



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: November 5, 2003
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OLD GLOBE OFFERS FIRE VICTIMS 1000 FREE TICKETS TO DR. SEUSS' *HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!*

San Diego – In light of the recent fire disaster in San Diego, The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is offering **1000 free tickets** to its annual production of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* to the families who have been affected by the wildfires, as well as to the firefighters involved and their families. These families can obtain tickets by contacting the **Red Cross, attention: Karla Brustad, 3650 Fifth Avenue in San Diego, (619) 542-7688.**

“The overwhelming support of the San Diego community was integral to our own institution's survival when fire struck The Old Globe several years ago, and we wanted to give back to that community by offering free Globe tickets to the victims of this terrible tragedy. We hope this small token will provide a ray of light this holiday season for the families and firefighters who have endured such hardship over the past week,” said Globe Executive Director Louis G. Spisto.

In addition to the 1000 tickets for fire victims, The Old Globe annually offers 4,000 free tickets to ***How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*** to underserved children in the San Diego community. These tickets have been underwritten by the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and Audrey Geisel (“Mrs. Dr. Seuss”), with generous additional support from San Diego corporations.

Now in its sixth year, this wonderful San Diego holiday tradition will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe stage. Launched in November 1998, the Globe is pleased to bring back this family favorite year after year. “***How The Grinch Stole Christmas!*** has become a San Diego tradition,” said Globe Executive Director Louis G. Spisto. “We thank Audrey Geisel for her generous gift to the Globe and to the San Diego community of this timeless holiday classic.”

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This year's presentation of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* also incorporates festivities surrounding the Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) "**Seussentennial**" celebration. In commemoration of what would have been Mr. Geisel's 100th birthday on March 2, 2004, The Old Globe will join in a national year-long tribute, in conjunction with Dr. Seuss Enterprises, to honor the man known and loved by generations of Americans as Dr. Seuss, who made San Diego his home.

The Globe's Seussentennial events will kick off with its production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, along with several events throughout the year. The first of these is the **Seuss-abration for Kids**, an annual event brings 600 underserved children to Globe to see this magical holiday production free of charge. The 2003 Seuss-abration for Kids will take place on November 13 at 9:00am, with all 600 seats, lunch, and gift bags being underwritten by Audrey Geisel, *The San Diego Union Tribune*, and local corporations.

This year's Seuss-abration for Kids event also incorporates a new component with the Globe's first annual **Grinch Children's Reading Initiative**, an ongoing literacy project involving the 600 children who attend Seuss-abration. Beginning in September of 2003, Globe staff met with participating schools to develop literacy criteria and reading goals for the year. Before attending the performance, these students will have been asked to read at least six books (including Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*), in preparation for seeing the show. At the event, the children will participate in a fun pre-show festival that includes lunch, entertainment, presentations by the San Diego Zoo, as well as a matinee performance of *Grinch*. Following their visit, the students will be presented with a new challenge: to read 100 books as a classroom before March 2, 2004, which marks Dr. Seuss' birthday and "Read Across America" Day. On that day, Globe staff, cast members and sponsors will participate in classroom readings.

Another exciting Globe event inspired by the Seussentennial celebration is the Globe's **Grinch Family Experience**, a fun new event created to help raise money for the Globe's education outreach programs, while offering an exciting day of hands-on theatre activities for children and families. Chaired by Audrey Geisel, the celebration will take place on Saturday, November 15, beginning at 11:30am, with activities taking place in the Globe's rehearsal studios in the House of Charm, where children can experience the interactive elements of how a production is mounted, including scenic, costume and prop design, stage movement, and much more. The event also includes a special luncheon and a matinee performance of Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*. In addition to priority theatre seating, VIP ticket holders will also be treated to an on-stage meet & greet with the *Grinch* cast, as well as a workshop on stage following the performance, to learn the popular "Whatchama-who" dance featured in the production.

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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 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 Summer 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 The Full Monty, Pride's Crossing 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 theatre.

