



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

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

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

Craig Noel, *Founding Director*

For Immediate Release: May 7, 2007  
Contact: Becky Biegelsen (619) 231-1941  
[www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org)

## **OLD GLOBE ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR AVENUE Q**

### **TONY AWARD-WINNING BROADWAY MUSICAL TO MAKE WEST COAST PREMIERE AS PART OF GLOBE'S SUMMER SEASON**

San Diego – The Tony Award®-winning Old Globe is pleased to announce the casting for its west coast premiere production of *Avenue Q*, **playing June 30 – August 5 at the Spreckels Theatre**. The three-time Tony Award-winning musical, including Best Musical, Best Original Score of a Musical and Best Book of a Musical, features a cast of thirteen veteran performers, many from the Las Vegas and Broadway productions of *Avenue Q*. Tickets go on sale **Sunday, May 20** and are available by calling **(619) 23-GLOBE** or by visiting the Globe Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

The cast of people and puppets includes: **Robert McClure** (*Princeton, Rod*), **Cole Porter** (*Brian*), **Kelli Sawyer** (*Kate Monster, Lucy The Slut*), **Christian Anderson** (*Nicky, Trekkie Monster*) **Angela Ai** (*Christmas Eve*), **Carla Renata** (*Gary Coleman*), **Minglie Chen** (*Mrs. T., Bear*). Rounding out the cast are ensemble members and swings Jennie Kwan, Maggie Lakis, Seth Rettberg, Erica Robinson, Danielle Thomas, and Cullen R. Titmas.

**Robert McClure**, who recently performed the roles of Nicky/Trekkie Monster on Broadway, will play Princeton, a recent college graduate who moves to Avenue Q to find his purpose in life, and Rod, a Republican investment banker.

The roles of Kate Monster, the kindergarten teaching assistant who wants to find a boyfriend and start a special school for monsters, and Lucy The Slut, a sexy cabaret singer, will be played by **Kelli Sawyer**, who recreates these roles for the tour after performing them on Broadway.

-- more --

**Christian Anderson**, currently on Broadway playing the roles of Nicky, Rod's roommate, a slacker; and Trekkie Monster, a reclusive porn addict, will reprise these roles for the tour.

**Carla Renata** will play Gary Coleman, the former child star from the sitcom *Diff'rent Strokes*. **Cole Porter** and **Angela Ai** will play, respectively, Brian, a 32-year old aspiring comedian, and Christmas Eve, a feisty Japanese therapist, and Brian's fiancée. Both portrayed these roles in the Las Vegas company.

*Avenue Q* opened on Broadway on July 31, 2003 to great critical and popular acclaim. *The New York Times* hailed it as "a breakthrough musical of a very different stripe. Savvy, sassy and delicious!" and *Entertainment Weekly* claimed it was "one of the funniest shows you're ever likely to see!"

Winner of the 2004 Tony Award for Best Musical and still one of the biggest hits on Broadway, *Avenue Q* tells the hilarious story of Princeton, a bright-eyed college grad who comes to New York City with big dreams and a tiny bank account. He soon discovers that the only neighborhood in his price range is Avenue Q; still, the neighbors seem nice. Together, Princeton and his newfound friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life.

*Avenue Q* is the creation of a host of talented young artists, 30-somethings all. The show features music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, book by Jeff Whitty, based on an original concept by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx; and is directed by Jason Moore; puppet design by Rick Lyon, musical supervision by Stephen Oremus, choreography by Ken Roberson, scenic design by Anna Louizos, costume design by Mirena Rada, lighting design by Howell Binkley, and sound design by Acme Sound Partners.

# # #

*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 over 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.*

*Highlights of the Globe's 2007 Summer Season include the acclaimed Summer Shakespeare Festival featuring Hamlet, The Two Gentlemen of Verona and Measure for Measure playing in nightly rotation, Noel Coward's Hay Fever, John Van Druten's Bell, Book and Candle, and a special presentation of the hit Broadway musical Avenue Q at the Spreckels Theatre. 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.*

## **AVENUE Q CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

**ANGELA AI** (*Christmas Eve*). Broadway: *Avenue Q* (Golden Theater); Tour: *Avenue Q Las Vegas* (Broadway Theater at the Wynn); *Making Tracks* (2G); Off-Broadway: *Pericles* (Red Bull Theater); Other theater credits: *Journey to the West* (NY Musical Theatre Festival); *Snake in Fridge* (Themantics Group); TV: "Sex and the City." Her CD, "*History*," was a Top 12 Pick in *Performing Songwriter*.

**CHRISTIAN ANDERSON** (*Nicky, Trekkie Monster, Bear & others*). Broadway: *Avenue Q* (Nicky/Trekkie), *High Fidelity* (Dick), *RENT* (Mark). National tours: *The Full Monty* (Jerry), *RENT* (Roger). Also Bernstein's *Mass* at the Hollywood Bowl, *Wit* at the Geffen Playhouse. TV: "The Division," "Days of Our Lives."

**MINGLIE CHEN** (*Mrs. T., Bear & others*). Broadway: *Avenue Q* (Christmas Eve); Germany: *Miss Saigon* (Kim); Regional: *Aladdin, Bare*. Film: *Forbidden Warrior*. TV: "Reno 911!."

**ROBERT McCLURE** (*Princeton, Rod*). Broadway: *Avenue Q, I'm Not Rappaport* (with Judd Hirsch and Ben Vereen); Regional: *A Funny Thing...Forum* (Arden Theatre); *Grease* (Lenape PAC); *Parade* (Kasser Theatre); *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Kasser Theatre); *Oliver* (Helen Hayes Theatre); *Carousel* (Papermill Playhouse); *I'm Not Rappaport* (Papermill Playhouse).

**COLE PORTER** (*Brian*) hails from Billings, Montana and received a BFA in Theatre from the University of Montana in Missoula. Since graduation, Cole has worked for a number of regional companies as an actor, musician, and gondolier in and out of Las Vegas.

**CARLA RENATA** (*Gary Coleman*) was Killer Queen in the QUEEN musical *We Will Rock You* and received a NAACP nomination as Shenzi in the LA Company of *THE LION KING*. Broadway: *The Life, Smokey Joe's Cafe* and *How to Succeed...* National Tours & Regional: *You Can't Take It With You* (Geffen Playhouse); *The Who's Tommy* (1<sup>st</sup> National Tour). Television: "CSI," "Will & Grace," "My Name Is Earl," "The War At Home," "It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia."

**KELLI SAWYER** (*Kate Monster, Lucy The Slut, others*) performed the same roles on Broadway and at Wynn Las Vegas. Other credits include: Off-B'way: *The Summer of '42*; Nat'l Tour: *South Pacific* (w/Robert Goulet); Elsewhere: *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Grusha), Hangar Theatre; *Swingtime Canteen* (Katie), Actor's Theatre Louisville; *Voyage of the Little Mermaid* (Ariel) WDW.