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For Immediate Release: December 10, 2007  
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[www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org)

## **OLD GLOBE PRESENTS PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE** **HOWARD KORDER'S SEA OF TRANQUILITY**

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe will present **Howard Korder's *Sea of Tranquility***, directed by Cleveland Playhouse Artistic Director **Michael Bloom**, to run in the Old Globe Theatre **January 12 – February 10** (press opening: Thursday, January 17 at 8pm).

Tickets for *Sea of Tranquility* are currently on sale and can be purchased by calling **(619) 23-GLOBE**, on the Globe website at **www.TheOldGlobe.org**, or by visiting the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Award-winning Old Globe Playwright-in-Residence Howard Korder's *Sea of Tranquility* was named one of *Time Magazine's* best plays of 2004. In this clever and often hilarious play, a psychologist and his wife sell their house in Connecticut to start a new life in the southwest. His attempts to heal an eclectic string of patients gradually reveal a surprising mystery – both in his past, and in the human condition. New York's *Village Voice* cheered, "Korder's tremendous gift for language crackles with surprise and creates scenes that build to intense heat."

The cast of *Sea of Tranquility* includes **Carlos Akuna** as "Gilbert/Roman," Globe/USD MFA Student **Ashley Clements** as "Kat," **Nike Doukas** as "Phyllis," Old Globe/USD MFA student **Joy Farmer-Clary** (*Hamlet, The Two Gentlemen of Verona*) as "Astarte," Globe/USD MFA Student **Sloan Grenz** as "Josh," **Ted Köch** (*Pig Farm*) as "Ben," Jeffrey Kuhn as "Randy," **Rosina Reynolds** (*Missing Footage*) as "Ashley/Adele," Old Globe/USD MFA graduate **Erika Rolfsrud** (*Cymbeline*) as "Nessa," **Ned Schmidtke** (*Blue/Orange, A Body of Water*) as "Johannsen/Barry" and Globe/USD MFA Student **Tony Von Halle** as "Milton."

The production team includes **Michael Bloom**, director; **Scott Bradley**, scenic design; **David Kay Mickelsen**, costume design; **Robert Vierzel**, lighting design; **Paul Peterson**, sound design; **Elizabeth Lohr**, stage manager.

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Howard Korder's first play, *Night Maneuver*, was produced in 1982 by the Floating Rep in New York City. The Manhattan Punch Line produced *Life on Earth* in its 1985 One-Act Festival, and *Lip Service* the following year. *Fun*, directed by Jon Jory, premiered at the Actors Theater of Louisville's 1987 Humana Festival and received the Heidemann Award for Best One-Act Play. Its companion piece, *Nobody*, was selected for the 1987 O'Neill Playwrights' Conference, where it won the HBO Writer's Award. His *Boys' Life* was produced by Lincoln Center in 1988, directed by William H. Macy, and received a nomination for a Pulitzer Prize. The same year HBO broadcast Korder's television adaptation of *Lip Service*, which won an ACE Award for Best Comedy Special. Korder also wrote *The Passion of Ayn Rand* for Showtime, for which Helen Mirren won a 1999 Emmy for Best Actress. *Stealing Sinatra*, starring David Arquette and William H. Macy, was presented on Showtime in 2004, with Macy receiving an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Korder co-wrote *Truth, Justice, and the American Way*, starring Adrien Brody, Ben Affleck, and Diane Lane. Korder's play *Search and Destroy* was commissioned by South Coast Rep, premiering in 1990 under the direction of David Chambers. It received the L.A. Theater Critics' Award for Best New Play and the Joseph Kesselring Prize from the National Arts Club. The play opened on Broadway at Circle in the Square in 1992 and subsequently played at the Royal Court Theatre in London, under the direction of Stephen Daldry. *The Lights* premiered at Lincoln Center in November 1993, directed by Mark Wing-Davey, receiving seven Drama Desk nominations and an Obie Award. His most recent play, *Sea of Tranquility*, premiered off-Broadway in 2004 and was named one of the ten best plays of the year by *Time* magazine. Korder is the recipient of a 1996 Guggenheim Fellowship and has been a guest lecturer at Yale Drama School, Kenyon College, Arizona State University, the University of Utah, and the College of Santa Fe.

Michael Bloom directed the first public reading of *Sea of Tranquility* as part of the 2003 Pacific Playwrights Festival at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA, which commissioned the play. Artistic Director of the Cleveland Play House, Bloom has directed at many of the country's major theatres, including American Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Rep, South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, Alley Theatre, Alliance Theatre Company, Cleveland Playhouse, Long Wharf Theatre, and the Sundance Playwright's Institute. His productions have also been seen throughout Japan and in Tokyo at the Aoyama Theatre and Theatre Cocoon. His off-Broadway production of *Sight Unseen* garnered three Obie Awards, and a Drama Desk nomination for direction. Other productions include the American premiere of *A Young Lady from Rwanda*, *Gross Indecency* (Elliott Norton Award), the world premiere of *Dinner with Friends* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Los Angeles premieres of *The Cryptogram* and *The Old Neighborhood* at the Geffen Playhouse, *Major Barbara* and *The Philadelphia Story* at Kansas City Repertory Theatre, and the world premiere of Tennessee Williams's *Spring Storm*. He has served as Associate Artistic Director at the Hartman Theatre Company and Associate Director at American Repertory Theatre. Bloom has taught at NYU, Harvard University, UCLA, University of Texas and Scripps College. His articles on theatre have appeared in *American Theatre Magazine* and the *New York Times*. His book *Thinking Like a Director* was published by Farrar, Straus, & Giroux in 2001.

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**THE OLD GLOBE FACT SHEET**  
**SEA OF TRANQUILITY**

**WHAT:**     *Sea of Tranquility*  
By Howard Korder  
Directed Michael Bloom

**WHEN:**     **January 12 – February 10, 2008; Press Opening: Thursday, January 17 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: Michael Bloom                             Scenic Design: Scott Bradley  
                          Lighting Design: Robert Vierzel                         Costume Design: David Kay Mickelsen  
                          Sound Design: Paul Peterson                             Stage Manager: Elizabeth Lohr

Cast:	Carlos Akuna	<i>Gilbert/Roman</i>
	Ashley Clements	<i>Kat</i>
	Nike Doukas	<i>Phyllis</i>
	Joy Farmer-Clary	<i>Astarte</i>
	Sloan Grenz	<i>Josh</i>
	Ted Kōch	<i>Ben</i>
	Jeffrey Kuhn	<i>Randy</i>
	Rosina Reynolds	<i>Ashley/Adele</i>
	Erika Rolfsrud	<i>Nessa</i>
	Ned Schmidtke	<i>Johannsen/Barry</i>
	Tony Von Halle	<i>Milton</i>

**BACKGROUND:**

Award-winning Old Globe Playwright-in-Residence Howard Korder's *Sea of Tranquility* was named one of *Time Magazine's* best plays of 2004. In this clever and often hilarious play, a psychologist and his wife sell their house in Connecticut and start a new life in the southwest. His attempts to heal an eclectic string of patients gradually reveal a surprising mystery – both in his past, and in the human condition. New York's *Village Voice* cheered, "Korder's tremendous gift for language crackles with surprise and creates scenes that build to intense heat."

**TICKETS:**     \$19 – \$59

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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 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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 theater*