



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

## News

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# **DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS STAR** **JOHN LITHGOW TO SERVE AS HONORARY CHAIR** **OF GLOBE GALA ON SEPTEMBER 18**

San Diego – The Old Globe will host its 20<sup>th</sup> annual fund raising Gala on Saturday, **September 18**, in celebration of its new world-premiere musical *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Multiple Tony and Emmy Award-winner **John Lithgow**, who stars in the production as “Lawrence Jamieson,” will serve as the Gala’s Honorary Chair. **Karen Cohn, Valerie Cooper** and **Sheryl White** will serve as co-chairs. The Gala is the Globe’s largest fund raiser, benefiting the Theatre’s educational outreach programs.

The Gala evening will begin with cocktails and a silent auction in Balboa Park’s Alcazar Garden at 5:00pm. At 6:30pm, the curtain rises on a special preview performance of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, book by Jeffrey Lane (*Mad About You*), music and lyrics by David Yazbek (*The Full Monty*), and directed by Globe Artistic Director Jack O’Brien. Following the performance, dinner and dancing will commence on the Globe’s Copley Plaza, featuring music by Wayne Foster Orchestra. Tickets to this exciting event start at \$500; underwriting opportunities begin at \$1500. For more information, please contact the Globe’s Special Events Department at (619) 231-1941, x2303 or via email at [Events@TheOldGlobe.org](mailto:Events@TheOldGlobe.org).

Based on the popular 1988 film, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* centers on two con men living in the French Riviera. The first, a small-time crook named Freddy Benson, swindles women by wakening their compassion with fabricated stories about his grandmother’s failing health. The other is suave, sophisticated con artist Lawrence Jameson, who also makes his living by talking rich ladies out of their money, but on a much grander scale. After meeting on a train, they unsuccessfully attempt to work together only to find that this small French town isn’t big enough for the two of them. They agree on a settlement: the first one to extract \$50,000 from a young female target wins, and the other must leave town. A hilarious battle of cons ensues, bringing out the best and worst in each man, along with a fun, unexpected twist that will keep audiences laughing, humming and guessing to the end!

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The cast includes multiple Tony and Emmy Award-winner **John Lithgow** in the role of “Lawrence Jameson” and **Norbert Leo Butz** in the role of “Freddy Benson.” Also joining the cast will be **Sherie Rene Scott** as “Christine Colgate,” Tony Award-winner **Joanna Gleason** as “Muriel,” **Gregory Jbara** as “Andre” and **Sara Gettelfinger** as “Jolene.”

*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* features music and lyrics by *The Full Monty* composer/lyricist **David Yazbek** and a book by **Jeffrey Lane**. Globe Artistic Director and two-time Tony Award-winner **Jack O’Brien** will direct and Broadway’s leading choreographer **Jerry Mitchell** will choreograph the production, having teamed up with O’Brien on their previous productions of *The Full Monty*, *Imaginary Friends* and *Hairspray*. The production team for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* includes David Rockwell, Scenic Designer (*Hairspray*, *The Rocky Horror Show*), Gregg Barnes, Costume Designer (*Sideshow*), Kenneth Posner, Lighting Design (*Hairspray*, *Imaginary Friends*), Ted Sperling, Music Director (*The Full Monty*, *Floyd Collins*, *Striking 12*); Zane Mark, Dance Music Arranger; and Michael Brunner, Stage Manager.

Following its run at The Old Globe, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* has plans to move to Broadway, with previews scheduled to begin on January 31 for a March 3 opening.

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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 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, Pride’s Crossing and Damn Yankees, have been developed at the 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 Old Globe is at the forefront of the nation’s leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.*