



For Release: May 8, 2006

Contact: Becky Biegelsen (619) 231-1941

www.TheOldGlobe.org

THE OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES 2006/2007 SEASON

**CENTERPIECES INCLUDE THREE WORLD PREMIERES AND
A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF AN AMERICAN MASTER:**

THE STARRY MESSENGER

STARRING MATTHEW BRODERICK,

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KENNETH LONERGAN;

PIG FARM

WRITTEN BY TWO-TIME TONY AWARD-WINNER GREG KOTIS

(CO-WORLD PREMIERE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ROUNDABOUT THEATRE COMPANY);

GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE,

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY HERSHEY FELDER

GLOBE ALSO PRESENTS:

WORLD PREMIERE OF ITAMAR MOSES' *THE FOUR OF US*

AMY FREED'S *RESTORATION COMEDY*

AUGUST WILSON'S *TWO TRAINS RUNNING*

ANNIE WEISMAN'S *HOLD PLEASE*

EDWARD ALBEE'S *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?*

PLUS SAN DIEGO'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS:

DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!* AND *LA PASTORELA

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe's Executive Director Louis Spisto, Artistic Director Jack O'Brien, and Resident Artistic Director Jerry Patch are pleased to announce the Theatre's 2006-2007 Winter Season. The lineup includes the world-premiere, pre-Broadway production of Kenneth Lonergan's *The Starry Messenger*, starring Tony Award-winning actor **Matthew Broderick**, as well as the critically-acclaimed musical play *George Gershwin Alone*, August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*, and Amy Freed's brand new "period play," *Restoration Comedy*, in the Old Globe Theatre. In the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, the season begins with the world premiere of *Pig Farm* (in collaboration with the Roundabout Theatre Company) and continues with the world premiere of Itamar Moses' *The Four of Us*, Annie Weisman's *Hold Please* and the Edward Albee classic *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, which will be part of the Globe's new "Classics Up Close" series.

-- more --

“We are thrilled to once-again bring San Diego audiences America’s most celebrated theatre-artists with the Globe’s 18th Broadway-bound production, the world premiere of *The Starry Messenger*. Kenneth Lonergan and Matthew Broderick have tremendous careers in both theatre and film, and we are excited to have them join the season and bring their talents to San Diego,” said Spisto. “This amazing season once again demonstrates the Globe’s breadth and depth of programming, from the classic *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* to an engaging tribute to one of the nation’s most celebrated composers in *George Gershwin Alone*.”

“We are excited to bring some fresh voices to the Globe: *Urinetown*’s Greg Kotis, San Diego’s own Annie Weisman, one of our hottest young playwrights Itamar Moses, and Pulitzer Prize-finalist Amy Freed. These join such seasoned, award-winning playwrights as Edward Albee and August Wilson,” said Patch. “With *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* the Globe is launching a new initiative, “Classics Up Close.” We’ll be presenting an American classic each year for five seasons in the intimate setting of the Carter, allowing audiences the chance to be ringside with the work of a master.”

“What an unbelievable season we’ve put together this year!” said O’Brien. “Lou, Jerry and I are thrilled to bring Kenneth Lonergan to the Globe to stage his wonderful new play before its Broadway debut. With an August Wilson classic, which the Globe first presented in 1991 in its Broadway-bound premiere, as well as the world premieres of *Pig Farm* and *The Four of Us*, this a season not to be missed!”

For more information or to subscribe to The Old Globe’s 2006/2007 Winter Season, please contact Globe Ticket Services at **(619) 23-GLOBE**.

The Old Globe’s 2006/2007 Winter Season

Old Globe Theatre

Hershey Felder as

George Gershwin Alone

Music and Lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin

Book by Hershey Felder

Directed by Joel Zwick

September 9 – October 22, 2006 (press opening: September 17)

A celebrated work about the legendary American composer, *George Gershwin Alone* is a delightful “play with music” by actor, playwright and Steinway concert artist Hershey Felder. The show incorporates the Gershwins' best-known songs, from *The Man I Love* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*, through passages and songs from *An American in Paris* and *Porgy and Bess*, to a complete performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*. The first popular composer to use jazz as the foremost musical element in the serious concert hall, Gershwin absorbed the musical styles, rhythms and sophistication of the American spirit and created a musical language that made its mark on both classical and popular music throughout the world. Hershey Felder brings to life the spirit and talent of the legendary composer and pianist, leading audiences through the fascinating rhythms of Gershwin’s legendary songbook, while telling the tale of his tragically short life. For more information, please visit www.gershwinalone.com.

-- more --

The Starry Messenger

By Kenneth Lonergan

Directed by Kenneth Lonergan

January 13 – February 18, 2007 (press opening: January 19)

Mark Williams (Broderick) teaches astronomy at a non-research university in New York by day and adult classes at the Hayden Planetarium by night. His efforts to expand the constraints of his perfectly nice life with his wife and son and his ambitions to break back into the competitive scientific research community, from which he has gradually exiled himself, are at war with the small compromises and financial considerations of daily life. With warmth and sharp-edged humor, this touching play explores the daily details of human life while addressing the fact that we are adrift in a 12 billion-year-old universe that we have barely begun to understand.

Kenneth Lonergan, best known for his Academy Award-nominated film *You Can Count on Me*, has written several acclaimed plays, including the Globe's 2005 hit *Lobby Hero*, *This Is Our Youth* and *The Waverly Gallery*. He also wrote the original screenplays for *Analyze This!* and Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York*. Acclaimed actor Matthew Broderick is well known for his work in film (*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Election*, *The Freshman*, *You Can Count on Me*, *Glory*, among many others), as well as on stage in such Broadway hits as *The Producers* (Tony nomination), *The Odd Couple*, *The Foreigner*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Tony Award), *Biloxi Blues* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Tony, Outer Critics Circle and Theater World Awards).

Restoration Comedy

By Amy Freed

Dates: March 17 – April 22, 2007 (Press Opening: March 22)

In this bawdy new romantic comedy by the author of the hit off-Broadway play *The Beard of Avon*, Amanda is believed to be a young widow. In fact, her husband, Loveless, is very much alive and has been on a ten-year binge of dissolute behavior. Their friend Worthy conspires to reunite the pair, while young Fashion, the impoverished younger brother of Lord Foppington, attempts to make his fortune (and outwit his brother) through his own game of love. Who will win? Pulitzer Prize finalist Freed (*Freedomland*) mines the wit, style and sexual intrigues of late-17th-century London to create this delightful play, inspired by John Vanbrugh's *The Relapse* and Colley Cibber's *Love's Last Shift*, which examines the push and pull of attraction and fidelity.

Two Trains Running

By August Wilson

Directed by Seret Scott

May 5 – June 10, 2007 (Press Opening: May 10)

Part of August Wilson's award-winning 10-play cycle about the African-American experience during the 20th century, *Two Trains Running* takes place inside a Pittsburgh diner at the end of the 1960s. The Civil Rights Movement is slowly fading, and urban renewal has begun its destructive path through the once successful community. While the diner's owner fights to receive a fair price for his property, his neighborhood clientele weave a rich tapestry of experiences and survive the economic hardships of their time with ingenuity and wit. A Pittsburgh native, August Wilson is considered to be one of our nation's greatest playwrights. He has won countless awards for his work, including two Pulitzer Prizes, a Tony Award, a Drama Desk Award, the John Gassner Award, and the Helen Hayes Award. The Old Globe has mounted three productions of Wilson's plays – *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (1988), *The Piano Lesson* (1989) and *Two Trains Running* (1991) – two of which went on to open on Broadway.

-- more --

Cassius Carter Centre Stage

Pig Farm

By Greg Kotis

Dates: September 23 – October 29, 2006 (press opening: September 28)

The season in the Carter kicks off with the co-world premiere (in collaboration with New York's Roundabout Theatre Company) of Greg Kotis' new comedy *Pig Farm*. On a struggling farm somewhere in America, Tom, Tina and their hired hand Tim fight to hold onto everything they have – namely, a herd of 15,000 restless pigs. Dumping sludge into the river has driven Tom to drink, and Tim seems to have caught Tina's eye, but when Teddy, an officer of the Environmental Protection Agency, arrives to inspect the operation, life on the farm explodes. From the Tony Award-winning writer behind *Urinetown*, *Pig Farm* is an absurdist, darkly comic exploration of sustainable agriculture, the federal government and mythic portrayals of the American hero.

Since writing the book and co-writing the lyrics for *Urinetown The Musical*, for which he won two Tony Awards in 2002, Kotis is developing two new musicals including *Yeast Nation (the triumph of life)*, an original story that tells the tale of the dawn of life on Earth, and *The Man in the White Suit*, a musical version of the 1951 Alec Guinness film. Other plays include *Eat the Taste*, *Jobey and Katherine*, *Baron Von Siebenburg Melts through the Floorboards* and *Give the People What They Want*.

The Four of Us

By Itamar Moses

Dates: February 3 – March 11, 2007 (press opening: February 8)

Two contemporary young men, Benjamin and David, have each embarked upon widely differing writing careers. While David struggles to make it as a playwright, Benjamin has just written a best-selling novel. As the play moves back and forth through time, we discover how they first met, became friends and colleagues, subsequently came to follow their respective paths, and how success can poison a friendship.

Hold Please

By Annie Weisman

Dates: March 31 – May 6, 2007 (press opening: April 5)

A hilarious portrait of American work life, *Hold Please* chronicles the lives of two generations of executive secretaries battling the corporate infrastructure, technology, and each other. When change finally comes to the company, it is not quite the sort of evolution these four office mates anticipated, causing audiences to question the sexual office politics of the new millennium. A native San Diegan, Annie Award-winning playwright Annie Weisman is currently working on a comedy pilot for HBO and musicals for Trinity Repertory Company and La Jolla Playhouse, where her play *Be Aggressive* premiered in 2001. She recently completed *40 Years in the Sunshine*, commissioned by A.S.K. Theater Projects, for a reading at the New Work Festival of L.A.'s Mark Taper Forum.

-- more --

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

By Edward Albee

Directed by Richard Seer

May 19 – June 24, 2007 (press opening: May 24)

Considered by many to be Albee's masterpiece, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is a brilliantly original theatrical experience, surging with shocks of recognition and dramatic fire. George, a disillusioned academic, and Martha, his caustic wife, have just come home from a faculty party. When a young professor and his mousy wife stop by for a nightcap, an innocent night of fun and games quickly turns dark and dangerous. Long-buried resentment and rage are unleashed as George and Martha turn their rapier-sharp wits against each other, using their guests as pawns in their verbal sparring. By the end of the evening, the secrets of both couples are uncovered and the lies they cling to are exposed. Edward Albee stands as one of the nation's most celebrated and important playwrights, having received three Pulitzer Prizes (*A Delicate Balance*, *Seascape*, and *Three Tall Women*), two Tony Awards (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *A Delicate Balance*), and the National Medal of Arts. His work spans nearly a half century, and in both form and content he has profoundly influenced the landscape of American drama. The production is the first of five annual stagings of American classic plays to be mounted in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, a series called "Classics Up Close."

Holiday Offerings

Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Book and Lyrics by Timothy Mason; Music by Mel Marvin

Directed by Jack O'Brien

Old Globe Theatre

Dates: November 18 – December 31, 2006 (press opening: November 24)

America's favorite holiday fable, back for its ninth joyous year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe stage. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* has been hailed by critics: "This *Grinch* is a smash," wrote the *L.A. Times*, while the *San Diego Union-Tribune* raved, "Jack O'Brien scaled this Globe holiday show...to the heartfelt humanity of the season." Come take part in the fun as the Globe is transformed into snow-covered *Who*-ville right down to the last can of *Who*-hash!

La Pastorela

By Max Branscomb

Directed by William Virchis

Cassius Carter Centre Stage

Dates: December 4 – December 23, 2006

This December The Old Globe will also bring back Teatro Máscara Mágica's acclaimed holiday musical, *La Pastorela*. Glorious archangels battle evil devils for the souls of humanity in the traditional Mexican-flavored Christmas musical. A partnership of The Old Globe and Teatro Máscara Mágica, the annual *La Pastorela* tells the story of the shepherds' journey to Bethlehem to witness the first Christmas. This rollicking comedy blends political satire, popular culture and beautiful Spanish Christmas songs. Teatro Máscara Mágica has produced *La Pastorela* for over 15 years, during which time it has become one of the West Coast's best loved family holiday traditions.

#

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, Cherry Jones, John Lithgow, Ellen Burstyn, Swoosie Kurtz 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.