



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

News

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**THE OLD GLOBE LAUNCHES NEW**  
**PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM AS PART OF**  
**EXPANDING ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

**PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY GRANT FROM THE JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION**

**HOWARD KORDER NAMED FIRST PLAYWRIGHT-IN-RESIDENCE**

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe's Executive Director Louis Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch are pleased to announce the establishment of a new Playwright-in-Residence program, as part of the Theatre's ongoing efforts to develop new plays and playwrights, as well as expand its artistic offerings.

**Howard Korder** has been named the first playwright to participate in the program. His 18-month residency will begin in mid-April.

The program is made possible through a grant from **The James Irvine Foundation** made in July, 2005 to help support the Globe's play development and production process. The three-year grant will assist the Globe as it builds upon the broad repertoire of classical works, revivals and large-scale musical projects that have been central to its mission, as well as increase its resources devoted to new play development. In addition, the grant will allow the Globe to expand its artistic staff to support literary and dramaturgical efforts for all productions. Finally, the grant will assist in supporting the Globe's roster of leading guest directors, whose work is essential in bringing exceptional productions to the stage.

"This endorsement from The James Irvine Foundation, recognized throughout the country as one of California's most significant grant-makers to all non-profits, reinforces the Globe's position as a leader in the state and national arts scene," said Old Globe Executive Director Lou Spisto. "This important grant will help the Globe realize the goals of the institution's long-range strategic plans to be one of the preeminent developers and producers of new works in the country. The Playwright-in-Residence program is the first of many new artistic initiatives that the Globe plans to launch over the coming months."

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The purpose of the Playwright Residency program is to support the creation of new plays. To enhance the organization's longstanding reputation for launching high-profile productions, particularly new musicals, the Globe is now also focusing on the development of new plays and playwrights, establishing a core group of playwrights and directors who consider the Globe an artistic home base.

The Playwright-in-Residence program involves an 18-month residency, during which the playwright will work at the Globe during six two-week periods to develop a new play. Throughout the process, the Globe will assemble actors as needed for in-house readings of the play in progress.

"Emerging playwrights need recognition and ratification, and one of the best ways to give them that affirmation is by commissioning a new play from them," said Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch. "Proven, established playwrights like Howard Korder need to be given the theatrical resources of an institution like The Old Globe. The media's demand for new product and lucrative incentives to create it pull them out of writing for the theatre into film and television. We believe our residencies will bring Howard and others who come after him back to playwriting to create important works for theatres across America."

In addition to the Playwright-in-Residence program, the Globe's larger play development efforts include plans to commission new plays not only from established writers, but from new American playwrights of promise, supporting them at the earliest stages of their careers and helping develop their work for this theatre and other companies. The Globe will also offer in-house and public play readings, giving playwrights opportunities to test new work before a live audience.

**The James Irvine Foundation** is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, inclusive, and successful society. The Foundation's grantmaking is organized around three program areas: Arts, Youth, and California Perspectives, which focuses on engaging new constituencies and infusing new ideas to improve public decision-making. Since 1937 the Foundation has provided more than \$900 million in grants to nonprofit organizations throughout California, and with current assets of more than \$1.5 billion, the Foundation expects to make grants of \$69 million in 2006 for the people of California. For more information about The James Irvine Foundation, please visit its website at [www.irvine.org](http://www.irvine.org) or call (415) 777-2244.

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**Howard Korder** was born in New York City and graduated from the SUNY Binghamton with a B.A. in Theater. His first play, *Night Maneuver*, was produced in 1982 by the Floating Rep in New York City. The Manhattan Punch Line produced *Life on Earth* in its 1985 One-Act Festival, and *Lip Service* the following year. *Fun*, directed by Jon Jory, premiered at the Actors Theater of Louisville's 1987 Humana Festival, and received the Heidemann Award for Best One-Act Play. Its companion piece, *Nobody*, was selected for the 1987 O'Neill Playwrights' Conference, where it won the HBO Writer's Award. Both plays were subsequently presented at the Manhattan Punch Line, the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, and elsewhere. *Boys' Life* was produced by Lincoln Center in 1988, directed by William H. Macy and received a nomination for a Pulitzer Prize. It continues to be seen at theaters around the world. The same year HBO broadcast Korder's television adaptation of his play *Lip Service*, which won an ACE Award for Best Comedy Special. Korder also wrote *The Passion of Ayn Rand* for Showtime, for which Helen Mirren won a 1999 Emmy for Best Actress. *Stealing Sinatra*, starring David Arquette and William H. Macy, was presented on Showtime in 2004, with Macy receiving an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Korder co-wrote *Truth, Justice, and the American Way*, starring Adrien Brody, Ben Affleck, and Diane Lane. The Focus feature, directed by Allen Coulter, will be released in 2006. Korder has also written screenplays for producers Scott Rudin, Art Linson, and Kathleen Kennedy, as well as several teleplays and pilots for HBO and CBS. Korder's play *Search and Destroy* was commissioned by South Coast Repertory, premiering in 1990 under the direction of David Chambers. It received the Los Angeles Theater Critics' Award for Best New Play, and the Joseph Kesselring Prize from the National Arts Club. A production at Yale Repertory followed, and the play opened on Broadway at Circle in the Square in 1992. The following year the Royal Court Theatre presented a critically acclaimed production in London, under the direction of Stephen Daldry. A film version, produced by Martin Scorsese, was released in 1995. *The Lights* premiered at Lincoln Center in November 1993, directed by Mark Wing-Davey. It received seven Drama Desk nominations and an Obie Award for Playwriting. It was subsequently produced at the Royal Court, directed by Ian Rickson, and in theaters in the United States and Europe. His most recent play, *Sea of Tranquility*, premiered off-Broadway in 2004, and was named one of the ten best plays of the year by *Time* magazine. His works are currently in print in both acting and trade paperback editions, and appear in several anthologies. Korder is the recipient of a 1996 Guggenheim Fellowship in Playwriting and has been a guest lecturer at Yale Drama School, Kenyon College, Arizona State University, the University of Utah, and the College of Santa Fe.

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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 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 theater 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.*

*During this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, the Globe has presented its acclaimed Summer Shakespeare Festival, as well as two more world premieres: Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life, an exciting musical biography of the acclaimed actress/singer/dancer, as well as a thrilling new work by Twyla Tharp set to the music of the legendary Bob Dylan. Under the leadership of Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch and Founding Artistic Director Craig Noel, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.*