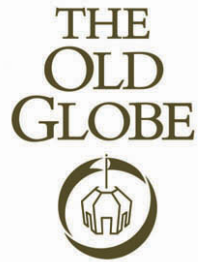


Louis G. Spisto, CEO/Executive Producer
Darko Tresnjak, Resident Artistic Director



Jack O'Brien, Artistic Director Emeritus
Craig Noel, Founding Director

For Immediate Release: January 5, 2009
Contact: Dave Henson (619) 231-1941
www.TheOldGlobe.org

OLD GLOBE PRESENTS MIA McCULLOUGH'S

SINCE AFRICA

San Diego – Old Globe Executive Producer Lou Spisto is pleased to announce the cast of The Old Globe's production of *Since Africa*, by **Mia McCullough**, directed by **Seema Sueko**, to run in the Globe's arena stage at the San Diego Museum of Art's James S. Copley Auditorium **January 24 – March 8, 2009** (press opening: Thursday, January 29 at 8:00pm). Tickets are available by calling **(619) 23-GLOBE**, online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the Globe Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

The cast of *Since Africa* features **Kristin Carpenter** as "The Nameless One," **Willie Carpenter** as "Reggie Hudson," **Ashley Clements** as "Eve MacIntyre," **Linda Gehringer** as "Diane MacIntyre" and **Warner Miller** as "Ater Dahl."

Directed by Seema Sueko, *Since Africa* is the story of Ater – a "Lost Boy of Sudan," and the two volunteers who try to help him acclimate to life in urban America: Diane, a recently widowed socialite, and Reggie, an African-American Deacon in the Catholic Church. As Ater tries to leave his past behind him and forge a new life in a new land, he is mystified by American ideas of art, ritual, and family. At the same time Diane and Reggie must come to grips with their own personal tragedies, and as their lives clash and tangle, they all confront difficult questions about identity, loss, ritual, and grief. *Since Africa* will also have an educational outreach component in conjunction with the Southeastern San Diego community where the Globe's new Technical Center is located. Working with organizations and schools in the area, the Globe will host several free student matinees for the production with in-classroom workshops presented by Globe Teaching Artists. The Globe will also offer a special after-school theatre and literacy program for refugee and immigrant youth that draws on the themes explored in the play.

The creative team includes **Seema Sueko**, director; **Nick Fouch**, scenic design; **Charlotte Devaux**, costume design; **Jason Bieber**, lighting design; **Paul Peterson**, sound design; **Moira Gleason**, stage manager.

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Mia McCullough (Playwright: *Since Africa*) received the ATCA Osborn Award, a Joseph Jefferson Citation for Best New Work, first prize in the Julie Harris Playwriting Competition, and a Cincinnati Entertainment Award for Best Production for her play *Chagrin Falls*. Her play *Since Africa*, which was commissioned by Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival, was a finalist for the 2005 Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Her plays have been produced at Chicago Dramatists, Stage Left Theatre, Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival, Actor's Express in Atlanta, Steppenwolf, and InterAct in Philadelphia. Mia is a resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists, and a member of Stage Left Theatre and The Dramatists Guild. She has taught playwriting at Chicago Dramatists and Northwestern University.

Seema Sueko (Director, *Since Africa*) appeared in the Globe's acclaimed 2004 production of *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (KPBS Patté Award). Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company, Sueko directed Mo'olelo's 2006 award-winning production of *Since Africa*, as well as *The Adoption Project: Triad*. Her acting credits include Connie in *A Chorus Line* at Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre, Mrs. Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* at San Diego Repertory Theatre, and *The Phoenician Women* at NYC's Ohio Theatre. She is a three-time winner of the Chicago "Jeff Citation" Award for her performances in the world premiere of Rebecca Gilman's *The Crime of the Century*, *The Waiting Room*, and *A Piece of my Heart*. She received the "McDonald Playwriting" Patté Award and the Anti-Discrimination Committee's "Artistic and Cultural Achievement Award" for her script and Mo'olelo's inaugural show, *remains*. Sueko was commissioned by Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis to co-write *Messy Utopia*, which received the Ivey Award in 2007, and was recently commissioned by Mixed Blood again to write a play for young audiences on the theme of Islam in America. Seema holds an MA in International Relations from the University of Chicago, is a member of Actors' Equity Association, and was named one of the "50 People to Watch in 2005" by San Diego Magazine.

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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.

Highlights of the Globe's 2008/09 Season include the revival of Clare Boothe Luce's The Women, the world premiere of Itamar Moses' new play Back Back Back, John Guare's Six Degrees of Separation, the musical Working, with new songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda, and the world premiere of Cornelia. 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.

THE OLD GLOBE FACT SHEET
SINCE AFRICA

WHAT: ***Since Africa***
 By Mia McCullough

WHEN: **January 24 – March 8; Press Opening: Thursday, January 29 at 8pm**
Performances: Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm
 Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm
Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm

WHO:

Director: Seema Sueko	Scenic Design: Nick Fouch
Lighting Design: Jason Bieber	Costume Design: Charlotte Devaux
Sound Design: Paul Peterson	Stage Manager: Moira Gleason
Cast: Kristin Carpenter	<i>The Nameless One/ As Cast</i>
Willie Carpenter	<i>Reggie Hudson</i>
Ashley Clements	<i>Eve MacIntyre</i>
Linda Gehringer	<i>Diane MacIntyre</i>
Warner Miller	<i>Ater Dahl</i>

BACKGROUND:

Directed by Seema Sueko, *Since Africa* is the story of Ater – a “Lost Boy of Sudan,” and the two volunteers who try to help him acclimate to life in urban America: Diane, a recently widowed socialite, and Reggie, an African-American Deacon in the Catholic Church. As Ater tries to leave his past behind him and forge a new life in a new land, he is mystified by American ideas of art, ritual, and family. At the same time Diane and Reggie must come to grips with their own personal tragedies, and as their lives clash and tangle, they all confront difficult questions about identity, loss, ritual, and grief. *Since Africa* will also have an educational outreach component in conjunction with the Southeastern San Diego community where the Globe’s new Technical Center is located. Working with organizations and schools in the area, the Globe will host several free student matinees for the production with in-classroom workshops presented by Globe Teaching Artists. The Globe will also offer a special after-school theatre and literacy program for refugee and immigrant youth that draws on the themes explored in the play.

TICKETS: \$29 – \$59

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