



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

News

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THE OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES COMPLETE 2007 SUMMER SEASON

***ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR ROBERT LONGBOTTOM TO HELM NOEL COWARD'S
HILARIOUS HAY FEVER ON MAIN STAGE***

***SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DARKO TRESNJAK TO HELM
BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE IN CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE***

***SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL TO FEATURE HAMLET,
THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA AND MEASURE FOR MEASURE***

***GLOBE TO PRODUCE TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL AVENUE Q AT
DOWNTOWN SPRECKELS THEATRE***

San Diego – Executive Director Louis Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch of the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe are pleased to announce the Theatre's complete 2007 Summer Season. In the Old Globe Theatre, **Robert Longbottom**, director of the Broadway musical *Side Show* and the acclaimed revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song*, will helm Noel Coward's comedic masterpiece, *Hay Fever* (July 14 – August 19, 2007). In the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, Shakespeare Festival Artistic Director **Darko Tresnjak** will direct John Van Druten's charming, "magical" play *Bell, Book and Candle* (August 4 – September 9, 2007).

As previously announced, the Globe's renowned Shakespeare Festival will include three dynamic productions, including *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, directed by **Matt August** (*Pig Farm*, Broadway's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*); *Measure for Measure*, directed by **Paul Mullins**, who helmed the Globe's acclaimed 2005 production of *Macbeth*; and *Hamlet*, to be directed by **Darko Tresnjak**, who will once again serve as the Festival's Artistic Director. The three productions will be performed in nightly rotation in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre **June 16 – September 30, 2007**.

Finally, as announced a few weeks ago, the Globe will also be producing an additional production as part of the summer season: the west coast premiere of the Tony Award-winning musical, *Avenue Q*, music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, book by Jeff Whitty, based on an original concept by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx; and directed by Jason Moore. The production will run **June 30 – August 5, 2007** at the historic downtown **Spreckels Theatre**.

“*Hay Fever* is one of Coward’s most celebrated plays. We are thrilled that Robert Longbottom will be bringing his unique vision to this classic comedy as part of an unprecedented summer season at the Globe, which also includes the nationally-renowned Shakespeare Festival, the charming *Bell, Book and Candle*, and the hip, Tony Award-winning musical *Avenue Q*. This summer promises to be one of the most memorable in Globe history, building upon past artistic achievements and continuing to grow our local, regional and national audience,” said Spisto.

“I wonder if there is another theatre in the country with such an extensive and remarkable range of experience to offer its constituents,” said O’Brien. “When we realize Darko Tresnjak is returning for the fourth summer to pour even more astonishment and revelation into our Shakespearean cannon with his first *Hamlet*, plus productions of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Measure for Measure*; and one balances those treats with *Hay Fever*, *Bell, Book and Candle* and *Avenue Q*, it makes me proud to see how far and wide we’ve come over the past decades. The roster of work rivals even our commercial neighbors, while maintaining our profile as America’s genuine classical theatre.”

For more information or to subscribe to The Old Globe’s 2007 Summer Season, please contact Globe Ticket Services at (619) 23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

In Noel Coward’s delightful comedy, *Hay Fever* (July 14 – August 19; press opening Thursday, July 19), each member of the eccentric Bliss family – a retired actress, her novelist husband, and their two children – invites a guest to their country home, unbeknownst to each other. As the unwitting visitors arrive in hopes of a romantic weekend, the stage is set for comedy and chaos. Coward wrote *Hay Fever* in just three days at the ripe young age of 24. Considered one of the playwright’s best and most enduring works, *Hay Fever* is a comedic masterpiece, filled with Coward’s brilliant wit and biting commentary on the theatrical profession.

John Van Druten's comedy, *Bell, Book and Candle* (August 4 – September 9; press opening: Thursday, August 9), tells the story of Gillian Holroyd, a bonafide witch who falls for publisher Sheperd Henderson. Gillian casts a spell on him, obliging him to dump his fiancée and rush to her side. But witches, unfortunately, cannot fall in love, which leads to a number of hilarious difficulties, where Gillian loses her witch's powers, her cat, Pywacket, deserts her, and her aunt and warlock brother don’t quite know how to relate to Gillian as a human. Alas, the course of true love – with or without supernatural assistance – does not run smoothly in this timeless and funny classic which became a blockbuster movie starring Kim Novak and Jimmy Stewart.

One of the most psychologically complex and intensely debated plays in literature, *Hamlet* (June 16 – September 30; press opening: Saturday, June 30) follows the deliberations of a grieving son commanded to avenge his father’s murder. Containing some of the most beautiful poetry ever written, Shakespeare's great tragedy has fascinated and enthralled audiences for nearly 400 years, but remains as relevant and urgent as ever. This extraordinary play of revenge and madness will be brought to the Festival stage as only The Old Globe can.

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In Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (June 16 – September 30; press opening Tuesday, July 3), Valentine and Proteus have always been best friends until Proteus follows Valentine to Milan and catches sight of his friend's lady, Silvia. Gone is their friendship and forgotten is Proteus' intended, the faithful Julia. Proteus now sets his sights on Silvia, even though she doesn't care for him. Shakespeare's early comedy about headstrong young love is an adventure with surprising twists and engaging characters, including a resourceful heroine in disguise, an irreverent servant and one of the most famous supporting canines in theater history.

Truth and hypocrisy, chastity and lust, justice and compassion collide in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* (June 16 – September 30; press opening: Saturday, July 7). Empowered by the absentee Duke to reverse the lax morals in Vienna, Angelo imposes the full measure of the law on Claudio, sentencing him to death for his fiancée's premarital pregnancy. When Claudio's sister Isabella, a novice nun, appeals for clemency, lust tempts Angelo to barter her virtue for her brother's life. Colorful supporting characters provide comic relief as the disguised Duke uncovers the deceit. Wickedly comic and strangely tender, *Measure for Measure* is one of Shakespeare's most powerful moral plays.

Winner of the 2004 Tony Award for Best Musical and still one of the biggest hits on Broadway, *Avenue Q* (June 30 – August 5; press opening: Wednesday, July 11) tells the hilarious story of Princeton, a bright-eyed college grad who comes to New York City with big dreams and a tiny bank account. He soon discovers that the only neighborhood in his price range is Avenue Q; still, the neighbors seem nice. There's Brian the out-of-work comedian and his therapist fiancée Christmas Eve; Nicky the good-hearted slacker and his roommate Rod – a Republican investment banker who seems to have some sort of secret; an Internet addict called Trekkie Monster; and a very cute kindergarten teaching assistant named Kate. Together, Princeton and his newfound friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life.

Robert Longbottom made his Broadway debut as director/choreographer of the original musical *Side Show*, which earned four Tony Award nominations. Other Broadway credits include the Mark Taper Forum production *Flower Drum Song* with a new book by playwright David Henry Hwang, which earned Mr. Longbottom a Tony nomination for his choreography as well as an Astaire Award and an Outer Critics Circle nomination. Other New York credits include the Broadway musical *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, the off-Broadway hit *Pageant*, which he conceived, directed and choreographed the *Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular*, and *Anything Goes* in Concert at Lincoln Center starring Patti Lupone. For Disney Theatricals he created the compilation musical *On the Record*. At the Kennedy Center, he directed a new production of *Mister Roberts* and returned this year to direct and choreograph *Carnival*. He recently directed a staged reading of *Stage Door* at the Roundabout Theatre and a new musical, *Triangle*, at the Eugene O'Neill Center. Upcoming projects include a "new" Irving Berlin musical with playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and a new play, *Dancing on the Brink*, by Wendy Kesselman.

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Artistic Director of the Globe's 2004, 2005 and 2006 Shakespeare Festivals, **Darko Tresnjak's** theatre credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Pericles*, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, The Old Globe; *All's Well That Ends Well*, Theatre for a New Audience; *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, The Public Theatre; *Princess Turandot*, *Hotel Universe*, Blue Light Theater Company; *More Lies About Jerzy*, Vineyard Theater Company; *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Under Milk Wood*, *Moving Picture*, *The Blue Demon*, *Princess Turandot*, *The Love of Three Oranges*, Williamstown Theatre Festival; *Heartbreak House*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Amphitryon*, *The Blue Demon*, Huntington Theatre; *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, Long Wharf Theater Company; *A Little Night Music*, *Amour*, Goodspeed Opera House; *La Dispute*, UCSD. His opera credits include: *Die Zauberflöte*, Opera Theater of Saint Louis; *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Il Trovatore*, *Turandot*, Virginia Opera; *Turandot*, Opera Carolina; *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Florida Grand Opera; *Die Zauberflöte*, Florentine Opera Company; *La Traviata*, *Der Fliegende Holländer*, *Die Fledermaus*, and the American premiere of *May Night*, Sarasota Opera. He is the recipient of the Alan Schneider Award for Directing Excellence, TCG National Theater Artist Residency Award, Boris Sagal Directing Fellowship, NEA New Forms Grant, two Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Individual Artist Fellowships, and two San Diego Critics Circle Awards for his direction of *Pericles* and *The Winter's Tale*. He has performed with numerous Philadelphia dance and theater companies and toured the U.S. and Japan with the UNIMA Award-winning Mum Puppettheatre. He was educated at Swarthmore College and Columbia University and teaches acting and directing at UCSD.

Director of the Globe's acclaimed 2005 production of *Macbeth*, **Paul Mullins** is a company member of the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, where he has directed and performed for fourteen seasons. His production of *King John* for the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival was named one of the Top Ten Productions of 2003 by New Jersey's Star Ledger, which called the piece "a self-contained stunner." Mr. Mullins' productions have been seen at The Juilliard School, Portland Stage, American Stage, the Yale School of Drama, and the Academy of Classical Acting.

Matt August directed the Globe's recent productions of *Pig Farm*, *Time Flies* and *The Food Chain*. On Broadway he has directed Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, and served as Associate Director for Jack O'Brien's productions of *Henry IV*, *Imaginary Friends*, *The Invention of Love*, and *The Full Monty*. He also directed the Australia company of *The Full Monty*. His off-Broadway credits include *16 Wounded* at Cherry Lane Alternative; *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Romeo and Juliet* with the National Shakespeare Company; and *Velvet Ropes* at the Drama League. Regionally he directed *16 Wounded* (starring Martin Landau) at Long Wharf Theatre, and *Jump Rope* at Next Stages at Boston Playwrights. August has served as Assistant Director to Tony Award-winner John Rando, Nicholas Martin, Gordon Davidson, Libby Appel, and was The Acting Company's Staff Repertory Director from 1999-2000. He has been named a Drama League Fellow and a Phil Killian Directing Fellow from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

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The internationally-acclaimed, Tony® Award-winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theatres in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for over 70 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, 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 Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country.

Highlights of the Globe's 2006/7 Season include the acclaimed production of Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone, the west coast premiere of Ace, as well as Amy Freed's Restoration Comedy, the co-world premiere of Pig Farm, and Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf. Under the leadership of Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.