



Old Globe Theatre | Cassius Carter Centre Stage | Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

News

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STEVEN DIETZ'S *FICTION* LEADS OFF GLOBE'S 2004/5 SEASON **IN CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE**

GLOBE/USD MFA DIRECTOR AND SD CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD-WINNER
RICHARD SEER HELMS WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *INTRIGUING NEW WORK*

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present the West Coast premiere of *Fiction*, by **Steven Dietz**, directed by **Richard Seer** (*Blue/Orange*, *All My Sons*, *Da*, *Old Wicked Songs*), playing in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage **September 25 – October 31** (press opening: Thursday, September 30 at 8:00pm).

Steven Dietz's provocative new play focuses on Linda and Michael Waterman, smart, successful, married writers who thrive on the give-and-take of their unusually honest relationship. Their happy life is interrupted, however, when Linda learns she has a brain tumor and only has three weeks to live. She asks Michael to read her diaries after she dies – and to let her read his – now. The surprises come thick and fast when she discovers the mysterious Abby Drake in Michael's memoirs. The boundaries between past and present, fact and fiction, trust and betrayal begin to break down. No life, it turns out, is an open book, and the tension between trust and suspicion is at the heart of this gripping drama.

Fiction had its world premiere at the McCarter Theatre in 2003 and recently made its New York debut at the Roundabout Theatre in July of 2004. *The New York Daily News* raved, "Everything about the play...has an elegance and richness our theater sees too seldom," while the *Philadelphia Enquirer* called it "exhilarating and absorbing...extremely well-written."

The Globe's production features real-life married actors **Kurt Rhoads** as "Michael" (*Dinner with Friends*), and **Nance Williamson** (*Loves & Hours*, *The Countess*, *Measure for Measure*) as "Linda." Playing the role of Abby is **Rachel Fowler**. Rhoads and Williamson have appeared together in many productions, including several seasons at the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, as well as at Arizona Theatre Company, Trinity Rep, Dallas Theatre Center, and others. Williamson has also been seen on Broadway in *Broken Glass* and Jack O'Brien's acclaimed Lincoln Center production of *Henry IV*. Rhoads' credits include major roles at the Pearl Theatre, Arena Stage, Playmaker's Rep and the Delaware Theatre Company.

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One of the country's most prolific, versatile, and widely produced playwrights, **Steven Dietz's** works include *Private Eyes* (part of the Globe's Season 2000), *Still Life with Iris*, *Lonely Planet* (PEN USA Award in Drama, Outer Critics' Circle Nomination, *Drama-Logue* Award), *God's Country* (Society of Midland Authors Award, Off-Off-Broadway Award of Excellence), *Trust*, *Handing Down the Names*, *Halcyon Days*, *Ten November*, *Boomtown*, *Foolin' Around with Infinity*, *Painting It Red*, and *More Fun Than Bowling*.

Richard Seer directed The Old Globe's acclaimed productions of *Blue/Orange* (for which he won the 2003 San Diego Critics Circle "Craig Noel" Award for Outstanding Direction), *All My Sons*, *Da* and *Old Wicked Songs* (Patte Award for Outstanding Ensemble). He has served as Director of The Old Globe/University of San Diego Master of Fine Arts Program since 1993. He has directed or performed in over 60 productions at theaters in this country and Great Britain, including The Goodman Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Stratford Shakespeare Festival, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Huntington Theater Company, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the Sybil Thorndike Repertory Theatre in England, among others. In 1985, he received Boston's prestigious Kahn Award for directing, and became Associate Artistic Director of the American Festival Theater in 1988. Prior to his current appointment at the Globe, he was an Associate Professor of acting and directing at Boston University's School for the Arts, where he received his Master of Fine Arts degree in directing a decade earlier.

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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 over 68 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.

THE OLD GLOBE
FICTION
FACT SHEET

WHAT: *Fiction*
By Steven Dietz

WHEN: September 25 through October 31; *Press Opening: Thursday, September 30*
Performances: – Sunday/Tuesday/Wednesday at 7:00 pm
– Thursday/Friday/Saturday at 8:00 pm
– Matinees: Saturday/Sunday at 2:00 pm

WHERE: **Cassius Carter Centre Stage**
The Old Globe, Balboa Park

WHO: Director: Richard Seer
Lighting Designer: Trevor Norton
Sound Designer: Paul Peterson
Scenic Designer: Robin Sanford Roberts
Costume Designer: Charlotte Devaux
Stage Manager: Diana Moser

Cast: Rachel Fowler *Abby Drake*
Kurt Rhoads *Michael Waterman*
Nance Williamson *Linda Waterman*

BACKGROUND:

This a provocative new play focuses on the characters of Linda and Michael, successful, married writers who thrive on the give-and-take of their unusually honest relationship. But when they decide to share their diaries, the boundaries between past and present, fact and fiction, trust and betrayal begin to break down. No life, it turns out, is an open book, and the tension between trust and suspicion is at the heart of this gripping drama.

TICKETS: \$19 - \$52; Discounts for students, seniors and active military.

BOX OFFICE: **(619) 23-GLOBE**
Hours: –Monday: noon to 6pm
–Tuesday: thru Saturdays: noon to 8:30pm
–Sundays: noon to 7:30pm
–Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover Card accepted