



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

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OLD GLOBE TO PRODUCE WEST COAST PREMIERE **OF TONY AWARD-WINNING AVENUE Q**

HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL TO RUN AT 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 an additional production as part of the Theatre's 2007 Summer Season. The Globe will produce 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 through August 5, 2007 (press opening: July 11) at the historic Spreckels Theatre.

“Producing *Avenue Q* at this important downtown theatre is another milestone for The Old Globe. We are thrilled to bring this entertaining Broadway hit to San Diego audiences” said Spisto. “*Avenue Q* has a distinctively ‘downtown’ sensibility, and we think it is the perfect show for the Globe’s return to The Spreckels. President and CEO Jacquie Littlefield has a long history of arts support and we are looking forward to working with her to provide the highest quality theatrical events for the region while expanding our reach to new audiences.”

The Globe’s relationship with the Spreckels Theatre dates back to 1978 when the Spreckels graciously hosted the Globe’s 1978-79 winter season following the devastating fire in the Old Globe Theatre. The Spreckels is a part of the great era of downtown theatre palaces. The space has been a venue for everything from musicals to rock concerts. Opened in 1912, the 1,466-seat theater was converted for film use in 1922 and back to live shows in the 1970s. With its marble box office and statuary, the Spreckels Theatre’s ornate atmosphere and variety of presentations has been attracting audiences for decades.

“We are very excited about working with The Old Globe on this blockbuster production, and we hope to continue building on this unique collaboration between these two landmark San Diego institutions for many years to come,” said Jacquie Littlefield.

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Avenue Q will be part of the Globe's previously announced 2007 summer season, featuring the renowned Shakespeare Festival, with *Hamlet*, *Measure for Measure* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* playing in nightly rotation in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. The season will also include a production in the Old Globe Theatre and in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, to be announced at a later date. For more information or to subscribe to The Old Globe's 2007 summer season, please contact the Globe's Ticket Services Department at **(619) 23-GLOBE** or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

Winner of the 2004 Tony Award for Best Musical and still one of the biggest hits on Broadway, *Avenue Q* 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 fiancé 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.

Avenue Q opened off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre in March 2003, where it garnered rave reviews, and was extended four times. In addition to the Tony Award for Best Musical, the show won Tonys for its creators Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx for score, as well as Jeff Whitty for Best Book of a Musical. It also won the 2003 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding New Musical, as well as a nomination for the 2003 Outer Critics Circle Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical award.

Winners of the 2004 Tony Award for Best Score, Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx (*Music and Lyrics*, *Original Concept*), began writing *Avenue Q* in the BMI Workshop in 1999, and three years later it was produced off-Broadway, with a subsequent move to Broadway, winning three Tony Awards. They are currently writing the screenplay and songs for a new movie-musical for Universal Pictures, as well as writing a new Broadway musical with Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the creators of *South Park*. Their other works include a new Muppet Movie called *Kermit, Prince of Denmark* (which received the coveted Ed Kleban Award) and *Ferdinand the Bull*, a children's musical for Theatreworks/USA.

Jeff Whitty (*Book*) won the 2004 Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for *Avenue Q*. His plays include *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *The Hiding Place*, *The Plank Project*, *Balls*, and *Suicide Weather*. Companies presenting his work include South Coast Repertory, the Atlantic Theater Company, the Vineyard Theatre, and New York Stage and Film/Vassar. Screenplays include *Zora*, a feature for Warner Brothers, and an untitled musical project for Paramount with music by Andre 3000 of Outkast. As an actor, he's worked off-Broadway, regionally and in film and television.

Jason Moore (*Director*) directed the original Broadway production of *Avenue Q*, for which he was nominated for a Tony Award. His off-Broadway credits include *Avenue Q* and *The Crumple Zone*. He served as Associate Director for *Les Miserables* (Broadway and National Tour) and *Ragtime* (Vancouver). As a writer, his works include *The Floatplane Notebooks*, as well as episodes of *Dawson's Creek*, *Everwood* and *One Tree Hill*. His upcoming projects include a live-action movie musical of Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* for ABC-TV and *Shrek: The Musical* on Broadway in 2007.

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Broadway/San Diego, the local presenter of touring Broadway shows and events, will also be offering *Avenue Q* to its subscribers as part of their 2007/8 subscription season. "We thank the Globe for allowing us the opportunity to offer this Tony Award-winning production to our patrons," remarked Diane Willcox, B/SD General Manager. "It continues the on-going relationship The Nederlander Organization (parent company of B/SD) has had with the Globe over the years, most recently with the Twyla Tharp/Bob Dylan work *THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'*, opening at Nederlander's Brooks Atkinson Theatre on Broadway this month," she added.

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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 71 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 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 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 world premiere of Kenneth Lonergan's The Starry Messenger, starring Matthew Broderick, as well as Amy Freed's Restoration Comedy, the co-world premiere of Pig Farm, August Wilson's Two Trains Running and 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.