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AWARD-WINNING *LOBBY HERO* TO PREMIERE

IN GLOBE'S 2005 SEASON

Kenneth Lonergan's Hit Off-Broadway Play Replaces Lady Macbeth Sings the Blues in Cassius Carter Centre Stage

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe announces a change to the 2005 Season: *Lobby Hero*, by Kenneth Lonergan, to be directed by Kirsten Brandt, will replace *Lady Macbeth Sings the Blues* in the final slot in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage (May 21 – June 26, 2005).

Set in the lobby of a Manhattan high-rise, *Lobby Hero* charts the relationships between two security guards and two police officers – enduring the graveyard shift, and dealing with the problems caused by doing the right things for the wrong reasons. Or is that the wrong thing for the right reasons.... *Time Out New York* called *Lobby Hero* “the best drama, the best comedy, the best romance, the best character study, and the best issue play all in one.” This hit off-Broadway play offers a vivid slice of contemporary life with this touching story of four ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances.

Kenneth Lonergan, best known for his Academy Award-nominated film *You Can Count on Me*, has written several acclaimed plays, including *This Is Our Youth* and *The Waverly Gallery*. He also wrote the original screenplays for *Analyze This!* and Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*.

“While we adore Amanda McBroom's *Lady Macbeth Sings the Blues*, she made extensive discoveries in her recent exploration of the work that might necessitate a larger playing space than the Carter. While she works through these revisions, we are pleased to give her the time and space to develop at her own pace, and will continue to support her in the future,” said Globe Artistic Director Jack O'Brien. “But what a worthy replacement! We are thrilled to welcome back the enormously talented Kirsten Brandt to our fold, after her triumph last summer with *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*. Her stunning artistic vision and contemporary flare make her the perfect choice to direct Kenneth Lonergan's piercing and prescient play.”

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Kirsten Brandt made her Globe debut last June with the Rolin Jones' hilarious new play, *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*. Brandt has won countless awards for her work as director, writer and producer in San Diego, including the 2003 San Diego Critics Circle Award for Creative Achievement. Artistic Director of Sledgehammer since 1999, she recently directed August Strindberg's *Dream Play*, as well as the world-premiere production of *Nu*, which she conceived and directed with Jessa Watson, and La Jolla Playhouse's production of *The Burning Deck*, starring Diane Venora. Brandt studied playwriting at the University of Birmingham, England (with David Edgar and Clair McIntyre) and graduated with a B.A. in directing from the University of California, San Diego. She is one of the founders of DURGA, the women's performance festival of San Diego and serves on the advisory board for the Coronado School of the Arts. She has also been a guest artist at the Lincoln Center Director's Lab West. Brandt has produced over fifteen theatrical events for Sledgehammer and created its first ever education program, STEP, promoting literacy through drama in San Diego schools. She has also trained with the SITI Company in Los Angeles and completed the National Arts Marketing Project Advanced Audience Development Training & Granting Program.

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The internationally-acclaimed, Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theaters in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for nearly 70 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 12-14 plays and musicals on its three stages, including the highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theater artists from around the world, as exemplified by Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan, Tina Landau, Nora Ephron and John Goodman, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Imaginary Friends, 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. Under the leadership of Artistic Directors Jack O'Brien and Craig Noel and Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.