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THE OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES AMY FREED AS NEWEST PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE

PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY GRANT FROM THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION

San Diego – The Tony Award[®]-winning Old Globe is pleased to announce **Amy Freed** (author of the Globe's upcoming production of *Restoration Comedy*, March 3 – April 8) as the newest participant in the Globe's Playwright-in-Residence program.

The Playwright-in-Residence program is part of the Theatre's ongoing efforts to develop new plays and playwrights, as well as expand its artistic offerings. The program began in April of 2006, hosting **Howard Korder** as the Globe's first Playwright-in-Residence. Korder continues his residence through October of 2007. Freed joins him as the second playwright to participate in the program. Her residency began January 1, 2007.

The Playwright-in-Residence program involves an 18-month residency, during which the playwright will work at the Globe during six two-week periods to develop a new play. Throughout the process, the Globe will assemble actors as needed for in-house readings of the play in progress.

Amy Freed is the author of *Restoration Comedy*, *The Beard of Avon*, *Freedomland*, *The Psychic Life of Savages*, *Still Warm*, *Claustrophilia*, and other plays. Her work has been produced at Playwright's Horizons, The Goodman, South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, American Conservatory Theater, California Shakespeare Festival, Playwright's Horizons, Woolly Mammoth, and many other theaters in the United States and Canada. *Restoration Comedy* received its premiere production at Seattle Rep last season. Freed is a recipient of the Joseph Kesselring Award and The Charles MacArthur Award and is a several times winner of the LA Drama Critics Circle Award. She was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, and is currently a Playwright-in-Residence at Stanford University.

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This program is made possible through a grant from **The James Irvine Foundation** made in July, 2005 to help support the Globe's play development and production process. The three-year grant will assist the Globe as it builds upon the broad repertoire of classical works, revivals and large-scale musical projects that have been central to its mission, as well as increase resources devoted to new play development. In addition, the grant will allow the Globe to expand its artistic staff to support literary and dramaturgical efforts for all productions. Finally, the grant will assist in supporting the Globe's roster of leading guest directors, whose work is essential to bringing exceptional productions to the stage.

"We are thrilled that The James Irvine Foundation has recognized the Globe with this grant, which demonstrates the Globe's emergence as a preeminent developer of new works," said Executive Director Louis Spisto. "It will allow the institution to expand its artistic initiatives while reinforcing the Globe's position as a leader on the state and national arts scene."

The purpose of the Playwright Residency program is to support the creation of new plays. To enhance the organization's longstanding reputation for launching high-profile productions, particularly new musicals, the Globe is now also focusing on the development of new plays and playwrights, establishing a core group of playwrights and directors who consider the Globe an artistic home base.

"We are delighted that Amy has joined the Globe family for this exciting residency," said Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch. "Proven, established playwrights like Amy Freed and Howard Korder need to be given the theatrical resources of an institution like The Old Globe to develop their work. We believe our residencies will help some of our best playwrights create important works for theatres across America."

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grant making foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, inclusive, and successful society. The Foundation's grant making is organized around three program areas: Arts, Youth, and California Perspectives, which focuses on engaging new constituencies and infusing new ideas to improve public decision-making. Since 1937 the Foundation has provided more than \$900 million in grants to nonprofit organizations throughout California, and with current assets of more than \$1.5 billion, the Foundation expects to make grants of \$69 million in 2006 for the people of California. For more information about The James Irvine Foundation, please visit its website at www.irvine.org or call (415) 777-2244.

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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 71 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.

Highlights of the Globe's 2006/7 Season include the acclaimed production of Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone, the west coast premiere of Ace, as well as Amy Freed's Restoration Comedy, the co-world premiere of Pig Farm, August Wilson's Two Trains Running and Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf. 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