



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

## News

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### NORBERT LEO BUTZ, STAR OF THE OLD GLOBE'S WORLD-PREMIERE MUSICAL *DIRTY ROTTEN* *SCOUNDRELS*, WINS 2005 TONY AWARD®!

-- *GLOBE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JACK O'BRIEN RECEIVES SEVENTH CAREER NOMINATION* --  
-- *PRODUCTION WINS 2005 DRAMA DESK AWARD* --

San Diego – The Old Globe is thrilled to announce that the Theatre's acclaimed world-premiere musical, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, received a Tony Award for the show's star Norbert Leo Butz at the 2005 awards ceremony last night. The production received 11 nominations in all, including nods for **Best Musical**, Globe Artistic Director **Jack O'Brien** for Best Direction of a Musical, **Jeffrey Lane** for Best Book of a Musical, **David Yazbek** for Best Original Score, **Jerry Mitchell** for Best Choreography, **Butz** and **John Lithgow** for Best Actor in a Musical, **Sherie Rene Scott** for Best Actress in a Musical, **Joanna Gleason** for Best Featured Actress in a Musical, **Kenneth Posner** for Best Lighting Design of a Musical, and **Harold Wheeler** for Best Orchestrations.

This nomination represents O'Brien's third consecutive nomination (the seventh nomination of his career), having been nominated for (and won) the Tony in 2004 for his direction of the acclaimed Lincoln Center production of *Henry IV* and in 2003 for the mega-hit musical *Hairspray*. O'Brien's past Tony Award nominations include nods for *Henry IV* (2004, winner), *Hairspray* (2003, winner), *The Full Monty* (2001), *The Invention of Love* (2001), *Two Shakespearean Actors* (1992) and *Porgy and Bess* (1977).

In addition, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* took home the Drama Desk Award for this year's Best Musical, while **Norbert Leo Butz** was awarded the 2005 Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Actor in a Musical. He also won TDF/Astaire Award for Best Male Dancer of the season. *Scoundrels* choreographer **Jerry Mitchell** also won a 2005 Tony Award for his work on the Broadway revival of *La Cage aux Folles*.

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*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* played to sold-out audiences at the Globe during the fall of 2004 and opened at Broadway's Imperial Theatre on March 3, 2005. The show reunited the creative team of Jack O'Brien, Jerry Mitchell and David Yazbek from the Globe's award-winning production of *The Full Monty* (2000).

Based on the popular 1988 film, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* centers on two con men living in the French Riviera. The first, a small-time crook named Freddy Benson, swindles women by wakening their compassion with fabricated stories about his grandmother's failing health. The other is suave, sophisticated con artist Lawrence Jameson, who also makes his living by talking rich ladies out of their money, but on a much grander scale. After meeting on a train, they unsuccessfully attempt to work together only to find that this small French town isn't big enough for the two of them. They agree on a settlement: the first one to extract \$50,000 from a young female target wins, and the other must leave town. A hilarious battle of cons ensues, bringing out the best and worst in each man, along with a fun, unexpected twist that will keep audiences laughing, humming and guessing to the end!

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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 70 years. The Globe produces a year-round season of 15 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 Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Full Monty and Damn Yankees, have been developed at the 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 Old Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in the American theatre.*