



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

Located in downtown San Diego's historic Balboa Park, The Old Globe is one of the most prominent and productive American regional theatre companies, with a production schedule and diversity equaled by fewer than ten of the nation's largest theatres. With an annual budget of \$20 million, The Old Globe is the 6th largest non-profit theatre in the country. In March 2006, the Globe launched a **\$75 million Capital and Endowment Campaign** to help build the Globe's endowment and enhance its facilities. Winner of the **Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre**, The Old Globe is recognized nationally for its high standards and achievement in design, direction and performance. The Globe is currently celebrating its 75th Anniversary Season.

The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 productions on three stages: the historic Old Globe Theatre, the newly-opened Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, and the beautiful outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. The Globe's breadth of programming includes world premieres, pre-Broadway musicals, contemporary plays, classics, as well as the highly-regarded Shakespeare Festival. The nation's most sought-after directors, designers and actors consistently work at the Globe, including Twyla Tharp, John Doyle, Stephen Sondheim, Nora Ephron, John Goodman, Chita Rivera, Marcia Cross, Hal Holbrook, Kelsey Grammer, and many others. The Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

The Old Globe's Board of Directors is composed of dynamic and influential individuals with a broad range of expertise and experience in local affairs. The March 2003 edition of *Worth* magazine named the Globe's Board as one of the 100 most prestigious in the country and the highest-rated of all San Diego arts institutions.

LEADERSHIP

The Old Globe is led by **Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto**. Since his arrival in 2002, the Globe's subscription base has grown by over 35%, countering the trend in the theatre industry. In May, 2008 *Charity Navigator* gave the Globe its fourth consecutive 4-star rating for sound fiscal management, a distinction received by only 6% of nonprofit organizations. Additionally, in each of the last three years the Globe has sold more total tickets than any other year in its history. Spisto shepherded the launch of the Globe's \$75 million capital campaign. He has also been responsible for developing and nurturing relationships with Broadway producers and directors that have led to a series of Broadway-bound musicals like the recent critically acclaimed *A Catered Affair* and the launch of the national tour of the Tony Award-winning *Avenue Q*. Throughout its 72-year history, The Old Globe has benefited greatly from the past leadership of two individuals whose stature, commitment and continuity are virtually unmatched in American theatre: The late **Founding Director Craig Noel** and **Artistic Director Emeritus Jack O'Brien**, who served as the Globe's Artistic Director from 1981 to 2007.

INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS

The Old Globe was one of the earliest recipients of the **Tony Award® for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1984**. Artistic Director Emeritus Jack O'Brien has won three Tony Awards for his direction of the acclaimed Broadway productions of *Hairspray* (2003), *Henry IV* (2004), *The Coast of Utopia* (2007). In 2002 he received the prestigious "Mr. Abbott" Award from the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation. The Globe's Founding Director Craig Noel's numerous honors included the 2007 National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence, the Governor's Award for the Arts, San Diego's Living Treasure Award, and being named to the San Diego Union-Tribune's list of 25 persons who shaped the city's history. In 1999, the Globe was recognized by the California Alliance for Arts Education (associated with the Kennedy Center) for "exceptional contribution to arts education in local schools," and also received the Professional Artist Award in 1994 from the California Educational Theatre Association (CETA) for outstanding contributions to theatre education. These accomplishments, awards and recognitions continue to reflect the Globe's high standards and bring international attention not only to The Old Globe but also to San Diego's rich cultural landscape.

ECONOMIC IMPACT IN SAN DIEGO

The Old Globe has a **\$28 million economic impact** on the city of San Diego, \$8.6 million of which is generated by cultural tourists visiting San Diego for the Summer Shakespeare Festival. The Globe brings more than 200,000 attendees to the Theatre each year, generating nearly \$10 million in ticket income annually. Additionally, the Globe employs over 650 staff and artists annually, making it the largest arts employer in San Diego.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Old Globe was built in 1935 as part of the California Pacific International Exposition for the presentation of abridged versions of Shakespeare's plays. At the conclusion of the exposition, a non-profit producing corporation, the San Diego Community Theatre, leased the theatre and adjacent buildings from the City of San Diego and renovated it for ongoing use. On December 2, 1937, the remodeled Old Globe Theatre opened with a production of John Van Druten's *The Distaff Side*, and in the cast was a young actor named Craig Noel, whose presence as an actor, director, and artistic leader would guide the Theatre's growth through more than six decades of continuous production. In 1969, the original on-site restaurant facility, known as the Falstaff Tavern, was remodeled to become the 225-seat Cassius Carter Centre Stage, an intimate space devoted to the production of new and experimental theatre. On March 8, 1978, an arson fire destroyed the landmark Old Globe Theatre. While plans to rebuild the Globe were put into action, the need for a space to produce that summer's San Diego National Shakespeare Festival resulted in the construction of the outdoor Festival Stage. In January 1981, the Theatre's board of directors established the Globe as a year-round professional company. In 1982, the new 600-seat Old Globe Theatre opened with a production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, directed by Noel. When the Festival Stage was destroyed by another arson fire in 1984, the new 612-seat Lowell Davies Festival Theatre was constructed in 1985 and continues to be the home of the Globe's renowned Summer Shakespeare Festival. A decade later, a fundraising campaign retired the debt from the two fires and financed a major reconstruction and remodeling project, unveiling an enhanced rehearsal and administrative complex, box office, gift shop, pub, and landscaped plaza. In 2005, the Globe celebrated its 70th anniversary along with Craig Noel's 90th birthday and today continues to stand as one of the most esteemed producing theatres in the country.

A COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

The Globe's Education and Outreach Programs not only complement the work seen onstage, but also foster the growth of future audiences, artists and innovators. The Globe serves more than 50,000 children and adults each year and core programs include:

- **MFA in Dramatic Arts**, a highly competitive professional training program founded by The Old Globe and the University of San Diego more than 20 years ago has helped launch the careers of many talented young actors. This program is one of the most respected and sought-after graduate studies programs for actors in the United States. More than 75% of recent graduates have appeared at prominent regional theatres, on television and in Broadway productions and feature films.
- **The Grinch Children's Initiatives** promote literacy, targeting Title One schools with 4,000 free tickets to students who read six books before seeing the *Grinch*, an annual Seussabration event, and 10,000 greatly discounted tickets to low income children and adults.
- **The Shakespeare Initiatives** give students the opportunity to explore the life and work of Shakespeare before attending one of Shakespeare's plays at the Globe.



- **Student Access to the Arts Programs** help underserved students throughout San Diego County experience live theatre either at the Globe or through touring productions in their schools. Professional Teaching Artists enrich the theatre experience with interactive in-classroom workshops.
- **Lifelong Learning Programs** provide adults with opportunities to gain insight on Globe productions and meet Globe artists.
- **Professional Development Programs** provide educators opportunities to expand their knowledge of theatre and to learn new techniques to integrate the arts into the curriculum.
- **Literacy Initiatives** include the Globe Readers Program, which supports schools' efforts to teach reading with a program that serves approximately 1400 students annually.

PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The Old Globe has a longstanding reputation for producing new work that transfers to Broadway. Beginning with the world premiere of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* in 1987, a total of 20 Globe productions have gone on to successful Broadway runs, including Jack O'Brien's acclaimed revival of *Damn Yankees* (1993) starring Victor Garber and Bebe Neuwirth, *Play On!* (1997), and the Terrence McNally/David Yazbek musical *The Full Monty* (2000). Additionally, co-productions of August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (1988), *The Piano Lesson* (1989) and *Two Trains Running* (1991) were followed by productions on Broadway. The Globe's most recent Broadway-bound productions include *A Catered Affair*, with book by Harvey Fierstein, music and lyrics by John Bucchino, and directed by John Doyle (2008); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (2005), with music and lyrics by composer/lyricist David Yazbek and a book by Jeffrey Lane, directed by Jack O'Brien, choreographed by Jerry Mitchell and starring John Lithgow and Norbert Leo Butz, the production received eleven Tony Award nominations; Terrence McNally's *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, directed by Graciela Daniele (2005); Twyla Tharp's *The Times They Are A-Changin'* (2006), featuring the songs of Bob Dylan; and *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* (2006), directed by Matt August with production supervision by Jack O'Brien. All of these productions garnered rave reviews during sold-out extended runs at the Globe.



Norbert Leo Butz as "Freddy Benson" and John Lithgow as "Lawrence Jameson" in The Old Globe's world-premiere musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.



Leslie Kritzer and Faith Prince, *A Catered Affair*.
Photo by Craig Schwartz.

The Globe has produced a total of 56 world premiere productions, including plays by Nora Ephron, A.R. Gurney, Terrence McNally, Neil Simon, Stephen Sondheim and many others. Recent premieres include *A Catered Affair* and Itamar Moses' *The Four of Us* in 2007; 2006's *Lincolnesque*, a fascinating play about American politics by John Strand; and the Globe-commissioned 2005 production of *The Lady with All the Answers* by David Rambo, a one-woman show about the life of advice columnist Ann Landers starring Tony-winner Randy Graff.

The Globe's contributions of new work have steadily increased, with thirteen world premiere plays and musicals produced at the Globe during between 2000 and 2007. In addition to world premieres, early productions of challenging new plays at the Globe offer critical opportunities to develop and refine new work. Examples include Associate Artist Dakin Matthews' *The Prince of LA* (2005), Arthur Miller's *Resurrection Blues*, reworked while he was in residence at the Globe in 2004, and Rolin Jones' *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (2004).

Lee Blessing's *A Body of Water* received a substantial rewrite at the Globe in 2006 and subsequently won the national "Best New Play" award from the American Theatre Critics Association.

The Globe's holiday season includes the annual production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Having just celebrated its twelfth anniversary, the *Grinch* has become San Diego's favorite holiday tradition. Thousands of children from throughout San Diego County participate in the Grinch Initiatives, a series of year-round education programs to promote literacy while introducing them to the magic of live theatre.

In 2004 the Globe revived its popular **Summer Shakespeare Festival** in repertory format, which has garnered tremendous critical acclaim across the country, including articles in *The New York Times*, *Dallas Morning News*, *the Toronto Star*, and others.



Skylar Starrs Siben as "Cindy-Lou Who" and Kevin Bailey as the "Grinch" in The Old Globe's annual holiday production of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*; Photo by Craig Schwartz.