

NEWS FROM THE GLOBE

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GLOBE ANNOUNCES 2003 SUMMER FESTIVAL SEASON;

NEW SEASON STRUCTURE ESTABLISHED FOR FALL 2003/4

On the heels of the Globe's exciting, world premiere-filled Winter Season 2003, the organization is pleased to announce the **2003 Summer Festival Season**, including two perennial Shakespeare favorites, the re-mounting of an acclaimed Broadway hit about Mae West, and a raucous comedy. Following this new 2003 Summer Festival, the Globe will begin presenting one main season from September to May (beginning in the Fall of 2003), heralding an exciting change in the Theatre's seasonal structure.

"This is a summer of extraordinary performances and homecomings," said Globe Artistic Director Jack O'Brien. "Our dear and valued friend Kathy Najimy returns to us in a hilarious new piece to portray one of the greatest entertainers of all time; and Dan Sullivan, whose enthralling productions of *Cymbeline* and *Romeo and Juliet* graced our stages a few years past comes back to direct the triumphant *Julius Caesar*. It is a summer not to be missed!"

2003 Summer Festival

Highlighting the Globe's summer season are two thrilling Shakespeare productions in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre that represent opposite ends of the dramatic spectrum: *Julius Caesar*, to be directed by Tony Award-winner **Daniel Sullivan**, playing June 29 through August 10; and *Much Ado About Nothing*, playing August 31 through October 12.

One of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, *Julius Caesar* delivers a poignant tale of political intrigue. Shakespeare expands on the portraits of Caesar and his compatriots drawn by Plutarch and other scholars, to create fresh characters that show true human sympathies, loyalties, ambitions, and even humor. The play deftly dramatizes questions of democracy versus dictatorship, patriotism, and civil war – not just as historical events, but as the actions born of complex and passionate relationships. Last represented at the Globe with his innovative stagings of *Cymbeline* and *Romeo and Juliet*, Daniel Sullivan has become one of the most acclaimed and sought-after directors in the country.

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Wrapping up the summer season will be the delightful *Much Ado About Nothing*, to be directed by Globe Associate Director **Brendon Fox**, who will be making his Shakespeare directorial debut at the Globe, following his acclaimed productions of *Beyond Therapy*, *The Countess*, and many others. Set in the rustic Italian countryside, the play revolves around a hapless string of events affecting two sets of classic Shakespearean lovers: Beatrice and Benedick – a fiery duo who would rather suffer alone than admit their love for one another; and Claudio and Hero – two young sweethearts who fall victim to an artful deception. Yet despite a few dark undercurrents, all ends happily in this delightful comedy, told with witty wordplay and passionate poetry by some of the Bard’s most memorable characters.

In the Old Globe Theatre, the Globe welcomes the Southern California premiere of *Dirty Blonde*, by Claudia Shear, featuring acclaimed actress and San Diego native **Kathy Najimy**. Playing in the Old Globe Theatre July 20 through August 30, *Dirty Blonde* is a hybrid work that is part Mae West docu-drama, part love story and part vaudeville. Najimy plays Jo, an aspiring actress who admires West for her determination to beat the odds. She, along with two male cast members, regale audiences with re-enactments of the turns of West's showbiz career in a celebration of Mae West’s independence and bravely bawdy spirit. “I made myself platinum, but I was born a dirty blonde.” Najimy has made memorable appearances in such films as *Sister Act*, *Soap Dish*, *Hocus Pocus* and *Hope Floats*. On stage she has not only starred in *Dirty Blonde* on Broadway when she took over the role from Shear, she has also wowed audiences in the Obie Award-winning *The Kathy & Mo Show*, which she produced, wrote and co-starred in with Maureen “Mo” Gaffney. On television, she’s the voice of Peggy on the animated series *King of the Hill*, played “Olive” on *Veronica’s Closet*, and has made guest appearances on *Chicago Hope*, *Ellen* and many others.

In the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, David Ives’ *Time Flies* (July 27 through September 7), directed by Matt August, takes audiences on a wild and hilarious ride through a series of short playlets. Each piece creates a wacky world of its own, where reality is skewed and the characters are highly unusual, such as in the title piece, in which Ives portrays the lives of two mayflies who, on learning of their impending death, strive to define goals for their last day on earth. Listed by *New York Magazine* as one of the “100 Smartest New Yorkers,” David Ives has written several plays, including *All in the Timing* (produced at the Globe in 1998), *Don Juan in Chicago*, *Long Ago and Far Away*, *Land of Cockaigne and English Made Stupid*, and *Red Address*.

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As an exciting added benefit exclusively for Globe subscribers (for both the 2003 Summer Festival and the new 2003/4 Season), the Globe will be offering a special opportunity to purchase tickets to *Hairspray*, the Broadway musical sensation, directed by the Globe’s own **Jack O’Brien**, in cooperation with Broadway/San Diego. One of the most successful shows of the 2002 Broadway season, this critically-acclaimed production has been playing to sold-out houses in New York and is sure to sell out during its San Diego run. But Globe subscribers can be assured guaranteed seats when it comes to San Diego’s Civic Theatre in July 2004.

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Hairspray takes audiences back to 1960s Baltimore where 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. But can a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart become a teen celebrity, change the world, and still have time to win the boy she loves? Piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance and deliriously tuneful new songs, *Hairspray* will leave audiences dancing and singing in the aisles!

"We're delighted to be working with Broadway/San Diego on this exciting offer for our Globe subscribers, said O'Brien. "I'm so proud of this high-spirited production, and it is only fitting that our Globe family have the chance to experience the fun of *Hairspray*!"

The Globe is also pleased to announce the creation of a new **\$19 ticket price**. This price is now available for all regular performances offered in the Old Globe Theatre, Cassius Carter Centre Stage for the current 2003 Winter Season, and will be available for performances in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre as well as for the 2003 Summer Festival. Additionally, the box office announces new business hours starting in January 2003: Tuesdays through Saturdays: noon to 8:30pm; Mondays: noon to 6pm; and Sundays: noon to 7:30pm. Globe Summer Festival subscription packages are available by calling Globe Ticket Services at **(619) 239-2255**.

Globe Season Restructure '03/'04

The revamped Globe Winter Season will consist of ten productions, to be presented from September through May, beginning in the fall of 2003. The 2004 Summer Festival will then follow, from early July through early September.

"The changes in the season structure have been introduced in order to make the Globe season more convenient for our patrons, especially our family of subscribers. We will now be able to offer one primary season in the tradition of most theater companies, as well as return to the excitement of a true summer festival," remarked Globe Executive Director Louis G. Spisto. "The new schedule also offers the Globe more flexibility for additional programming opportunities which may arise on occasion."

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The internationally-acclaimed, Tony® Award-winning Globe Theatres is one of the most renowned regional theaters in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for over 67 years. The 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, Pride's Crossing and Damn Yankees, have been developed at the 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.