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THE OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES
WORLD PREMIERE OF BROADWAY-BOUND
THE FIRST WIVES CLUB — A NEW MUSICAL

ROCK N' ROLL HALL OF FAME LEGENDS HOLLAND-DOZIER-HOLLAND REUNITE
TO CREATE ORIGINAL BROADWAY SCORE

San Diego – Lou Spisto, Executive Producer of the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe, is pleased to announce the world premiere of *The First Wives Club — A New Musical*, to be performed at the Old Globe Theatre **July 15 – August 23, 2009**, as part of the Globe's 2009 Summer Season. Based on the best-selling novel and Hollywood blockbuster of the same name, this Broadway-bound musical features a book by Tony winner **Rupert Holmes** (*Curtains!*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Say Goodnight Gracie*) and a score by **Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland**, the threesome who created hits for Martha and The Vandellas, The Miracles, Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops and The Supremes. The production will be directed by award winning opera and theatrical director **Francesca Zambello** (*The Little Mermaid* for Disney on Broadway, *Little House on the Prairie* for the Guthrie Theatre, *Rebecca* at the Vienna Raimund Theatre and recently, *Porgy and Bess* and the *Wagner Ring Cycle* at the San Francisco Opera where she is the Artistic Advisor. Ms Zambello has won three Olivier Awards and has credits at The Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Albert Hall, Bolshoi, Paris Opera, The Kennedy Center and the Chicago Lyric.)

The popular 1996 Paramount film "The First Wives Club" — about three divorced women who seek revenge on their former husbands — was based on Olivia Goldsmith's novel and featured a screenplay by Robert Harling. The motion picture grossed over \$130 million and boasted a star-studded cast comprising Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton.

"The Old Globe has sent over 20 productions on to Broadway and this new musical is one of the most exciting projects that we have ever had the privilege to produce," said Spisto. "Countless millions of people grew up singing along to the hits of Holland-Dozier-Holland and their songs continue to have an enormous impact on each new generation. To have them composing original music for this world premiere at The Old Globe is beyond exciting. With the multi-talented Tony Award-winner Rupert Holmes writing the book and one of the most sought after directors in both the world of Opera and the theatre, Francesca Zambello, at the helm, this universally beloved story is sure to bring a thrilling new theatrical experience to San Diego audiences."

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The musical will be produced on Broadway by Paul Lambert and Jonas Neilson, with a theater and dates to be announced.

Tickets to *First Wives Club—The Musical* are currently available by subscription by contacting the Globe Box Office at (619) 23-GLOBE or online at www.TheOldGlobe.org.

Rupert Holmes is the author of numerous songs, musicals, plays and novels, which have earned him three Tony awards (best book, best score and best musical), several Drama Desk awards, and the prestigious Edgar Award, which was given to him by the Mystery Writers of America. He has developed and arranged songs for many renowned artists, including Barbra Streisand, Dolly Parton, Barry Manilow, Paul Williams, the Manhattan Transfer and Barbara Cook. His *Solitary*, which starred Stacey Keach, set a new box office record at the Kennedy Center. Other notable theatrical projects include the Tony Award-Winning, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the Tony-nominated *Say Goodnight Gracie*, *The Accomplice*, *Goosebumps* and *Marty*. His latest show, *Curtains*, a Kander and Ebb musical, recently played to major acclaim on Broadway. He also received an Emmy for his made-for-television dramedy, “Remember WENN,” and more recently his novel, *Where The Truth Lies*, has been translated into a major motion picture starring Kevin Bacon.

One of America's most popular and prolific “pop” songwriting teams ever, the hits of **Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier, and Eddie Holland** have received over 100 million airplays on radio and television. Their songs have had an indelible influence on the international music scene and have been a part of the fabric of our lives for over four decades. Their body of work has been recorded by Rod Stewart, Michael Jackson, James Taylor, Marvin Gaye, The Dixie Chicks, The Supremes, Martha and the Vandellas, The Four Tops, The Isley Brothers, Freda Payne, The Carpenters, Barbara Streisand, Reba McEntire, The Temptations, Dionne Warwick, The Jackson Five and The Beatles to name just a few. Among the numerous hits penned by the team of Holland, Dozier and Holland, whose music has had more airplay than the Rolling Stones, Elvis and the Beatles combined, are “How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved by You),” “Baby I Need Your Loving,” “Stop! In the Name of Love,” “You Can't Hurry Love” and “I Can't Help Myself.” They were inducted in the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1988; into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1990; they received the National Association of Recording Artists and Science Trustee Award; and were recently honored with the BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc) “ICON” award.

Francesca Zambello is an internationally recognized and award-winning opera and theater director. Her recent theatrical credits include *The Little Mermaid* for Disney on Broadway, *Little House on the Prairie* for the Guthrie Theater, *Rebecca* for the Vienna Raimund Theater, *West Side Story* for the floating stage in Bergenz, Austria, and *Showboat* at The Royal Albert Hall. She is the Artistic Advisor of the San Francisco Opera where she is helming a new *Ring Cycle* and *Porgy and Bess* this season. She has many notable directing credits at Metropolitan Opera, including *An American Tragedy*, *Cyrano* and *Les Troyens*, as well as at Teatro alla Scala, Royal Albert Hall, Bolshoi, Royal Opera House, Paris Opera, Washington Opera, and Chicago Lyric, among others. Her honors include three Olivier Awards, two Evening Standard Awards, two French Grand Prix des Critiques, Helpmann Award, Palme d'Or in Germany and the Golden Mask in Russia.

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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 72 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.

The Globe's 2008 Summer Season includes the renowned Summer Shakespeare Festival, featuring Romeo and Juliet, The Merry Wives of Windsor and All's Well That Ends Well playing in repertory; The Pleasure of His Company; and Donald Margulies' Sight Unseen. Under the leadership of Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto and Resident Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.