



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

News

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Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
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For Immediate Release: August 18, 2003
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OLD GLOBE PRESENTS OLIVIER AWARD-WINNER **BLUE/ORANGE IN THE ROUND**

***GLOBE/USD MFA DIRECTOR RICHARD SEER HELMS EDGY BLACK COMEDY
IN THE CASSIUS CARTER CENTRE STAGE***

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present *Blue/Orange*, by **Joe Penhall**, directed by **Richard Seer**, playing in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage **September 19 through October 26** (press opening: Thursday, September 25). The Old Globe's production of *Blue/Orange* is sponsored by **Karen and Donald Cohn and Marsh, Inc.**

Winner of the 2001 Olivier Award for "Best New Play," *Blue/Orange* has been hailed by critics: "Exuberant...Penhall has the gift of making serious points in a comic manner," wrote *The Guardian*. *The New York Times* raved, "Dialogue fueled by testosterone and paced like a volley of bullets...a ferocious comedy;" while the London Evening Standard called it "a discomfiting comedy, streaked with excitement and emotion."

Set in a London psychiatric hospital, *Blue/Orange* centers on Christopher, an enigmatic patient who claims to be the son of African dictator Idi Amin. His doctor, an idealistic young psychiatrist, diagnoses him with schizophrenia; while his mentor, an older, more experienced doctor, rejects the younger doctor's findings, and insists the patient be released immediately, based on his theory that his behavior may be more of a cultural rather than a medical phenomenon. A savagely funny, psychological boxing match ensues, in which Chris becomes an unwitting punching bag, in this edgy new comedy that takes on race, Britain's National Health Service, and the inexact science (or art) of psychiatry.

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Joe Penhall's first play, *Wild Turkey*, was performed at the Old Red Lion as part of the 1993 London New Play Festival. *Some Voices*, which premiered at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs in 1994, won a Thames Television Bursary and the John Whiting Award in 1995. Also in 1995, his play *Pale Horse* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs and won the Thames Television Best Play Award. Penhall's other works for the stage include *Love and Understanding*, which debuted at the Bush Theatre in 1997 and had its U.S. premiere the following year at the Long Wharf Theatre; and *The Bullet*, which debuted at the *Donmar Warehouse* in 1998. He adapted his play *Some Voices* into a feature film in 2000. Penhall was the 1995 Thames Writer in Residence at the Royal National Theatre, where *Blue/Orange* had its world premiere in 2000.

Richard Seer directed The Old Globe's acclaimed productions of *All My Sons*, *Da* and *Old Wicked Songs*. He has served as Director of the Globe/University of San Diego Master of Fine Arts Program since 1993. He has directed or performed in over 60 productions at theaters in this country and Great Britain, including The Goodman Theater, The Kennedy Center, The Stratford Shakespeare Festival, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Huntington Theater Company, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and the Sybil Thorndike Repertory Theatre in England, among others. In 1985, he received Boston's prestigious Kahn Award for directing, and became Associate Artistic Director of the American Festival Theater in 1988. Other recent directorial credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* for Shakespeare Santa Cruz, *Misalliance* and *The Man Who Came To Dinner* for CenterRep in Walnut Creek. Prior to his current appointment at the Globe, he was an Associate Professor of acting and directing at Boston University's School for the Arts, where he received his Master of Fine Arts degree in directing a decade earlier.

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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 over 68 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 12-14 plays and musicals on its three stages, including the highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theater artists from around the world, as exemplified by Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan, Tina Landau, Nora Ephron and John Goodman, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Imaginary Friends, 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. Under the leadership of Artistic Directors Jack O'Brien and Craig Noel and Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.

