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GLOBE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JACK O'BRIEN

WINS 2003 TONY AWARD!!

San Diego – The Old Globe is thrilled to announce that its **Artistic Director, Jack O'Brien**, won his first **Tony Award** for his direction of the hit Broadway musical *Hairspray*. He picked up the prestigious award during the 57th Annual Tony Awards ceremony broadcast from Radio City Music Hall on Sunday, June 8. Old Globe board and staff members cheered for O'Brien from Trophy's Grill in Mission Valley, where they watched the broadcast on a live feed from New York.

Hairspray made a Tony sweep with 8 awards (from 13 nominations) throughout the evening, including Best Musical, Director, Actor in a Musical (Harvey Fierstein), Actress in a Musical (Marissa Jaret Winoker), Featured Actor in a Musical (Dick Latessa), Original Score (Marc Shaiman, music; Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, lyrics), Book of a Musical (Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan) and Costume Design (William Ivey Long). Earlier this year O'Brien also took home the **Outer Critics Circle** and **Drama Desk Awards** for Outstanding Direction of a Musical.

This was O'Brien's fifth Tony nomination and first win. Past Tony® Award nominations include nods for direction of *The Full Monty* (2001), *The Invention of Love* (2001), *Two Shakespearean Actors* (1992) and *Porgy and Bess* (1977). More recently, he won the **Outer Critics Circle Award** and the **Drama Desk Award** for his direction of *Hairspray*. Currently O'Brien is directing a new production of *His Girl Friday* at London's **Royal National Theatre**, which opened on June 4 to rave reviews. This fall he's slated to direct *Henry IV* (a production he developed at the Globe) at **Lincoln Center**, starring **Kevin Kline**, **Billy Crudup** and Globe Associate Artist **Richard Easton**.

It has been quite a year, beginning last August with his production of *Hairspray* opening on Broadway to rave reviews – and which is still playing to sold-out audiences. He then directed the Globe's acclaimed production of *Imaginary Friends*, by Nora Ephron, starring Swoosie Kurtz and Cherry Jones, which transferred to Broadway in December. Just a few days before its opening, O'Brien was honored as the **2002 "Mr. Abbott" Award** winner by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF). This prestigious award is presented annually to a director whose distinguished body of work has made a lasting and outstanding contribution to the American Theatre. The award is named for celebrated director/playwright George Abbott, who inspired its creation in 1984 and was its first recipient that year. Past recipients include Bob Fosse, Agnes De Mille, Harold Prince, Trevor Nunn, Mike Nichols, Tommy Tune and Susan Stroman.

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