



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

News

Jack O'Brien, *Artistic Director*
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Craig Noel, *Artistic Director*

P.O. Box 122171 Tel 619/231-1941
San Diego, CA Fax 619/231-5879
92112-2171 www.theoldglobe.org

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Contact: Becky Biegelsen (619) 231-1941
www.theoldglobe.org

THE OLD GLOBE PRESENTS WEST COAST PREMIERE
OF LEE BLESSING'S INTRIGUING NEW PLAY:
A BODY OF WATER

ACCLAIMED STAGE & SCREEN ACTRESS SANDY DUNCAN HEADLINES CAST

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to present the West Coast premiere of *A Body of Water*, by Pulitzer Prize finalist **Lee Blessing**, directed by **Ethan McSweeney**, playing in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage **February 11 through March 19** (press opening: February 16). The cast features Tony-nominated actress **Sandy Duncan** (*The Hogan Family, Peter Pan, My One and Only*) as “Avis,” **Ned Schmidtke** (*Blue/Orange, Pericles*) as “Moss” and **Samantha Soule** as “Wren.” Tickets for *A Body of Water* go on sale **Sunday, January 8** and are available by calling **(619) 23-GLOBE**, on-line at **www.TheOldGlobe.org**, or by visiting the Globe Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

In this fascinating new play, a man and a woman, Moss and Avis, wake up one morning and find themselves in a strange house atop a mountain surrounded by water. The air is clear and the view exquisite, but they have no idea who they are and how they got there – they have lost their long-term memory. Are they husband and wife? Is this their house or are they guests? As they consider the possibilities, their mood shifts from bemused concern to anxious despair. On three different visits, a mysterious young woman named Wren fills in their biographies. Each time she does, however, the scenarios of their lives change radically. Recently named “Outstanding New Script of 2005” by the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, Blessing’s intriguing portrait of this couple’s condition shows us that without the firmament of memory, life can be a never-ending stream of possibilities – and horror.

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Sandy Duncan was born and raised in Texas and made her theatrical debut in a summer production of *The King and I* in Dallas at the age of 12. Her New York stage career began at the New York City Center, where she appeared as Louise in Agnes de Mille's production of *Carousel*, followed by *The Music Man*, *Sound of Music*, *Finian's Rainbow* and *Life with Father*. Her big break came with the Broadway musical *Canterbury Tales*, for which she received her first Tony Award nomination in 1969. Her second Tony Award nomination was for her starring role in the production of *The Boy Friend*, for which she received the New York Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award. Following her television series "Funny Face," Ms. Duncan returned to Broadway in the title role of *Peter Pan*. Her performance earned her a third Tony nomination. She went on to star in Radio City Music Hall's *Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Dance!* with her husband, Don Correia. The Correias next starred in Tommy Tune's Tony Award-winning musical *My One And Only* on Broadway. Ms. Duncan, along with Mr. Tune, took that show on national and international tours. After her completion of the TV Series "The Hogan Family," she returned to Broadway as Roxie Hart in *Chicago*. Her most recent stage appearances include starring roles in the off-Broadway production of A.R. Gurney's *The Fourth Wall*, *Crimes of the Heart* at the Cape Playhouse, *Steel Magnolias* at the Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center, and *The Belle of Amherst* at Commonwealth Theatre Company. Ms. Duncan returned to her roots last season by performing in *The King and I* once again – this time as Anna, in the acclaimed national tour. Ms. Duncan continues to perform her show *Together* throughout North America with her husband and countless symphony orchestras.

Lee Blessing's plays include *A Walk in the Woods* on Broadway, London's West End and Moscow; *Going to St. Ives* at Primary Stages, *Thief River* at Signature Theatre; *Cobb* at the Lucille Lortel Theater (and at The Old Globe in 1990); *Chesapeake* at Second Stage Theatre; *Down The Road* at Weissberger Theater Group at Atlantic Theater Company; and *Eleemosynary* at Manhattan Theatre Club. In the Signature Theatre's 1992-93 season, *Fortinbras*, *Lake Street Extension*, *Two Rooms* and the world premiere of *Patient A*. He has had regional and world premieres at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, La Jolla Playhouse, Yale Repertory Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Arena Stage, The Old Globe and Alliance Theatre among others, as well as numerous plays produced in England, France, Germany, Japan, Scandinavia and elsewhere worldwide. Additional plays include *Oldtimers Game*, *Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music*, *Independence*, *Riches*, *Black Sheep*, *Whores* and *Great Falls*. His recent and upcoming world and regional premieres include *Flag Day* at Contemporary American Theater Festival, *The Scottish Play* at La Jolla Playhouse and *The Winning Streak* at George Street Playhouse. For television he wrote "Cooperstown" on TNT. Blessing's awards include Tony and Olivier nominations, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, the American Theatre Critics Association Award for *A Walk in the Woods*; a Lucille Lortel Award nomination and an Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Play for *Going to St. Ives*; a Drama Desk nomination for Best Play for *Thief River*; a Drama Desk Award for Best Ensemble for *Cobb*; a Great American Play Award for *Independence*, the Humanitas Award for "Cooperstown" and has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Guggenheim, Bush, McKnight and Jerome Foundations. Blessing is the Head of the Graduate Playwriting Program at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University.

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Ethan McSweeney's New York credits include the Broadway production of Gore Vidal's *The Best Man* (2001 Tony Award nomination, Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk Awards for Best Revival); John Logan's *Never the Sinner* (Outer Critics Circle Award); Willy Holtzman's *Sabina* at Primary Stages; and Aeschylus' *The Persians* in a new translation by Ellen McLaughlin (with Roberta Maxwell and Len Cariou) at National Actors Theatre. His regional credits include *All My Sons* at Chautauqua Theater Company, where he serves as Co-Artistic Director; the world-premiere of *Mr. Marmalade* at South Coast Repertory (2005 OCIE Award, Best Production); *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* at Westport Playhouse; *Chasing Nicolette* at Prince Music Theatre; Lee Blessing's *A Walk in the Woods*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Ctrl+Alt+Delete*, *Old Times* and *Master Class* at George Street Playhouse, where he served as Associate Artistic Director (2000-2004), *Dirty Blonde* at the Wilma Theatre; *Ctrl+Alt+Delete* (world premiere) at San Jose Repertory Theatre; *Wit* at Pittsburgh Public Theater; *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at the Alley Theatre; *Hydriotaphia* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre; *Mad About the Bard* (co-written with Floyd King) at the Folger Theatre; *Twelfth Night*, *Julius Caesar* (tour), as well as assistant director for more than 20 productions at The Shakespeare Theatre (Associate Director, 1993-97); numerous readings and workshops of new plays and musicals at the Cape Cod Theatre Project (artistic advisory board), the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Manhattan Theatre Club (6 @ 6), The Public Theater (New Work Now!), South Coast Repertory (Pacific Playwrights Festival, 2002, 2004), The Kennedy Center (New American Plays), The Playwrights' Center (PlayLabs 2004) and New Dramatists (resident director, 2001-02).

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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 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 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.

During this 70th Anniversary Winter Season, the Globe is presenting two fascinating world premieres, including Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life, an exciting musical biography of the acclaimed actress/singer/dancer, as well as THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN', 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.

THE OLD GLOBE
A BODY OF WATER
FACT SHEET

WHAT: *A Body of Water*
By Lee Blessing

WHEN: **February 11 – March 19; *Press Opening: Thursday, February 16***
Performances: – Sun/Tue/Wed at 7:00 pm
 – Thu/Fri/Sat at 8:00 pm
 – Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2:00 pm

WHERE: **Cassius Carter Centre Stage**
The Old Globe, Balboa Park

WHO: Director: Ethan McSweeney Scenic Design: Michael Vaughn Sims
 Costume Design: Charlotte Devaux Lighting Design: York Kennedy
 Sound Design: Michael Roth Stage Manager: Diana Moser

Cast: Sandy Duncan *Avis*
 Ned Schmidtke *Moss*
 Samantha Soule *Wren*

BACKGROUND:

In this fascinating new play, a man and a woman wake up one morning and find themselves in a strange house atop a mountain surrounded by water. The air is clear, the view exquisite, but they have no idea who or where they are and how they got there. As they consider the possibilities, their mood shifts from bemused concern to anxious despair. Blessing’s intriguing portrait of the couple’s condition shows us that without the firmament of memory, life can be a never-ending stream of possibilities – and horror.

TICKETS: \$19-\$56

BOX OFFICE: **(619) 23-GLOBE; www.TheOldGlobe.org**

Hours: –Monday noon to 6pm
 –Tuesday thru Saturday: noon to 8:30pm
 –Sunday: noon to 7:30pm
 –Visa, American Express, MasterCard, Discover Card accepted