



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

News

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Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
Craig Noel, *Artistic Director*

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OLD GLOBE TO DEDICATE BUST OF FOUNDING DIRECTOR CRAIG NOEL IN HONOR OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

EXCITING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 25, FEATURING GLOBE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JACK O'BRIEN AND ASSOCIATE ARTIST MARION ROSS

San Diego – The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is thrilled to announce a festive 90th birthday party for its Founding Director **Craig Noel**, taking place on Thursday, August 25, 2005, continuing the Globe's year-long 70th Anniversary celebrations. As part of the celebration, renowned sculptor **Lark Grey Dimond-Cates** was commissioned to create a bust of Noel to be unveiled on August 25 at 5:00pm in the Old Globe Theatre lobby. The bust will then remain on permanent display for all theatre patrons, as an ongoing symbol of Noel's indelible spirit, as well as his invaluable contributions to the Globe and the arts in San Diego.

A fundraiser for the Globe's artistic and education programs, this exciting event begins with a reception on The Old Globe Plaza at 5:00pm followed by the Craig Noel bust dedication at 5:30pm. At 6:30pm, patrons will move to the San Diego Museum of Art Sculpture Court for a special birthday dinner and presentation in Noel's honor. Long-time Globe supporters **Donald and Darlene Shiley** are serving as Honorary Chairs of the event, while Globe Associate Artist **Marion Ross** and Paul Michael are the Event Chairs. Ross and Globe Artistic Director **Jack O'Brien** will serve as emcees for the evening, which will include reminiscences, toasts and roasts from a host of Noel's friends, Globe artists, donors, community leaders, and many others.

Throughout Craig Noel's distinguished 68-year career with The Old Globe, the much-honored director has staged over 225 productions of all styles and periods. He has been associated with The Old Globe since its community-theater inception in 1937 and has guided the organization through its metamorphosis from a community theater of the highest standards to one of the nation's most successful not-for profit theaters. His most recent productions include *The Pavilion*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Scotland Road*, *Wonderful Tennessee*, as well as the acclaimed world-premiere productions of Lillian Garrett-Groag's *The White Rose* and Reuben Gonzalez's *The Boiler Room*, and the American premieres of Alan Ayckbourn's *Mr. A's Amazing Maze Plays* and *Intimate Exchanges*. Noel made his Globe debut as an actor in 1937. Two years later he accepted his first directorial assignments, staging four of the season's seven productions.

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Noel's contributions to San Diego and to the nation are legendary. He has enriched the larger community through his support and encouragement of playwrights, actors and theater artists and through the nurturing of an entire generation of citizens who have become today's theater-goers and arts supporters. Noel is a founder of the California Theatre Council and a former vice president of the California Confederation of the Arts. His numerous honors encompass the inclusion by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* in a list of 25 persons who shaped the city's history; the Governor's Award for the Arts; University of Arizona Alumni Association's Outstanding Citizen for his contribution to their fine arts department; San Diego State University's Outstanding Alumnus; honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, University of San Diego; San Diego's Living Treasure Award; Conservator of American Arts Award from American Conservatory Theatre; the San Diego Press Club Headliner Award; the San Diego Gentleman of Distinction Award; and a combined tribute from the Public Arts Advisory Council and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

Lark Grey Dimond-Cates was born in Kansas City, MO, raised in La Jolla, and earned her BFA at Stephens College in Columbia, MO. In 1980, she spent a year in Veracruz, Mexico working as an art instructor in a bi-national, bi-cultural school. Upon returning to San Diego, Lark obtained her teaching credential at SDSU while working at the Metropolitan Correctional Center for two years as an art teacher. In 1984 she moved to Kailua Kona, HI, where she pursued her career as a watercolorist producing prints and originals of local landscapes and Hawaiian subject matter. She then began working in sculpture, focusing on traditional Hula figures. Subsequently she was awarded a commission by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to produce five life-size Hawaiian women to be installed at the Keahole International Airport. Lark designed and produced the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden in Springfield, MA, which resulted in over 30 Dr. Seuss characters in bronze, dedicated in June of 2002. She was also commissioned to create a memorial to Edward P. Boland, a Springfield, MA native who spent 35 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. Recently, in honor of Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday, Lark unveiled a sculpture of the author and his famous "Cat in the Hat" which stands adjacent to the Geisel Library on the campus of UCSD. When not working on commissions, she is designing a series of sculptures inspired by her experiences in Mexico.

Major Underwriters for the celebration include Donald and Darlene Shiley, Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price and the County of San Diego, Audrey Geisel, The Lipinsky Family, Sheryl and Harvey P. White, C.E. & S. Foundation, Ann and John Davies, Jeannie and Arthur Rivkin, and Carolyn Yorston.

The Host Committee for the event includes Councilmember Toni Atkins, Rita Bronowski, Derrick Cartwright, Associate Artist Kandis Chappell, Garet Clark, Mary H. Clark, Karen Cohn, David Copley, Jane Cowgill, Darlene Davies, Bea Epsten, Anne Evans, Danah Fayman, Jane Fetter, Hon. Charles Froelich, Sally Furay, R.S.C.J., Audrey Geisel, Jill Hall, Tom Hall, Cherie Halladay, Henk Hanselaar, Kathryn Hattox, Joseph E. Jessop, Jr., Philip Klauber, Herb Klein, Jean Laing, Terry Lehr, Elaine Lipinsky, Sheila & Jeff Lipinsky, Martha Longenecker, Delza Martin, Bruce Maza, Associate Artist Jonathan McMurtry, Jim Milch, Judy Miller, Jim Mulvaney, Stan Nadel, Josiah Neeper, Marilyn & Arthur Neumann, Jack O'Brien, Dolly Poet, Sol Price, Ann Pund, William Purves, Bobbie Quick, Jeannie & Arthur Rivkin, Marion Ross & Paul Michael, Donald & Darlene Shiley, Patsy & Forrest Shumway, Deborah Szekely, Evelyn Mack Truitt, Dixie Unruh, Sheryl & Harvey P. White, Gov. Pete Wilson & Gayle Wilson, and Carolyn Yorston. For information on attending the celebration, contact Eileen Prisby at (619) 231-1941 x2303.

In addition to Noel's 90th birthday event, The Old Globe celebrated its 70th anniversary on Saturday, June 18, with a free community Open House. Over 3000 people turned out for this exciting event, which took place from 10:00am to 1:30pm on the Globe Plaza and featured delightful presentations by the 2005 Shakespeare Festival Company, backstage tours, costume displays, kids craft area, proclamations by City and County officials to honor the Globe and Noel, as well as a special appearance by Globe Associate Artist Marion Ross, who regally presided over the day in the role of Queen Elizabeth.

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 70 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theater artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and John Lithgow, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *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.

During the 70th Anniversary Season, the Globe is presenting *The Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth* and *The Winter's Tale* playing in nightly rotation in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre; *Moonlight and Magnolias*, a new comedy play about the making of *Gone With The Wind*, in the Old Globe Theatre; and the world premiere production about Ann Landers, *The Lady with All the Answers*, in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage. The 2005/6 Season continues the celebration with two more world premieres, including *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, an exciting musical biography of the acclaimed actress/singer/dancer, as well as a thrilling new work by Twyla Tharp set to the music of the legendary Bob Dylan. Under the leadership of Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.

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