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ACCLAIMED LOCAL DIRECTOR ESTHER EMERY **TO HELM OLD GLOBE'S *SIGHT UNSEEN***

San Diego – Lou Spisto, Executive Producer of the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe, is pleased to announce that acclaimed local director **Esther Emery** will direct the Globe's summer season production of ***Sight Unseen*** by Donald Margulies' (*Dinner with Friends*, *Collected Stories*). The production will run August 2 – September 7, 2008 in the Globe's arena stage at the San Diego Museum of Art's Copley Auditorium while construction takes place on the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center.

"Esther Emery is an exciting emerging talent in San Diego. The Globe has always sought to foster the work of local artists, and we've been very impressed with Esther's recent productions at Cygnet, MOXIE and New Village Arts," said Spisto. "*Sight Unseen* represents the first production in our arena stage at the Museum of Art's James S. Copley Auditorium, and we were eager to find the ideal director for this intriguing play in our new space. Esther fit the bill perfectly, and we are delighted to bring her into our stable of Globe directors this summer."

Emery was recently named the first recipient of the "Jack O'Brien Excellence in Directing" Award, given by the San Diego Critics Circle at their 2007 ceremony in January. The award recognizes a local director who demonstrates O'Brien's exceptional breadth of work. In 2007 Emery directed three notably different productions at Cynet (*Yellowman*, which won the Critics Circle "Best Play" Award, and *Communicating Doors*) and MOXIE (*Devil Dog Six*) Theatres. She has also won three Patte Awards for her direction of *Yellowman*, *Communicating Doors* and *Chrysalis: Rapechild*.

Emery has long been associated with The Old Globe, having served as stage manager for many productions, most recently *Pig Farm* and *Trying*. An Artistic Associate at MOXIE Theatre, her work was named three times on the 2007 San Diego Union-Tribune ten best list. Her directing credits include *Yellowman* and *Communicating Doors* at Cygnet Theatre, *Dancing at Lughnasa* at New Village Arts, *Limonade Tous Les Jours* and *Devil Dog Six* (co-directed with Jennifer Eve Thorn) at MOXIE Theatre, *Bunbury* at Diversionary, and the world premiere of *Chrysalis: Rapechild* with Sledgehammer Theatre. Esther has also directed *Hecuba* (6th@Penn), *Soul Fire* (Playwrights Project), *Cool as We Fly* (Ruff Yeager), *Tongue of a Bird* and *Love's Fire* (Stone Soup), as well as one-acts for Playwrights Project Plays by Young Writers and play readings for Diversionary, Moonlight, Mo'olelo and others. Emery has taught acting and playwriting, and her first full length play, *Rhubarb*, was produced by MOXIE this spring.

In Donald Margulies' *Sight Unseen*, Jonathan Waxman is a celebrated American artist who yearns for something more in life. When he travels to England for his first European retrospective, he decides to visit his original muse and former lover, Patricia, whom he selfishly dismissed fifteen years earlier. Waxman, whose work commands astronomical prices "sight unseen," wants to rediscover the passion and creativity that once fueled his work. But the visit – along with a troubling interview with a German art critic who questions his motives as a Jewish painter – leads to an unexpected crisis of identity. This incisive and humorous Pulitzer Prize-nominated and Obie Award-winning play deals with race, religion, and the meaning of art.

Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize-winning *Dinner with Friends* was presented at the Globe in 2001, and his *Collected Stories*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, played in the Carter in 1999. Other plays include: *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment: The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told by Himself)*, which recently made its world premiere at South Coast Rep; *Brooklyn Boy*, *Sight Unseen* (Obie Award for Best New American Play; Dramatists Guild/Hull-Warriner Award; Pulitzer Prize finalist), *The Model Apartment* (Obie Award), *The Loman Family Picnic*, *Found a Peanut*, *Pitching to the Star*, *Zimmer*, *What's Wrong with this Picture* and *Luna Park*. His plays have been produced on Broadway, off-Broadway, and at regional theaters across the country, including the Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public Theatre, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Williamstown Theatre Festival and the Jewish Repertory Theatre. He has received grants from the NEA, the New York Foundation for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. An alumnus of New Dramatists, Margulies is a member of the council of the Dramatists Guild and teaches play writing at the Yale School of Drama.

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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 72 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 2007/2008 Season include the world premiere musical, A Catered Affair, written by Harvey Fierstein and John Bucchino, the West Coast Premiere of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's Oscar and the Pink Lady, the 10th Anniversary production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, In This Corner, by Steven Drukman, Howard Korder's Sea of Tranquility, as well as the world-premieres of Dancing in the Dark and Beethoven, As I Knew Him. Under the leadership of Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto and Co-Artistic Directors Jerry Patch and Darko Tresnjak, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.