



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

News

Jack O'Brien, *Artistic Director*
Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
Craig Noel, *Artistic Director*

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

For immediate release: June 23, 2006
Contact: Becky Biegelsen, (619) 231-1941
www.TheOldGlobe.org

THE OLD GLOBE AND UCSD-TV CREATE NEW **“BACKSTAGE AT THE GLOBE” PROGRAM FEATURING** **2006 SUMMER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

San Diego, CA – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe and Emmy Award-winning UCSD-TV have again teamed up to create the latest **“Backstage at the Globe”** program featuring the Globe’s 2006 Summer Shakespeare Festival.

This fascinating 30-minute television program focuses on the process of mounting the three Festival productions, including *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Othello* and *Titus Andronicus*, which run in nightly rotation in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre June 18 through October 1. Viewers will get a taste of the rehearsal process and hear insights about the play from Festival Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak, as well as cast members, designers and Globe Artistic Director Jack O’Brien. The program will air on UCSD-TV beginning in July and will continue throughout the summer.

Air dates include: Friday, July 7 at 8:00pm; Sunday, July 9 at 9:00pm; Monday, July 10 at 6:00pm; Wednesday, July 12 at 10:00pm; Tuesday, July 18 at 8:00pm; Thursday, July 20 at 10:00pm; Sunday, July 23 at 6:00pm; Wednesday, July 26 at 10:00pm; Friday, July 28 at 9:30pm; and Monday, July 31 at 7:30pm. The program will also air nationwide on UCTV, the satellite channel of the UC system, on Saturday, July 22 at 8:00pm.

The Globe is thrilled to continue bringing back this time-honored tradition of repertory begun by the Globe’s Founding 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. 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. Revived in 2004, the Globe Summer Shakespeare Festival has become one of the most celebrated classical festivals in the country.

-- more --

UCSD-TV and The Old Globe have worked in partnership to create the “Backstage at the Globe” series since 1999, bringing the creative process to life and taking viewers behind the scenes at one of America's premiere regional theaters. To see a listing of all “Backstage at the Globe” programs produced over the years, visit the on-line series page at <http://www.ucsd.tv/series/index.asp?show=show&number=6>.

UCSD-TV reflects San Diego's rich intellectual and cultural diversity through television programs that are unique in their intent and scope. UCSD-TV's non-commercial status gives it the autonomy to create content based strictly on relevance, interest and merit and to devote significant airtime to in-depth coverage of new ideas, key issues and emerging talent. UCSD-TV airs on Cox Cable Ch.66; North County Cox Cable Ch.69; Time Warner Cable Ch.18; Adelphia Del Mar Ch. 68; or UHF (no cable) Ch. 35. For more information, program schedules and more, visit www.ucsd.tv.

In *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, four young lovers flee the city of Athens to find freedom and happiness in the forest. There they discover a place of enchantment, inhabited by fairies whose mischief only further confuses their affairs. A group of rustics then stumbles onto the scene to rehearse a play, but their plans are interrupted when the impish fairy Puck transforms their friend Bottom into an ass. One of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* evokes a world of wonder, magic and romance, where chaos erupts, lovers are mismatched, and all is reconciled through midsummer night revelries and faith in the power of nature.

Written at the height of Shakespeare's creativity, *Othello* explores the tragedy of a love destroyed by jealousy. Provoked by the lies of the treacherous Iago, who mounts a campaign to poison Othello against his wife Desdemona, Othello begins to mistrust his loyal bride. As his suspicions rise, Othello surrenders to self-doubt, eventually destroying his once-happy marriage. In this much-loved Shakespeare classic, the Bard weaves a bloody tapestry of deception and betrayal where love and honor hang in the balance.

Titus Andronicus was the single most popular play in Shakespeare's theatre during his lifetime. Today it is considered one of his bloodiest. Made popular in 1999 with Julie Taymor's acclaimed film version, the play is set in late-imperial Rome, where the Roman general Titus Andronicus has returned triumphant from the Gothic wars. Leading the fallen Goth queen, Tamora, and her sons as prisoners, Titus stumbles into a power struggle between the late emperors' sons Saturnius and Bassanius. Titus fatally backs Saturnius, who promptly turns on the general and marries Tamora. The crimes against Titus' family escalate as his sons are killed and his daughter Lavinia brutally raped by Tamora's sons. Yet for all the violence, Shakespeare's passionate language balances beauty and barbarity, humanity and atrocity.

#

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 the Summer Season, the Globe is presenting its renowned Shakespeare Festival, featuring A Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello and Titus Andronicus playing in nightly rotation in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, as well as Pulitzer Prize-winner Wendy Wasserstein's The Sisters Rosensweig and the world premiere of John Strand's Lincolnesque.. 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