



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

News

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For Immediate Release: May 12, 2003
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GLOBE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JACK O'BRIEN RECEIVES TONY® AWARD NOMINATION FOR *HAIRSPRAY*

**-- O'BRIEN ALSO WINNER OF 2003 OUTER CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD --
--CURRENTLY DIRECTING HIS GIRL FRIDAY AT NATIONAL THEATRE --**

San Diego – The Old Globe is thrilled to announce that **Artistic Director Jack O'Brien** has just been nominated for a **2003 Tony® Award** for his direction of the hit Broadway show, *Hairspray*. The production led the list this year with **13 nominations** over all, including Best Musical. The award ceremony will be broadcast on CBS on Sunday, June 8. *Hairspray* also took home the Drama League's 2003 award for Distinguished Production of a Musical on May 9.

O'Brien's past Tony® Award nominations include nods for direction of *The Full Monty* (2001), *The Invention of Love* (2001), *Two Shakespearean Actors* (1992) and *Porgy and Bess* (1977). More recently, he won the **Outer Critics Circle Award** for his direction of *Hairspray*. Presented on May 5, the Outer Critics Circle Awards are chosen by more than 75 theater critics from more than 10 states.

Currently, O'Brien is directing a new production of *His Girl Friday* at London's **Royal National Theatre**, which begins previews on May 29. Nicholas Hytner, the institution's new Artistic Director, has asked O'Brien to join the fold of directors for their spring season, making O'Brien one of only a handful of American directors to work at Britain's leading theatre organization. Following this assignment, he'll direct *Henry IV* (a production he developed at the Globe) at **Lincoln Center**, starring **Kevin Kline, Billy Crudup** and Globe Associate Artist **Richard Easton**.

It has been quite a year for Jack, beginning last August with his production of *Hairspray* opening on Broadway to rave reviews – and it's still playing to sold-out audiences. He then directed the Globe's acclaimed production of *Imaginary Friends*, by Nora Ephron, starring Swoosie Kurtz and Cherry Jones, which transferred to Broadway in December. Just a few days before its opening, O'Brien was honored as the 2002 **"Mr. Abbott" Award** winner by the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (SDCF). This prestigious award is presented annually to a director whose distinguished body of work has made a lasting and outstanding contribution to the American Theatre. The award is named for celebrated director/playwright George Abbott, who inspired its creation in 1984 and was its first recipient that year. Past recipients include Bob Fosse, Agnes De Mille, Harold Prince, Trevor Nunn, Mike Nichols, Tommy Tune and Susan Stroman.

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The internationally-acclaimed, Tony Award-winning Globe Theatres produces 14 plays annually, from Shakespeare to Sondheim. One of the most outstanding and respected regional theaters in the country, the Globe is a gathering place for the leading theatre artists from around the world such as John Goodman, Hal Holbrook, Roger Rees, Daniel Sullivan, and many others. The Globe has launched many thrilling, world premieres like Into the Woods, Play On!, and The Full Monty, which have gone on to successful Broadway runs. For 66 years the Globe has been at the forefront of the nation's leading arts institutions, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.