



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

News

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**THE OLD GLOBE PRESENTS W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S**  
**CLASSIC: *THE CONSTANT WIFE***

**GLOBE ASSOCIATE ARTIST SERET SCOTT DIRECTS MASTERPIECE OF MANNERS**

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present *The Constant Wife*, by W. Somerset Maugham, directed by Globe Associate Artist Seret Scott, playing in the Old Globe Theatre April 1 through May 7, 2006 (press opening: April 6).

Constance Middleton is beautiful, intelligent, and utterly unconcerned with the fact that her husband is having an affair with her best friend. In this classic biting comedy of manners and mistresses, the delicate balance of love and marriage is upended when a shocking indiscretion is publicly revealed. Rather than humiliating herself and others, she denies the affair, defends the two, and sets about turning bad luck, unfaithful friends, local gossip and a broken heart to her own advantage. Penned by the legendary, sharp-witted W. Somerset Maugham, *The Constant Wife* is an irresistible comedy of marital maneuvers in 1920s upper-class London.

The cast of *The Constant Wife* includes Globe/USD MFA graduate Henny Russell as Constance Middleton; Wynn Harmon (*Macbeth*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Pericles*) as John Middleton; J. Paul Boemer (*The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth*) as Bernard Kersal; Globe Associate Artist Kandis Chappell as Mrs. Culver; Lara Phillips as Marie-Louise Durham; Heidi Fecht as Martha Culver; Amanda Naughton (*Paramour*, *Loves & Hours*) as Barbara Fawcett; John Rosen as Mortimer Durham; and Cris O'Bryon as Bentley.

The production team for *The Constant Wife* includes Seret Scott, director; Globe Associate Artist Ralph Funicello, scenic design; Associate Artist Lewis Brown, costume design; Chris Parry, lighting design; Paul Peterson, sound design; and Lurie Horns Pfeffer, stage manager.

Tickets for *The Constant Wife* go on sale Sunday, March 12 and are available at (619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe website at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org), or by visiting the Globe Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$59.

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**William Somerset Maugham** was born in 1874. By the time he was ten, both of Maugham's parents were dead and he was sent to live with his uncle, the Rev. Henry Maugham, in Whitstable, Kent. After an education at King's School, Canterbury, and Heidelberg University in Germany, Maugham became a medical student at St. Thomas Hospital, London. While training to be a doctor, Maugham worked as an obstetric clerk in the slums of Lambeth. He used these experiences to help him write his first novel, *Liza of Lambeth* (1897). The book sold well and he decided to abandon medicine and become a full-time writer. Maugham achieved fame with his play *Lady Frederick* (1907), a comedy about money and marriage. By 1908 Maugham had four plays running simultaneously in London. On the outbreak of World War I, Maugham joined a Red Cross ambulance unit in France. While serving on the Western Front he met the 22-year-old American, Gerald Haxton. The two men became lovers and lived together for the next thirty years. During the war, Maugham's best-known novel, *Of Human Bondage* (1915) was published. This was followed by another successful book, *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919). Popular plays include *The Circle* (1921), *East of Suez* (1922), *The Constant Wife* (1926) and the anti-war piece, *For Services Rendered* (1932). In his later years Maugham wrote his autobiography, *Summing Up* (1938) and works of fiction such as *The Razor's Edge* (1945), *Catalina* (1948) and *Quartet* (1949). He died in 1965.

Globe Associate Artist **Seret Scott** most recently directed the Globe's critically-acclaimed production of *I Just Stopped By to See the Man* in 2005, as well as *Knowing Cairo*, *Faith Healer*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *The Trojan Women*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *The Old Settler*, *Madame Mao's Memories*, and *From the Mississippi Delta*. Elsewhere she has directed *Zooman and the Sign* at Second Stage Theatre; *The Amen Corner*, *Some Sweet Day*, *The Joy Luck Club* (American premiere; Connecticut Critic's Award nom.) at Long Wharf Theatre; *My Children, My Africa*, *A Lesson From Aloes*, *Mud, River, Stone* (world premiere), Buffalo Arena Theatre; *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, South Coast Rep (Beverly Hills NAACP Directing Award nom.); and many others at theaters around the country, such as Crossroads Theatre, George Street Playhouse, Alley Theatre, and the National Black Theatre, as well as five seasons at Sundance Institute's Playwrights Lab. She was also the recipient of a TCG/PEW National Artist Residency Grant at the Long Wharf Theatre.

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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 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 theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, 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 Winter Season, the Globe is presenting two fascinating world premieres, including Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life, an exciting musical biography of the acclaimed actress/singer/dancer, as well as THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN', 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.*

**THE OLD GLOBE**  
***THE CONSTANT WIFE***  
**FACT SHEET**

**WHAT:**        ***The Constant Wife***  
                  By W. Somerset Maugham

**WHEN:**       **April 1 – May 7, 2006; Press Opening: Thursday, April 6 at 8pm**  
Performances: – Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm  
                  – Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm  
                  – Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm

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

**WHO:**        Director: Seret Scott +                    Scenic Design: Ralph Funicello +  
                  Lighting Design: Chris Parry        Costume Design: Lewis Brown +  
                  Sound Design: Paul Peterson        Stage Manager: Lurie Horns Pfeffer

Cast:	J. Paul Boehmer	<i>Bernard Kersal</i>
	Kandis Chappell +	<i>Mrs. Culver</i>
	Heidi Fecht	<i>Martha Culver</i>
	Wynn Harmon	<i>John Middleton</i>
	Amanda Naughton	<i>Barbara Fawcett</i>
	Cris O’Byron	<i>Bentley</i>
	Lara Phillips	<i>Marie-Louise Durham</i>
	John Rosen	<i>Mortimer Durham</i>
	Henny Russell	<i>Constance Middleton</i>

+ = Old Globe Associate Artist

**BACKGROUND:** Constance Middleton is beautiful, intelligent, and utterly unconcerned with the fact that her husband is having an affair with her best friend. In this classic biting comedy of manners and mistresses, the delicate balance of love and marriage is upended when a shocking indiscretion is publicly revealed. Rather than humiliating herself and others, she denies the affair, defends the two, and sets about turning bad luck, unfaithful friends, local gossip and a broken heart to her own advantage. Penned by the legendary sharp wit Somerset Maugham, *The Constant Wife* is an irresistible comedy of marital maneuvers in 1920s upper-class London.

**TICKETS:**     \$19 – \$59

**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