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OLD GLOBE WINS 14 SAN DIEGO CRITICS CIRCLE
“CRAIG NOEL” AWARDS FOR THEATRE EXCELLENCE

GLOBE’S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS JACK O’BRIEN HONORED WITH
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

San Diego – The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is pleased to announce that the Theatre took home **14 awards** at the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle “Craig Noel” Awards Ceremony, which took place on Monday, January 21 – the most awards for any San Diego theatre given this year. The evening was also highlighted by a special tribute to the Globe’s **Artistic Director Emeritus Jack O’Brien**, who received the Critic’s Circle’s **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

The Old Globe’s world-premiere production of *A Catered Affair* took home seven awards, including **Outstanding New Musical**, as well as awards for direction: **John Doyle**; score: **John Bucchino**; Lead Actor in a Musical: **Tom Wopat**; Lead Actress in a Musical: **Faith Prince**; Lighting Design: **Brian MacDevitt**; and Orchestrations: **Don Sebesky**.

Other Globe winners included **Paul Peterson** for Outstanding Sound Design for the Globe’s production of *Bell, Book and Candle*; **Karen Perry**, Outstanding Costume Design for *Two Trains Running*; two awards for Lead Actor in a Play: **James Sutorius** for his performance in *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and **Chuck Cooper** in *Two Trains Running*; **Globe Associate Artist Jonathan McMurtry**, Featured Actor in a Play for his multiple roles in the 2007 Shakespeare Festival; Outstanding Ensemble for the company of *Measure for Measure*; and **Itamar Moses**, Outstanding New Play for *The Four of Us*.

Jack O’Brien, who just announced his retirement as Artistic Director of The Old Globe after 26 years, received a special tribute by the Critics Circle and was honored with a perpetual award named in his honor, the Jack O’Brien Award for Excellence in Directing. Its first recipient was Esther Emery for her direction of three notably different plays at Cygnet and Moxie Theatres in 2007. O’Brien’s tribute included a short film that featured appearances by Tony Award-winning actors Harvey Fierstein and Norbert Leo Butz, celebrated playwright Tom Stoppard, composer David Yazbek, Globe CEO/Executive Producer Lou Spisto, and many other friends and colleagues who have played an important role in his life and career.

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Jack O'Brien served as The Old Globe's Artistic Director from 1981 to 2007. His recent Globe productions include: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *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 world premieres of Terrence McNally's *Up in Saratoga*, A.R. Gurney's *The Snow Ball* and *The Cocktail Hour*, Tom Dulack's *Breaking Legs*, Stephen Metcalfe's *Emily*. On Broadway, he has directed *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Tony nominations: best director and musical), *Henry IV* (Tony Award®); *Hairspray* (Tony Award®); *The Invention of Love* (Tony nominations: best director and play), Lincoln Center Theater; *The Full Monty* (Tony nominations: best director and musical), Eugene O'Neill Theatre; *More to Love*; *Labor Day*, Manhattan Theatre Club; *St. Louis Woman*, City Center Encores!; *Pride's Crossing*, *The Little Foxes*, *Hapgood* (Lucille Lortel Award for Direction, 1995), Lincoln Center; *Damn Yankees* (Tony nomination, best musical revival); *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Tony nominations: best director and play). His opera credits include *Porgy and Bess* for Houston Grand Opera and Broadway (Tony Award), as well as Radio City Music Hall; *The Magic Flute*, San Francisco Opera; *Tosca*, Santa Fe Opera; *Così fan Tutte* and *Aida*, Houston Grand Opera; *The Most Happy Fella*, Michigan Opera and Broadway. For Television, he directed *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. His numerous awards include the 2004 Thomas Degaetani Award (USITT), 2002 "Mr. Abbott" Award (SDCF), 2001 Joan Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity, 2001 Joe A. Callaway Award (SDCF), the Drama League's Julia Hansen Award for Excellence in Directing, 2001. Member, College of Fellows of the American Theatre; Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, University of San Diego.

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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 72 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 2007/2008 Season include the world premiere musical, A Catered Affair, written by Harvey Fierstein and John Bucchino, the West Coast Premiere of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's Oscar and the Pink Lady, the 10th Anniversary production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, In This Corner, by Steven Drukman, Howard Korder's Sea of Tranquility, as well as the world-premieres of Dancing in the Dark and Beethoven, As I Knew Him. Under the leadership of CEO/Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto and Co-Artistic Directors Jerry Patch and Darko Tresnjak, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.