



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

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Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
Jack O'Brien, *Artistic Director*
Jerry Patch, *Resident Artistic Director*

Craig Noel, *Founding Director*

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CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
NEW MUSICAL *ACE* AT THE OLD GLOBE
JANUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 18, 2007

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present the West Coast premiere of the new musical *Ace*, book and lyrics by Robert Taylor and Richard Oberacker, music by Richard Oberacker, directed by Stafford Arima, playing in the Old Globe Theatre **January 13 – February 18, 2007** (press opening: Thursday, January 18).

This heartwarming new musical tells the story of the hopes and dreams of three generations of fathers and sons, husbands and wives at a significant time in American history. With a soaring musical score, *Ace* pays tribute to the achievements and sacrifices made by aviation heroes of World War I and II. *The Cincinnati Enquirer* called it a “smart, ambitious and emotionally satisfying new musical,” while *Theatermania* raved, “*Ace* is something you don’t see very often these days, a musical with an original story ... the score is moving and exhilarating. Audiences are in for a treat.”

The cast of *Ace* includes Michael Arden (*The Times They Are A-Changin’, Big River*), Darren Ritchie (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Lisa Datz (*The Full Monty*), Heather Ayers, Kelli Barrett, Richard Barth, Ian Brininstool, Gabrielle Boyadjian, Noah Galvin, James Judy, Susan Kokot Stokes, Duke Lafoon, Kevin Reed, Danny Rothman, Maddie Shea Baldwin, Traci Lyn Thomas, Gabrielle Stravelli and Betsy Wolfe.

The production team for *Ace* includes Richard Oberacker, book, lyrics and music; Robert Taylor, book and lyrics; Stafford Arima, director; David Kreppel, musical director; Andrew Palermo, choreography; Greg Anthony, orchestrator; David Korins, scenic design; Marie Anne Chiment, costume design; Christopher Akerlind, lighting design; John H. Shivers and David Patridge, sound design; and Andrea L. Shell, stage manager.

Tickets for *Ace* are currently on sale and are available at (619) 23-GLOBE, on the Globe website at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by visiting the Globe Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Ticket prices range from \$47 to \$75.

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Richard Oberacker (*Composer/Co-Lyricist/Co-Librettist*) is currently the conductor for Cirque Du Soleil's *KA* at MGM Grand in Las Vegas. His other musicals include *The Gospel According to Fishman* (premiered at Signature Theatre Company, directed by Eric D. Schaeffer), *Dracula*, *The Game of Love* (premiered at University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music), *In That Valley* (premiered at NAMT Festival, New York), *A Little Theater* (premiered at Aurelia Theater) and *Journey to the West* (premiered at 2006 NAMT Festival, New York).

Robert Taylor's (*Co-Lyricist/Co-Librettist*) other current projects with Richard Oberacker include *Journey to the West* and *Southern Cross*. He currently tours as a musician with Disney's *The Lion King*. A graduate of Holland's Royal Conservatory, Union College, the University of Bonn and Princeton University, he has taught foreign languages and ornithology in New York, English and music in China, served as music critic to the *Albany Times Union*, founded and directed several nonprofits, worked as a freelance musician and writer in Manhattan and a translator in Europe and Asia and lectured on opera and art history.

Stafford Arima's (*Director*) directing credits include the Off Broadway productions *Altar Boyz* (Best Musical – 2004/2005 Outer Critics Circle Award), *Children's Letters to God*, *Rags* and *The Secret Garden*; the national tour of *Seussical The Musical*; and the West End production of *Ragtime* (Best Director, 2004 Olivier Award nomination). He served as the Associate Director of the Broadway production of *A Class Act*. Regionally, he directed *Ace* at Cincinnati Playhouse and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis; *Bright Lights*, *Big City* at Prince Music Theater; *A Tribute To Stephen Sondheim* for Boston Pops; *Candide* for San Francisco Symphony; *Abyssinia* at Goodspeed Musicals; *Guys and Dolls* at Paper Mill Playhouse; *A Little Night Music* at Sacramento Music Circus and *Aida* for North Shore Music Theatre.

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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 71 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 theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, 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.

Highlights of the Globe's 2006/7 Season include the acclaimed production of Hershey Felder as George Gershwin Alone, the west coast premiere of Ace, as well as Amy Freed's Restoration Comedy, the co-world premiere of Pig Farm, August Wilson's Two Trains Running and Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf. 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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THE OLD GLOBE
ACE FACT SHEET

WHAT: *Ace*
Book and lyrics by Robert Taylor and Richard Oberacker
Music by Richard Oberacker

WHEN: **January 13 through February 18; Press Opening: Thursday, January 18 at 8pm**
Performances: Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm; Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm; Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm

WHERE: Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

WHO: Book and lyrics: *Robert Taylor and Richard Oberacker*
Music: *Richard Oberacker*
Director: *Stafford Arima*
Musical Director: *David Kreppel*
Choreographer: *Andrew Palermo*
Orchestrator: *Greg Anthony*
Scenic Designer: *David Korins*
Costume Designer: *Marie Anne Chiment*
Lighting Designer: *Christopher Akerlind*
Sound Designer: *John H. Shivers and David Patridge*
Stage Manager: *Andrea L. Shell*

Cast:

Michael Arden	<i>John Robert</i>
Heather Ayers	<i>Ruth</i>
Maddie Shea Baldwin	<i>Ensemble</i>
Kelli Barrett	<i>Nurse/Ensemble</i>
Richard Barth	<i>Lieutenant Sanders/Sullivan/Ensemble</i>
Gabrielle Boyadjian	<i>Emily</i>
Ian Brininstool	<i>School Bully/Young Charlie/Ensemble</i>
Lisa Datz	<i>Elizabeth</i>
Noah Galvin	<i>Billy</i>
James Judy	<i>Toy Store Owner/Colonel Whitlow/Chennault/Ensemble</i>
Duke Lafoon	<i>Edward/Stampley</i>
Kevin Reed	<i>Tennaman/Stein/Ensemble</i>
Darren Ritchie	<i>Ace</i>
Danny Rothman	<i>Cooper/Myron/Ensemble</i>
Gabrielle Stravelli	<i>Anique/Ensemble</i>
Susan Kokot Stokes	<i>Teacher/Ensemble</i>
Traci Lyn Thomas	<i>Mrs. Crandall/Clara Whitlow</i>
Betsy Wolfe	<i>Louise</i>

BACKGROUND:

This heartwarming new musical tells the story of the hopes and dreams of three generations of fathers and sons, husbands and wives at a significant time in American history. With a soaring musical score, *Ace* pays tribute to the achievements and sacrifices made by aviation heroes of World War I and II. *Ace* was originally produced by The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

TICKETS: \$47-\$75

BOX OFFICE: (619) 23-GLOBE

Hours: Mondays: noon to 6pm; Tuesday thru Saturdays: noon to 8:30pm;
Sundays: noon to 7:30pm.