



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

News

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Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*  
Craig Noel, *Artistic Director*

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**THE OLD GLOBE PRESENTS WORLD-PREMIERE MUSICAL:**  
**CHITA RIVERA: THE DANCER'S LIFE**

**FOUR-TIME TONY AWARD-WINNER TERRENCE McNALLY PENS BOOK;**  
**GRACIELA DANIELE DIRECTS AND CHOREOGRAPHS EXCITING**  
**BROADWAY-BOUND PRODUCTION**

San Diego – The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is thrilled to announce its Season 2005/2006 opener: *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, a world-premiere musical celebration of the life and career of one of America's most beloved stage performers, written by four-time Tony Award-winner **Terrence McNally** with direction and choreography by **Graciela Daniele**. The production will run in the Old Globe Theatre September 10 through October 23 (press opening: September 22). Following its run at the Globe, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* will be produced on Broadway by West Egg Entertainment and The Producer Circle Co. with Marty Bell and Aldo Scrofani as Executive Producers, beginning performances in November, 2005. Individual tickets go on sale on **August 21** at 10:00am and will be available by calling (619) 23-GLOBE, on-line at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org), or by visiting the Globe Box Office in Balboa Park.

This unique theatrical event offers audiences a rare look into that moment when great musical numbers in the theatre were born, as related and performed by the woman for whom they were created – the ultimate Broadway “gypsy.” *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* is a magical tour through landmark creations in the American theatre that were helmed by some of the greatest talents in its history, including Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein, Bob Fosse, Gower Champion and Michael Kidd and will feature new songs by the Tony Award-winning team of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. Along the way, Rivera and the eleven-member company, drawn from among Broadway's most talented performers, will celebrate some of her most stunning and legendary Broadway performances – from *West Side Story* to *Chicago* to *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

“Chita Rivera is our strongest link to the Golden Age of the American Musical. She worked with all the great choreographers and composers and was present at the creation of such seminal masterpieces as The Dance at the Gym from *West Side Story* when the talent in the room was a veritable Mount Rushmore of the American theatre: Bernstein, Sondheim, Robbins, Laurents and Prince,” said Terrence McNally. “I hope our show reminds audiences of what that level of theatre was like and what it still can be if the talent, the technique and the passion are there. *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* looks back in order to look forward.”

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*Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* features scenic design by Loy Arcenas, costume design by Toni Leslie James, lighting design by Jules Fisher and Peggy Eisenhauer, sound design by Scott Lehrer, with musical direction by Mark Hummell.

The Old Globe is also pleased to announce its annual **Gala on Saturday, September 17**, which will include a cocktail reception and silent auction, a special preview performance of *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, followed by dinner and dancing on the Globe plaza. This exciting event, co-chaired by Board members **Donald Cohn, Harry Cooper, Todd Figi, Conrad Prebys, Tony Thornley** and **Harvey White**, is the Globe's largest fundraiser, celebrating the achievements of the year as well as supporting the institution's educational outreach programs. The 2005 Gala is also part of the Globe's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

The internationally-acclaimed, Tony® Award-winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theatres in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 70 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theater artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and John Goodman, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *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.

During this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, the Globe is presenting *The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth* and *The Winter's Tale* playing in nightly rotation in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre; *Moonlight and Magnolias*, a new comedy play about the making of *Gone With The Wind*, in the Old Globe Theatre; and the world premiere production about Ann Landers, *The Lady with All the Answers*, in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage. The 2005/6 Season continues the celebration with two more world premieres, including *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, an exciting musical biography of the acclaimed actress/singer/dancer, as well as a thrilling new work by Twyla Tharp set to the music of the legendary Bob Dylan. Under the leadership of Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### CHITA RIVERA

An accomplished and versatile actress/singer/dancer, Ms Rivera has won two Tony Awards (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *The Rink*) and received six additional Tony nominations. She recently starred on Broadway in the revival of the musical *Nine* with Antonio Banderas. In December, 2002 she received the coveted Kennedy Center Honor in Washington, DC. Ms. Rivera created the role of Velma Kelly in the original Broadway production of *Chicago* opposite Gwen Verdon (1975) and appears in the film version. Chita starred in the London, Las Vegas and Toronto productions of *Chicago-The Musical*. Her recent starring roles include the new Kander/Ebb/McNally musical *The Visit* (Goodman Theatre) and *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Mark Taper Forum). Chita trained as a ballerina (age 11) before receiving a scholarship to the American School of Ballet by the legendary George Balanchine. Her first appearance (age 17) was in the chorus of *Call Me Madam*. Her electric performance as Anita in the Broadway premiere of *West Side Story* (1957) brought her stardom, which she repeated in London. Her career is highlighted by starring roles in *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Jerry's Girls*; (original Broadway casts) *Guys and Dolls*, *Can-Can*, *Seventh Heaven*, *Mr. Wonderful*. On tour: *Born Yesterday*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Call Me Madam*, *Threepenny Opera*, *Sweet Charity*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Zorba*, and *Can-Can* with The Rockettes. Chita played Nicky in the film version of *Sweet Charity* with Shirley MacLaine. Her most treasured production is her daughter, singer/dancer/choreographer, Lisa Mordente.

### TERRENCE McNALLY

Terrence McNally was last represented on Broadway as the book writer for the musical *The Full Monty* (which had its world premiere at The Old Globe in 2000), for which he received a Tony Award nomination; and off-Broadway as the book writer for the musical, *A Man of No Importance* (music and lyrics by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens). He won his fourth Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for *Ragtime* (music and lyrics by Flaherty and Ahrens). McNally won the Tony in 1996 for his play *Master Class*, in which Zoe Caldwell created the role of Maria Callas; the 1995 Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Play as well as the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play for *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; and the 1993 Tony for his book of the musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (music and lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb). His other plays include *Corpus Christi*; *A Perfect Ganesh*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; and *It's Only a Play*, all of which began at the Manhattan Theatre Club. Earlier stage works include *Bad Habits*, *The Ritz*, *Where Has Tommy Flowers Gone?*, *And Things That Go Bump in the Night*, *Next* and the book for the musical *The Rink* (music and lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb). For the Central Park opera trilogy presented at the New York City Opera in the fall of 1999 he wrote the libretto for *The Food of Love*, with music by Robert Beaser. In October, the San Francisco Opera presented *Dead Man Walking* with McNally's libretto and music by Jake Heggie. He recently wrote the book for *The Visit* with score by Kander and Ebb. McNally has written a number of TV scripts, including "Andre's Mother" for which he won an Emmy Award. He has received two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Rockefeller Grant, a Lucille Lortel Award, a citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and has been a member of the Dramatists Guild since 1970.

### GRACIELA DANIELE

Graciela Daniele most recently directed and choreographed the premiere of the musical, *Dessa Rose* (music and lyrics by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens) for Lincoln Center Theater. She began her career on Broadway as a performer in such musicals as *What Makes Sammy Run?* (debut, 1964); *Here's Where I Belong*; *Promises, Promises*; *Coco*; *Follies*; and *Chicago*. She staged the musical numbers for Christopher Durang's *A History of the American Film* and choreographed such musicals as *The Most Happy Fella* (1979 revival), *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Zorba* (1983 revival), *The Rink*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Goodbye Girl* and *Ragtime*. Graciela directed and choreographed *Dangerous Games* (which she also conceived and wrote the book for), *Once on this Island*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (also conceived and wrote the book), *Annie Get Your Gun* (starring Bernadette Peters), and *Marie Christine*. She was Movement Consultant on *Elaine Stritch At Liberty* and Creative Consultant on *Barbara Cook's Broadway*. Ms. Daniele has been nominated for 10 Tony Awards for choreography, direction and book.

**THE OLD GLOBE**  
**CHITA RIVERA: THE DANCER'S LIFE**  
**FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:** *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*  
By Terrence McNally

**WHEN:** September 10 – October 23; *Press Opening: Thursday, September 22 at 8pm*  
Performances: – Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm  
– Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm  
– Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm  
– *There will be no performances on 9/17 at 2pm & 8pm or 10/1 at 8pm*

**WHERE:** Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

**WHO:** Director: Graciela Daniele  
Scenic Design: Loy Arcenas  
Costume Design: Toni Leslie James  
Lighting Design: Jules Fisher & Peggy Eisenhauer  
Sound Design: Scott Lehrer  
Musical Direction: Mark Hummell  
Stage Manager: Arturo Porazzi

Cast: Chita Rivera

Young Chita: Liana Ortiz  
Jasmine Perri (Understudy)

Ensemble: Richard Amaro, Cleve Asbury, Lloyd Culbreath,  
Madeleine Kelly, Malinda Farrington, Edgard Gallardo,  
Deirdre Goodwin, Richard Montoya, Lainie Sakakura,  
Alex Sanchez, Allyson Tucker

**BACKGROUND:**

This unique theatrical event offers its audience a rare look into that moment when great musical numbers in the theatre were born, as related and performed by the woman for whom they were created. *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life* is a magical tour through landmark creations in the American theatre that were helmed by some of the greatest talents in its history, including Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein, Bob Fosse, Gower Champion and Michael Kidd. Along the way, Rivera and company will celebrate some of her most stunning and legendary Broadway performances – from *West Side Story* to *Chicago* to *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

**TICKETS:** \$47.00 – \$75.00

**BOX OFFICE: (619) 23-GLOBE**

Hours: –Mondays noon to 6pm  
–Tuesday thru Saturdays: noon to 8:30pm  
–Sundays: noon to 7:30pm  
–Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover Card accepted