



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

News

Jack O'Brien, *Artistic Director*
Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
Craig Noel, *Artistic Director*

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OLD GLOBE LAUNCHED ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WITH FREE OPEN HOUSE ON JUNE 18

ACCLAIMED ACTRESS AND GLOBE ASSOCIATE ARTIST MARION ROSS PRESIDED OVER FESTIVITIES AS QUEEN ELIZABETH

San Diego – On Saturday, June 18, The Old Globe hosted an **Open House** to launch its 70th Anniversary celebration, as well as Founding Director Craig Noel's 90th birthday. Over 3000 people turned out for this exciting free event, which took place from 10:00am to 1:30pm on the Globe Plaza. The Open House featured delightful presentations by the 2005 Shakespeare Festival Company, as well as backstage tours, costume displays, a kids craft area featuring hat-making and face-painting, screenings of a short Anniversary film, refreshments – including special 70th Anniversary cookies, and much more.

Highlighting the event was renowned actress and Globe Associate Artist **Marion Ross**, who regally presided over the day in the role of Queen Elizabeth. Other fun focal points of the festivities included a captivating stage combat demonstration, a concert by "Courtly Noise" Elizabethan musicians, as well as several spirited presentations by students in the Globe's **Romeo y Julieta Bi-National Project**, who performed Irish and Folklórico dances throughout the day. These students, from Tijuana's Preparatoria Federal Lázaro Cárdena, will join with San Diego students to present several bi-lingual productions of Shakespeare's classic *Romeo and Juliet* next month in both San Diego and Tijuana, as part of the Globe's new educational outreach program designed to foster a creative cultural exchange for students on both sides of the border.

The festivities also included official proclamations in tribute to the Globe and Craig Noel presented by Todd Voorhees on behalf of **Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and the County of San Diego**, as well as a City Resolution declaring June 18 to be Old Globe 70th Anniversary Day, presented by **City Councilwoman Toni Atkins**. NBC on-air personalities Artie Ojeda and Kimberly King also joined the celebrations, serving as emcees, while Globe Executive Director Louis G. Spisto and Craig Noel welcomed patrons to the event.

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The Open House also kicked off the 70th Shakespeare Festival season, featuring *The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth* and *The Winter's Tale*, all three of which were featured in the Globe's inaugural season in 1935 as part of the California Exposition. The plays will run in nightly rotation in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre **June 19 – October 2**. Acclaimed director Darko Tresnjak returns this year to serve as the Festival's Artistic Director.

Nationally-renowned stage and screen actress Marion Ross is most recognized from her roles on television's *Happy Days* and *Brooklyn Bridge*. At the Globe, Ross has appeared in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Twelfth Night*, *Ladies in Retirement*, and *Catsplay*. She has also appeared in the Broadway production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Other stage credits include *Long Day's Journey into Night* at Seattle Rep, *Time of the Cuckoo* as La Mirada, *The Glass Menagerie* at La Jolla Playhouse, and many others. Additional screen credits include *The Drew Carey Show*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Robin's Hood*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Night Court*, *A Perfect Stranger*, *Dinner at Eight*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Evening Star*, *Teacher's Pet*, *Sabrina*, *Operation Petticoat*, to name just a few.

Throughout Craig Noel's distinguished 68-year career with The Old Globe, the much-honored director has staged over 225 productions of all styles and periods. He has been associated with The Old Globe since its community-theater inception in 1937 and has guided the organization through its metamorphosis from a community theater of the highest standards to one of the nation's most successful not-for profit theaters. His most recent productions include *The Pavilion*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Scotland Road*, *Wonderful Tennessee*, *Travels with My Aunt*, as well as the acclaimed world-premiere productions of Lillian Garrett-Groag's *The White Rose* and Reuben Gonzalez's *The Boiler Room*, and the American premieres of Alan Ayckbourn's *Mr. A's Amazing Maze Plays* and *Intimate Exchanges*. Noel made his Globe debut as an actor in 1937. Two years later he accepted his first directorial assignments, staging four of the season's seven productions. Noel's contributions to San Diego and to the nation are legion. He has enriched the larger community through his support and encouragement of playwrights, actors and theater artists and through the nurturing of an entire generation of citizens who have become today's theater-goers and arts supporters. Noel is a founder of the California Theatre Council and a former vice president of the California Confederation of the Arts. His numerous honors encompass the inclusion by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* in a list of 25 persons who shaped the city's history; the Governor's Award for the Arts; University of Arizona Alumni Association's Outstanding Citizen for his contribution to their fine arts department; San Diego State University's Outstanding Alumnus; honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, University of San Diego; San Diego's Living Treasure Award; Conservator of American Arts Award from American Conservatory Theatre; the San Diego Press Club Headliner Award; the San Diego Gentleman of Distinction Award; and a combined tribute from the Public Arts Advisory Council and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

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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 70 years. The Globe produces a year-round season of 14-15 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 Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Full Monty 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.