



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*

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JERRY PATCH IS UNANIMOUS CHOICE FOR NEW OLD GLOBE POSITION: RESIDENT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR;

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JACK O'BRIEN EXTENDS CONTRACT THROUGH 2007/2008 SEASON

San Diego – Jack O'Brien, Artistic Director, and Louis G. Spisto, Executive Director, of The Old Globe in San Diego, announced today the appointment of Jerry Patch to the new position of Resident Artistic Director.

Patch is currently the Dramaturg and a member of the long standing artistic team at Southern California's Tony Award-winning South Coast Repertory (SCR), where he coordinated the development of 150 new plays, including three Pulitzer Prize winners and numerous other finalists. Patch became the top choice for this new role at the Globe because of his many years of artistic accomplishments, his exceptional relationships with the nation's leading directors and playwrights, and his enthusiastic commitment to new work.

O'Brien noted, "Jerry Patch's brilliant, iconoclastic, and original talent is sheer genius in our midst – perhaps the most adroit and experienced dramaturgical presence in the landscape that has encouraged more of the best playwrights of our time than perhaps anyone else. His even-tempered objectivity has provided the security writers need so desperately to take the creative leap into the unknown. He renews with his presence our conviction that, alongside the classical lines we have protected so fervently over the last 70 years of our existence, the clarion voices of new writers need to be heard, encouraged, and given a home."

Spisto commented, "Jerry's passion, knowledge and expertise in the field make him the ideal choice for this new position at The Old Globe. His commitment to new work will add to the Globe's national reputation as a creative haven for the country's foremost theatre artists. Jerry will work with Old Globe guest directors, playwrights and designers and manage the Globe artistic staff in the casting and literary areas. Additionally, he will work closely with Jack and me planning the annual season. Jerry begins his duties at The Old Globe full-time on June 1, 2005."

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Additionally, two-time Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Jack O'Brien has extended his contract through the 2007/2008 season. O'Brien and Patch will work closely together on shaping the Globe's artistic future, with O'Brien continuing to bring major projects to the Globe's stages, while Patch will focus on the development of new work as well as manage the day-to-day artistic process.

O'Brien commented, "Since the current onslaught of activity makes it impossible for me to stay continually in residence in San Diego, and since it is equally impossible for me to believe I am no longer of use to this theatre or this community, I welcome the chance to extend my personal contract and my commitment to this theatre while finding the best way to share the day-to-day chores and business solutions with Lou Spisto, our Executive Director, and with Jerry Patch, our new Resident Artistic Director. My loyalty is in place. My leash is simply longer. And my gratitude for both is boundless."

"Jack's creative vision continues to garner The Old Globe national acclaim and he continues to bring to San Diego the world's finest theatre artists. We are thrilled with Jack's artistic success both here at The Globe and on Broadway and look forward to many more years of his involvement," said Spisto. "Together, Jack and Jerry are an unbeatable artistic team."

While at SCR, Patch worked as Dramaturg on numerous new works, including Donald Margulies' *Sight Unseen* and *Brooklyn Boy*, which just opened to critical acclaim on Broadway, Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit*, Howard Corder's *Search and Destroy*, Amy Freed's *The Beard of Avon*, as well as several world premiere plays by Richard Greenberg, including *Three Days of Rain* and the upcoming *A Naked Girl on the Appian Way*. He also served as the Project Director of SCR's renowned Pacific Playwrights Festival, which annually introduces seven new plays to an audience of national theatre leaders. Typically, more than 75% of the plays presented receive multiple productions in theatres across the country. During his tenure at SCR, Patch also held the position of Artistic Director (1990-1997) of The Sundance Theatre Program, where he directed the Playwrights Laboratory, one of the nation's leading new play development programs. Additionally, he ran the Sundance Summer Theatre, a repertory of 2-3 productions staged outdoors for Utah audiences and The Sundance Children's Theatre, which is dedicated to the development and presentation of new works for family audiences by leading American playwrights. He has also served as a consulting Dramaturg for New York's renowned Roundabout Theatre Company, one of two largest theatre companies in the country.

Board Chairman Sheryl White noted, "The Board of Directors is delighted that Jack has extended his contract and that he and Lou have appointed Jerry Patch to the new position of Resident Artistic Director. This new leadership structure represents an amazing opportunity for The Old Globe. Jack will continue to bring his extraordinary artistic vision; institutional history and directorial talents and Jerry will bring to us an incredible track record developing new work. Combined with the success The Old Globe has experienced with Lou running the organization, our future couldn't be more exciting."

Jack O'Brien's recent Globe productions include *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (currently transferring to Broadway), *Imaginary Friends*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Full Monty*, *The Seagull*, *The Magic Fire*, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, the world premieres of Associate Artist A.R. Gurney's *Labor Day* and Tina Howe's *Pride's Crossing*, as well as *Time and Again*, *The Doctor Is Out (Getting Away With Murder)* by Stephen Sondheim and George Furth, plus productions of *Henry IV*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Oleanna*, *Damn Yankees*, *King Lear*, *Ghosts*, *Hamlet*, *Uncle Vanya*, and many others. His Broadway credits include *Henry IV* (Tony Award®); *Hairspray* (Tony Award®), *The Invention of Love* (Tony nominations, best director and play), *The Full Monty* (Tony nominations, best director and musical) at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, *Damn Yankees* (Tony nomination, best musical revival); *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Tony nominations, best director and play), *Porgy and Bess* (Tony Award; also for Houston Grand Opera, as well as *More to Love* and *Labor Day* at Manhattan Theatre Club and *Pride's Crossing*, *The Little Foxes*, *Hapgood* (Lucille Lortel Award for Direction, 1995) at Lincoln Center. He has directed various operas including *The Magic Flute*; *Tosca*, *Così fan Tutte*, and others. Television credits include *An Enemy of the People*, *All My Sons*, *I Never Sang for My Father*, *Painting Churches*, and *The Skin of Our Teeth*, all for PBS's American Playhouse. He is currently preparing to direct the film of *Hairspray*. Recent awards include the 2004 Thomas DeGaetani Award (USITT), the 2002 "Mr. Abbott" Award (SDCF), the 2001 Joan Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity, the 2001 Joe A. Callaway Award (SDCF), the Drama League's Julia Hansen Award for Excellence in Directing, 2001. O'Brien is a Member of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, University of San Diego and a member of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre.

Jerry Patch is currently the Dramaturg and a member of the long standing artistic team at Southern California's Tony Award-winning South Coast Repertory (SCR). He has coordinated the development of 150 new plays, including three Pulitzer Prize winners and numerous other finalists. He has worked on the world premieres of *Abundance*, *Freedomland*, *Golden Child*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Search and Destroy*, *Sight Unseen*, *Three Days of Rain*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit* and *Brooklyn Boy* (now playing on Broadway). He co-conceived *The Education of Randy Newman* with Michael Roth and Mr. Newman (SCR 2000). He has also served as the project director of SCR's Pacific Playwrights Festival since its inception in 1998. During his tenure at SCR, he also held the position of Artistic Director (1990-1997) of The Sundance Theatre Program, where he directed the Playwrights Laboratory, one of the nation's leading new play development programs. Additionally, he ran the Sundance Summer Theatre, a repertory of 2-3 productions staged outdoors for Utah audiences and The Sundance Children's Theatre, which is dedicated to the development and presentation of new works for family audiences by leading American playwrights. He has also served as a consulting Dramaturg for New York's renowned Roundabout Theatre Company, one of two largest theatre companies in the country.

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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 nearly 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 theatre 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, Pride's Crossing 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.