



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

News

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THE OLD GLOBE PRESENTS ACCLAIMED MUSICAL PLAY:

HERSHEY FELDER AS GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE

RENOWNED CREATOR/PERFORMER HERSHEY FELDER PORTRAYS GEORGE GERSHWIN IN FASCINATING PIECE ON ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST COMPOSERS

San Diego – Executive Director Louis Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch of the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe are pleased to present *Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone*, written and performed by Hershey Felder, directed by **Joel Zwick**, playing in the Old Globe Theatre **Sept 9 – Oct 22, 2006** (press opening: **Sunday, Sept 17 at 7:00pm**).

A celebrated work about the legendary American composer, *George Gershwin Alone* is a delightful “play with music” by actor, playwright and Steinway concert artist Hershey Felder. The show incorporates the Gershwin's' best-known songs, from *The Man I Love* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*, through passages and songs from *An American in Paris* and *Porgy and Bess*, to a complete performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*. The first popular composer to use jazz as the foremost musical element in the serious concert hall, Gershwin absorbed the musical styles, rhythms and sophistication of the American spirit and created a musical language that made its mark on both classical and popular music throughout the world. Hershey Felder brings to life the spirit and talent of the legendary composer and pianist, leading audiences through the fascinating rhythms of Gershwin's legendary songbook, while telling the tale of his tragically short life. *George Gershwin Alone* marks the first completed “movement” in Mr. Felder's “Composer Sonata,” a trilogy which is comprised of *Monsieur Chopin* (which had its world premiere in 2005) and the upcoming *Beethoven*.

George Gershwin was born in 1898 to Russian-Jewish immigrant parents in Brooklyn, New York. Together, he and his brother Ira wrote standards such as “The Man I Love,” “Someone to Watch Over Me,” “Embraceable You,” “Fascinating Rhythm,” “I Got Rhythm,” “S'Wonderful” and “They Can't Take That Away from Me.” His groundbreaking opera, *Porgy and Bess*, is now considered an American classic. All told, George Gershwin wrote more than one thousand songs for the stage and screen as well as works for the opera house and the symphony orchestra, including his renowned *Rhapsody in Blue*. In 1937, at the age of 38, Gershwin died of an undiagnosed brain tumor, never knowing how famous and beloved he and his work would become.

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Critics across the country have raved about *George Gershwin Alone*: “In an act of uncanny evocation that more often than not appears to verge on full-fledged channeling, the quadruple-threat performer Hershey Felder – a Canadian-bred actor, singer, pianist and writer, and all of the first order – has brought the quintessential American composer back to life,” wrote the Chicago Sun-Times. USA Today enthused, “Felder effectively conveys the emotional roots and resonance of Gershwin's music. Performing gems such as *An American in Paris* and *Bess, You Is My Woman Now*, he explains how the journeys taken by characters relevant to those works are reflected in the progression of notes, the chord changes, even the orchestrations.” And according to The New York Times, “*George Gershwin Alone*...makes a great case for his subject as the American Mozart.”

Tickets for *George Gershwin Alone* go on sale August 20 and are available at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, on the Globe website at **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.

The Old Globe is also pleased to announce its annual **Gala on Saturday, September 16**, which will include a cocktail reception and silent auction, a special preview performance of *George Gershwin Alone*, followed by dinner and dancing on the Globe plaza. This exciting event, co-chaired by Valerie Cooper, Robert Gleason, Jake Figi and Carolyn Yorston, is the Globe's largest fund-raiser, celebrating the achievements of the year as well as supporting the Theatre's educational outreach programs.

Hershey Felder has performed *George Gershwin Alone* on Broadway, London's West End, Ford's Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, as well as at theaters in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Florida, and a year-long run at Chicago's Royal George Theatre. His regional and international appearances include *Monsieur Chopin* at the Royal George, American Repertory Theatre and Hartford Stage. Felder's compositions include *Fairytale*, a musical; *Les Anges de Paris*, Suite for Violin and Piano; *Song Settings*, poetry by Vachel Lindsay; *Aliyah*, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra; *Hollywood Sweet*, for piano and orchestra; *Etudes Thematiques* for piano. Recordings include *Love Songs of the Yiddish Theatre*, *Back from Broadway*, as well as *George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin* for the WFMT Radio Network Recordings label. Current projects include the completion of the “Composer Trilogy” with *Beethoven*, as well as a Negaunee Foundation Chicago commission to complete *Noah's Ark*, an opera. Mr. Felder is on the Board of Directors of the Chicago College of Performing Arts, and the Board of Directors of America's historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC. He has also been a Scholar in Residence at Harvard University's Department of Music. Mr. Felder is married to Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada.

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Joel Zwick directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time, produced by Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson and Gary Goetzman. Recent films include *Fat Albert* (with Bill Cosby), and *Elvis Has Left the Building*, starring John Corbett and Kim Basinger. Currently, Mr. Zwick is recognized as Hollywood's most prolific director of episodic television, having the direction of five hundred and twenty-five episodes to his credit. These include having directed twenty-one pilots, which have gone on to become regular series. Television shows include: *Laverne & Shirley*, *Mork & Mindy*, *Bosom Buddies*, *Webster*, *Perfect Strangers*, *Full House*, *Step By Step*, *Family Matters*, *It's a Living*, *Bros. Wayans*, *Joanie Loves Chachi*, *Jamie Fox*, *Kirk*, *Parent' Hood*, *Angie*, *On Our Own*, *Two of A Kind*, *Love Boat*, *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*, and many others. Mr. Zwick began his theatrical career at La Mama E.T.C., as director of the La Mama Plexus. He has directed on Broadway, off-Broadway, and Broadway touring companies. Previous New York productions have included *George Gershwin Alone* (Broadway, London, Chicago), *Dance with Me* (Tony nomination), *Shenandoah* (Broadway national tour), *Oklahoma* (national tour) and *Cold Storage* (American Place Theater). He acted in the original New York production of *MacBird*. He also directed *Esther* (Promenade Theater, NY), *Merry-Go-Round* (Chicago and Las Vegas), *Last Chance Saloon* and *Woycek* (West End, London). Mr. Zwick has taught drama at Yale University, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wheaton College, and the University of Southern California. He is a graduate (B.A., M.A.) of Brooklyn College.

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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 the Summer Season, the Globe is presenting its renowned Shakespeare Festival, featuring A Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello and Titus Andronicus playing in nightly rotation in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, as well as Pulitzer Prize-winner Wendy Wasserstein's The Sisters Rosensweig and the world premiere of John Strand's Lincolnesque. 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
GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE
FACT SHEET

WHAT: *Hershey Felder as*
 George Gershwin Alone
 By Hershey Felder
 Music & Lyrics by George and Ira Gershwin

WHEN: **September 9 through October 22; Press Opening: Sunday, September 17 at 7pm**
Performances: – Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm
 – Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm
 – Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm

WHERE: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

WHO: Book: Hershey Felder
 Director: Joel Zwick
 Scenic Design: Yael Pardess
 Lighting Design: Michael T. Gilliam
 Original Sound Design: Jon Gottlieb
 Original Costume Design: Kenneth Cole
 Production Stage Manager: Morgan Cromwell
 Production Manager/Technical Direction: Matt Marsden

 Cast: Hershey Felder as *George Gershwin/Playwright*

BACKGROUND:

A celebrated work about the legendary American composer, *George Gershwin Alone* is a delightful “play with music” by actor, playwright and Steinway concert artist Hershey Felder. The show incorporates the Gershwins' best-known songs, from *The Man I Love* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*, through passages and songs from *An American in Paris* and *Porgy and Bess*, to a complete performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*. The first popular composer to use jazz as the foremost musical element in the serious concert hall, Gershwin absorbed the musical styles, rhythms and sophistication of the American spirit and created a musical language that made its mark on both classical and popular music throughout the world. For more information, please visit www.gershwinalone.com.

TICKETS: \$19 – \$59

BOX OFFICE: **(619) 23-GLOBE**
 Website: www.TheOldGlobe.org
 Hours: –Mondays noon to 6pm
 –Tuesday thru Saturdays: noon to 8:30pm
 –Sundays: noon to 7:30pm
 –Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover Card accepted