



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

News

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THE OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES SUMMER 2004 SEASON:

**THE NEW HIT MUSICAL *LUCKY DUCK*, DIRECTED BY TONY AWARD®-
WINNER JOHN RANDO, AND *THE INTELLIGENT DESIGN OF JENNY CHOW*,
HELMED BY ACCLAIMED LOCAL DIRECTOR KIRSTEN BRANDT**

**GLOBE BRINGS BACK ACCLAIMED SUMMER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
WITH THREE EXCITING WORKS TO BE PERFORMED IN REPERTORY**

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to announce its complete 2004 summer season, including the hip new musical *Lucky Duck*, with music by Henry Krieger (*Dreamgirls*, *Side Show*), lyrics by Bill Russell (*Side Show*, *Pageant*), and book by Bill Russell and Jeffrey Hatcher (The Old Globe's 2002 Shiley Artist-in-Residence and author of the Theatre's acclaimed productions of *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *Smash* and *Scotland Road*). This exciting production will be directed by 2002 Tony Award®-winner **John Rando**, and will run in the Old Globe Theatre **July 10 – August 15, 2004**. In addition, the Globe will present *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, the award-winning comedy by Rolin Jones, directed by local favorite **Kirsten Brandt**, to play in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage **June 12 – July 18, 2004**.

The Old Globe will also present its **Summer Shakespeare Festival**, consisting of three dynamic productions, including *Antony and Cleopatra*, *As You Like It*, and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, running in repertory in the scenic outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre **June 25 – September 26, 2004**. Renowned director **Darko Tresnjak** will serve as the Festival's Artistic Director.

From the creative team behind the Broadway hits *Dreamgirls* and *Side Show* comes the delightful musical *Lucky Duck* (July 10 – August 15) an uproarious new adaptation of "The Ugly Duckling." This rollicking production follows homely songbird Serena from her "fowl" days of barnyard mockery to her triumphant success as a supermodel swan. Viewed as an odd duck by her family, Serena flees the farm to seek her special destiny in the big city. With the help of some unexpected animal allies, she soon comes out of her shell, and decked out in high fashion feathers, she enters a national singing contest with her heart set on the championship and a date with the prince! As her journey progresses, she discovers that beauty is only feather deep, and she must find her own voice to succeed.

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Although based on a children's story, *Lucky Duck* is aimed at adult audiences and features a hot pop score by Henry Krieger (music) and Bill Russell (lyrics), filled with R&B, gospel and plenty of Broadway-style showstoppers. Russell and Jeffrey Hatcher have put together a story overflowing with humor, heart and deliciously punny wordplay. Talkin' Broadway called the show "slick and funny...smart dialogue and winning jokes come so quickly that one may need multiple viewings to catch them all!" Directed by John Rando, the 2002 Tony Award®-winner for his direction of the hit Broadway show *Urinetown*, this wonderfully zany, adult musical comedy is a celebration of rock, blues, jazz and swing that will have audiences dancing in the aisles.

In *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (June 12 – July 18), 22-year-old Jennifer Marcus is an agoraphobic, obsessive-compulsive young woman with an IQ off the charts. She spends her entire life in her room in front of a computer screen, with only her adoptive parents, her online companions, and an occasional visit from the pizza delivery guy for company. In a quest to learn more about her biological parents, she builds a fully functioning robotic replica of herself, "Jenny Chow," who helps Jennifer make the "virtual" connections she needs to discover her Chinese birth mother, and ultimately her own sense of self. A witty, computer-age comedy, *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* has been hailed by critics. The *L.A. Times* wrote "an exciting new script...a dazzling display of stagecraft that harvest many laughs and finally a few tears," while the *Orange County Weekly* called it an "intricately composed and sharply written play...Jones' script is wonderful."

This summer The Old Globe is also thrilled to bring back its traditional **Summer Shakespeare Festival**, with three productions, including *Antony and Cleopatra*, *As You Like It*, and, in its first-ever production at the Globe, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, to run in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre June 25 through September 26, 2004. These three plays will be performed in repertory by a resident acting company, comprised of a group of professional actors as well as 14 graduate acting students from The Old Globe/University of San Diego Master of Fine Arts program. In its first year, 78 performances are planned, with productions rotating on a nightly basis, allowing audiences the opportunity to see three different Shakespeare productions on three consecutive nights.

Nearly 20 years have passed since The Old Globe presented Shakespeare in repertory, and the Theatre is thrilled to bring back this time-honored tradition begun by founding Globe company member and current Artistic Director **Craig Noel**. Shakespeare at the Globe dates back to the institution's artistic roots, when, in its very first year of existence, the Theatre presented 50-minute versions of Shakespeare's plays, performed in repertory, as part of the 1935 California Exposition. From 1949 to 1984, the Bard's work became an even more integral part of the Globe's programming, with the creation of the annual San Diego National Shakespeare Festival – an ambitious, summer-long event in which at least three Shakespeare works were presented in repertory. Only a handful of professional theatre companies still present plays performed in repertory, and the revival of this Festival – at a theatre internationally-renowned for its Shakespeare productions – will allow the Globe to continue this outstanding tradition, fostering its reputation as a national treasure and a major destination for educators, tourists and the community at large.

Darko Tresnjak, who helmed the Globe's stunning 2002 production of *Pericles*, will serve as the Shakespeare Festival's Artistic Director. The inaugural season will include the epic *Antony and Cleopatra*, directed by Tresnjak; followed by the classic comedy *As You Like It*; directed by Associate Artistic Director Karen Carpenter; and finally, Tresnjak will direct the intriguing and rarely-performed *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, co-authored by Shakespeare and John Fletcher.

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Tresnjak's production of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* recently opened at New York's Public Theatre to great critical acclaim. *The New York Times* wrote, "The rarity of an appearance by *The Two Noble Kinsmen* is in itself a pretty good reason to visit the Joseph Papp Public Theater...but another one is that as directed by Darko Tresnjak, this strange, tonally ambiguous amalgam of comic plot and tragic lamentation is enthralling. ...Mr. Tresnjak is a gifted young director whose stage imagination is fertile and who obviously enjoys the challenge of difficult work." And the Associated Press heralded, "...The real star of the evening is Tresnjak, who fills the production with several startling and unforgettable images."

Globe Artistic Director Jack O'Brien remarked, "To be able to fold into our midst a new and authentically visionary talent like Darko Tresnjak is something I've longed to achieve in facing our new and vital future, and the thrilling return to a great classical repertory of plays rotating in the Festival Stage will create a climate of excitement and theatricality unlike anything we've known in this community for literally decades."

Henry Krieger and **Bill Russell** have provided *Lucky Duck's* hot pop score, incorporating touches of R&B, gospel and old fashioned Broadway-style showstoppers. Krieger made his Broadway debut with *Dreamgirls*, which ran for four years and won six Tony Awards®. Other Broadway credits include *The Tap Dance Kid* and *Side Show*, which received four Tony nominations. Russell wrote the book and lyrics of *Side Show*, which earned him two Tony Award® nominations. He also co-authored the book and lyrics for *Pageant*, which ran for over a year off-Broadway and received productions throughout Japan, Australia and the US, including a sold-out run at San Diego's North Coast Repertory Theatre last year. Other credits include *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens*, *Fortune* (book and lyrics) and *The Texas Chainsaw Musical* (co-author, book and lyrics).

Jeffrey Hatcher's work has been produced often at the Globe, including Season 2002's acclaimed production of *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, as well as *Smash* and *Scotland Road*. He also served as the institution's Shiley Artist-in-Residence in 2002. Additional plays include *Work Song*, *Three Viewings*, *Sockdology*, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Bon Voyage* and others, which have been produced extensively in New York and at regional theatres throughout the country. A 1989 recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship, Hatcher has been chosen several times to participate in the O'Neill Center's National Playwrights Conference; has received grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Rosenthal New Play Competition, the W. Alton Jones Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation; and was elected to New Dramatists in 1992. In addition to plays, he has written a book, *The Art & Craft of Playwriting*, as well as scripts for the Peter Falk television series *Columbo*.

John Rando's Broadway credits include the hit musical *Urinetown*, for which he won the 2002 Tony Award® for Best Direction of a Musical, Neil Simon's *The Dinner Party* (also at the Mark Taper Forum and the Kennedy Center), *A Thousand Clowns*, and *Dance of the Vampires*. Rando achieved prominence in New York directing several of David Ives' comedies, including *Polish Joke* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *Mere Mortals* and *Ancient History/English Made Simple* at Primary Stages, as well as *Lives of the Saints* at the Philadelphia Theatre Company and the Berkshire Theatre Festival. Additional New York credits include *The Pajama Game*, *Do Re Mi* and *Strike Up the Band* for City Center Encores!, *When Ladies Battle*, *The Venetian Twins* and *Twelfth Night* at the Pearl Theatre Company, *Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight* at the Promenade Theatre, and *Fortune's Fools* at the Cherry Lane Theatre. For The Old Globe he has directed the Festival 2002 hit *The Taming of the Shrew*, as well as *All in the Timing*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* and *Sylvia*.

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Playwright **Rolin Jones** is currently a student in the Yale School of Drama's MFA program, where he is the recipient of the George Pierce Baker Scholarship. His other plays include *Time of No Reply*, *The Jammer*, *Like Persuading Another in a Long Line of Idiot Children* and *Mrs. Handley Loves Her Husband*.

Kirsten Brandt has won countless awards for her work as director, writer and producer in San Diego, including the 2003 San Diego Critics Circle Award for Creative Achievement. Her Sledgehammer Theatre production of *Berzerkergang* also won a 2003 KPBS Patte Award. Artistic Director of Sledgehammer since 1999, she recently directed its world-premiere production of *Nu*, which she conceived and directed with Jessa Watson, and La Jolla Playhouse's production of *The Burning Deck*, starring Diane Venora. Brandt studied playwriting at the University of Birmingham, England (with David Edgar and Clair McIntyre) and graduated with a B.A. in directing from the University of California, San Diego. She is one of the founders of DURGA, the women's performance festival of San Diego and serves on the advisory board for the Coronado School of the Arts. She has also been a guest artist at the Lincoln Center Director's Lab West. Brandt has produced fifteen theatrical events for Sledgehammer and created its first ever education program, STEP, promoting literacy through drama in San Diego schools. She has also trained with the SITI Company in Los Angeles and completed the National Arts Marketing Project Advanced Audience Development Training & Granting Program.

Darko Tresnjak has directed acclaimed works in the realms of theater, opera and dance. He is a recipient of the 2001 Alan Schneider Award for Directing Excellence, a 2002 National Theater Artist Residency Grant at the Huntington Theatre, an NEA New Forms Grant, and the Boris Sagal Directing Fellowship at Williamstown Theatre Festival. His recent directing credits include *Pericles* at The Old Globe, *Heartbreak House* and *Amphitryon* at the Huntington Theatre; *A Little Night Music* at Goodspeed Opera House; *Under Milk Wood*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Moving Picture*, *The Love of Three Oranges* and *Princess Turandot* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* at Long Wharf Theatre. His opera credits include *The Magic Flute* at Opera Theater of Saint Louis; *Orfeo ed Euridice* at Virginia Opera, *Turandot* at Opera Carolina, and *La Traviata*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Così fan tutte*, as well as the American premiere of Rimsky-Korsakov's *May Night*, at Sarasota Opera. As a member of Philadelphia's Mum Puppettheater, he toured across the United States and Japan. Tresnjak grew up in Yugoslavia, the United States and Poland. He was educated at Swarthmore College and Columbia University.

Subscriptions for The Old Globe's 2004 Summer Festival are available by calling the Globe's Ticket Services Department at **(619) 23-GLOBE**, by visiting the box office in Balboa Park, or on our website at www.TheOldGlobe.org.

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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 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 Old Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.