



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

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Jack O'Brien, *Artistic Director*
Jerry Patch, *Resident Artistic Director*

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OLD GLOBE PRESENTS NOEL COWARD'S *HAY FEVER*,
JULY 14 – AUGUST 19, 2007

ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR ROBERT LONGBOTTOM REVIVES CLASSIC COMEDY

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present *Hay Fever*, by celebrated playwright **Noel Coward**, directed by **Robert Longbottom** (*Side Show*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*), playing in the Old Globe Theatre **July 14 – August 19, 2007** (press opening: Thursday, July 19).

In Noel Coward's delightful comedy *Hay Fever*, each member of the eccentric Bliss family – a retired actress, her novelist husband, and their two children – invites a guest to their country home, unbeknownst to each other. As the unwitting visitors arrive in hopes of a romantic weekend, the stage is set for comedy and chaos. Coward wrote *Hay Fever* in just three days at the ripe young age of 24. Considered one of the playwright's best and most enduring works, *Hay Fever* is a comedic masterpiece, filled with Coward's brilliant wit and biting commentary on the theatrical profession.

The cast of *Hay Fever* features **Alan Campbell** as "Richard Greatham," **Judith Lightfoot Clark** as "Judith Bliss," **Santino Fontana** as "Simon Bliss," **Mikel Sarah Lambert** as "Clara," **Bridget Moloney** as "Jackie Coryton," **Brian Slaten** as "Sandy Tyrel," **Sarah Grace Wilson** as "Sorel Bliss," **John Windsor-Cunningham** as "David Bliss," and **Yvonne Woods** as "Myra Arundel."

The production team for *Hay Fever* includes Robert Longbottom, director; Andrew Jackness, scenic design; Gregg Barnes, costume design; Chris Akerlind, lighting design; Paul Peterson, sound design; and Tracy Skoczelas, stage manager.

Tickets for *Hay Fever* are currently on sale 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 \$62.

Noel Coward (1899 – 1973) made his breakthrough as a playwright in the West End with *The Vortex* (1924), which made him an overnight sensation on both sides of the Atlantic. Coward followed this success with three more major hits, *Hay Fever*, *Fallen Angels* (both 1925) and *Easy Virtue* (1926). In the late 1920s and early 1930s, he wrote enormously popular and elaborate productions such as the full-length operetta *Bitter Sweet* (1929) and *Cavalcade* (1931) as well as elegant comedies including *Private Lives* (1930) and *Design for Living* (1932). The outbreak of World War II saw Coward working harder than ever. The social commentary *This Happy Breed*, the semi-autobiographical comedy-drama *Present Laughter* and the hugely-successful black comedy *Blithe Spirit* formed a West End triple-bill in which Coward starred in all three simultaneous productions. *Blithe Spirit* went on to break box-office records and was made into a film. In the late 1960s, he wrote *Waiting in the Wings* and saw a revival in his popularity, with several new productions of his earlier plays and a number of revues celebrating his music.

Robert Longbottom made his Broadway debut as director/choreographer of the original musical *Side Show*, which earned four Tony Award nominations. Other Broadway credits include *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, the Mark Taper Forum production *Flower Drum Song* with a new book by playwright David Henry Hwang, which earned Mr. Longbottom a Tony nomination for his choreography as well as an Astaire Award and an Outer Critics Circle nomination. Other New York credits include the off-Broadway hit *Pageant*, which he conceived, directed and choreographed, the *Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*, and *Anything Goes* in Concert at Lincoln Center, starring Patti Lupone. For Disney Theatricals he created the compilation musical *On the Record*. At the Kennedy Center, he directed a new production of *Mister Roberts* and returned this year to direct and choreograph *Carnival*. He recently directed a staged reading of *Stage Door* at the Roundabout Theatre and a new musical, *Triangle*, at the Eugene O'Neill Center. Upcoming projects include a “new” Irving Berlin musical with playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and a new play, *Dancing on the Brink*, by Wendy Kesselman.

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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.

THE OLD GLOBE
HAY FEVER
FACT SHEET

WHAT: **Hay Fever**
By Noel Coward
Directed by Robert Longbottom

WHEN: **July 14 through August 19; Press Opening: Thursday, July 19 at 8pm**
Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm; Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm; Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm

WHERE: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

WHO: Director: Robert Longbottom Scenic Designer: Andrew Jackness
Costume Designer: Gregg Barnes Lighting Designer: Chris Akerlind
Sound Designer: Paul Peterson Stage Manager: Tracy Skoczelas

Cast:	Alan Campbell	<i>Richard Greatham</i>
	Judith Lightfoot Clarke	<i>Judith Bliss</i>
	Santino Fontana	<i>Simon Bliss</i>
	Mikel Sarah Lambert	<i>Clara</i>
	Bridget Moloney	<i>Jackie Coryton</i>
	Brian Slaten	<i>Sandy Tyrell</i>
	Sarah Grace Wilson	<i>Sorel Bliss</i>
	John Windsor-Cunningham	<i>David Bliss</i>
	Yvonne Woods	<i>Myra Arundel</i>

BACKGROUND:

In Noel Coward's delightful comedy *Hay Fever*, each member of the eccentric Bliss family – a retired actress, her novelist husband, and their two children – invites a guest to their country home, unbeknownst to each other. As the unwitting visitors arrive in hopes of a romantic weekend, the stage is set for comedy and chaos. Coward wrote *Hay Fever* in just three days at the ripe young age of 24. Considered one of the playwright's best and most enduring works, *Hay Fever* is a comedic masterpiece, filled with Coward's brilliant wit and biting commentary on the theatrical profession.

TICKETS: \$19-\$62

BOX OFFICE: (619) 23-GLOBE

Hours: Mondays: noon to 6pm; Tuesday thru Saturdays: noon to 8:30pm;
Sundays: noon to 7:30pm.