formed a company in New York to produce the national tours of Broadway plays and musicals, including *The Miracle Worker*, *Fiorello*, *Two for the Seesaw*, *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Funny Girl*. Interested in exploring new areas, he accepted an offer to produce films for ABC Television. Besides producing, he began writing as story editor on the films. His credits include co-writing *The Look-Alike* and an adaptation of the novel, *Country of the Heart*, for Universal and USA Cable. The latter was nominated for a Writers Guild Award. He returned to writing alone and in all produced and/or wrote 28 films. He is returning to the theater with *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, which is his first play.

**Don Scardino's** directing career spans television, film, and theatre. He staged the Broadway and national touring productions of *A Few Good Men*. He directed Ellen Burstyn in *Sacrilege* on Broadway, and won an Obie Award for his direction of A.R. Gurney's *A Cheever Evening*. He served as Artistic Director of Playwright's Horizons for four years, where he produced over two dozen new American plays. He has directed extensively off-Broadway, including *The Kathy and Mo Show*, Neal Bell's *On the Bum*; and A.R. Gurney's *Later Life* at Playwright's Horizons; as well as the successful Broadway revival of *Godspell* at Lamb's Players Theater. Other credits include *Higher Standard of Living*, *The Hit Parade*, *Mass Appeal*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Sister Mary Ignatius*...and many more. For television he served as co-Executive Producer (and frequent director) of *The Education of Max Bickford*, as well as director for multiple episodes of *Cosby*, *Sports Night*, *The West Wing*, *Tracey Takes On*, *Homicide*, among others. Mr. Scardino has been nominated for an Emmy, The Ace, and The DGA Award.

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