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**OLD GLOBE 2009/2010 SEASON MARKS**  
**THE OPENING OF**  
**THE CONRAD PREBYS THEATRE CENTER**

**GRAND OPENING GALA**  
**FEATURING**  
**PAULO SZOT AND KELLI O'HARA,**  
**STARS OF THE TONY AWARD-WINNING BROADWAY MUSICAL, *SOUTH PACIFIC***

San Diego – Lou Spisto, Executive Producer of the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe, is pleased to announce the **grand opening gala** for the new **Conrad Prebys Theatre Center** on **December 7, 2009**. The evening will include a special performance by *South Pacific* stars, Kelli O'Hara and Paulo Szot, with musical direction by Ted Sperling, and will officially open the new **Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre**.

The Conrad Prebys Theatre Center is a four-level facility, housing the intimate 250-seat **Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre**, an arena-style theatre with audience seating no more than five rows deep on all sides, while achieving state-of-the-art technical capabilities for producing a wider variety of work and improved comfort and safety for audiences and artists. **The Karen and Donald Cohn Education Center**, which “wraps” the theatre on the upper level, will provide an exciting centralized space for the Globe’s education and outreach programs. The main multipurpose space, **Hattox Hall**, will host a variety of education and artistic programs, including play readings and other theatrical events.

The new building will feature additional dressing rooms and a new green room and spaces that will serve all three theatres on The Old Globe campus. The new 14,000-square-foot **Copley Plaza** will serve as a beautiful outdoor gathering area for each of the three theatre venues while providing space for a variety of Globe and community functions and will include a new and improved pub and additional restrooms. The new building and Plaza will remain compatible with the Elizabethan architectural style of the historic Old Globe campus, while blending seamlessly with the enchanting surroundings in Balboa Park.

In recognition of **long-time Globe supporters Donald and Darlene Shiley’s unprecedented commitment of \$20 million**, designated for artistic operating expenses and the endowment, the stage of the Old Globe Theatre is now known as the **Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage**, while the name of the theatre remains the Old Globe Theatre.

“We are extremely excited to be reaching the completion of the new Conrad Prebys Theatre Center and Copley Plaza,” said Executive Producer Lou Spisto. “This incredible re-imagining of our facilities is coming to fruition and will help us ensure the long-term vitality of the Globe, which has stood as San Diego’s flagship theatre and a cultural landmark in this community for nearly 75 years.”

Construction of the new facilities is being funded by The Old Globe’s Capital and Endowment Campaign, “**Securing a San Diego Landmark**,” which was announced in March, 2006. This major five-year fundraising campaign is projected to raise \$75 million by the Globe’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010 and seeks to ensure the Theatre’s unparalleled level of artistic quality and secure its long-term stability through an increased endowment, new facilities and enhanced funding for annual programs as the endowment grows. With \$68.9 million raised to date, the Campaign was kicked off **by a \$20 million commitment from Donald and Darlene Shiley for operating and endowment support** and a **\$10 million gift from Conrad Prebys for facilities**.

For further information on the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center Opening Gala or to contribute to the Old Globe Capital and Endowment Campaign, please call (619) 231-1941 ext. 2317.

#### **Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre**

The new second stage – an intimate arena space – will offer enhanced, state-of-the-art technical and staging capabilities and will feature artistic support spaces both backstage and on a separate level from audience entrance and circulation, as well as a new technical center highlighted by a state-of-the-art control room and sound equipment, trap room and a full-height lighting grid. Artistic support spaces include a new green room and new dressing rooms for both the arena theatre and the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. These changes, along with a new lobby, entrances and seating will improve theatre access, as well as enhance the comfort and safety of patrons and performers. The new theatre has been named for major Globe donors **Sheryl and Harvey White** in recognition of their \$6 million campaign gift.

#### **The Karen and Donald Cohn Education Center and Hattox Hall**

The new education center will give the Globe a dynamic, centralized space on the Balboa Park campus to house the Theatre’s on-site education programs that since 1947 have been held in rehearsal spaces as available, or on stage when not in use. This 6,200-square-foot center will be situated on the second floor of the new arena theatre, wrapping around the upper-level technical areas to create a unique synergy with the main-stage productions and artists working in the theatre. The center includes Hattox Hall, a 2,070-square-foot multi-purpose performance and training space, named for **Kathryn Hattox**, in recognition of her \$5 million campaign gift, and a 600-square-foot classroom. These new spaces will host the Globe’s on-site performances for students, after-school and weekend programs for young people, MFA training and workshops, adult acting classes, professional development opportunities for teachers, Insights Seminars and pre-performance lectures, family programming, as well as new play development. The center has been named for major Globe donors **Karen and Donald Cohn** in recognition of their \$5 million campaign gift.

## **Redesigned Copley Plaza**

The Globe's Copley Plaza serves as the collective outdoor lobby for all three venues while providing a beautiful space for a variety of public functions. The new Plaza – a 14,000-square-foot public gathering area – will become a showplace of its own, restoring the original spirit of the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition for which it was created. Visually and physically connecting the Globe's buildings, this inviting outdoor lobby will welcome the community to the three performance venues, box office, dining area, education center and administrative offices. The new Plaza will provide more comfortable accommodations for guests, including a new dining pavilion and outdoor seating throughout the Plaza. Designed for optimal flexibility and a variety of uses for the public, the new Plaza will more easily accommodate Globe programs, such as outdoor pre-performance lectures, fund raising receptions, and "Nights at the Globe" events, as well as such major public celebrations as San Diego's annual "December Nights" community festival, the Globe's *Grinch* Tree Lighting ceremony, and the Summer Shakespeare Festival. Copley Plaza will continue to serve as a central gathering place for not only the 300,000 annual theatre attendees but for all Balboa Park patrons, offering a delightful central area for dining and relaxation.

Construction began in June 2008 and was made possible by: **Project Management Advisors, Inc.** (PMA) in Solana Beach, who serve as the project manager for the facilities plan; **LMN Architects** of Seattle, WA, who has been recognized for its ability to deliver outstanding design for civic and public buildings; Joshua Dachs of **Fisher Dachs Associates**, New York, NY, who served as the project's Theatre Consultant; **David Reed Landscape Architects**, San Diego, CA, for Copley Plaza and the surrounding landscape; David Marshall of **Heritage Architecture & Planning**, San Diego, CA, a consultant on the project who ensured compliance with the historical requirements of Balboa Park; and the project's General Contractor, **DPR Construction, Inc.**, providing support for cost estimating and construction planning. Additional participants in the construction project include **Hope Engineering**, serving as the structural engineer; **RBF Consultants**, serving as civil engineer; **Jaffe Holden Acoustics**, serving as acoustic and audio-visual consultants; **TKG Consulting Engineers**, serving as MEP engineer and **Horton Lees Brogden** consulting on specialty lighting.

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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.*

*The Globe's 2009 Summer Season includes the renowned Summer Shakespeare Festival, featuring Coriolanus, Twelfth Night and Edmund Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac playing in repertory; world premiere musical The First Wives Club, by R&B legends Holland-Dozier-Holland; and The Mystery of Irma Vep. Under the leadership of Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto and Resident Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.*

## Artist Biographies

**Kelli O'Hara** has unequivocally established herself as one of Broadway's great leading ladies. She recently starred in the Tony Award-winning revival of *South Pacific* at Lincoln Center, enrapturing audiences and critics alike with her soulful and complex interpretation of Nellie "Forbush," garnering a third Tony-nomination in the process. The year leading up to *South Pacific* was a busy one. With her critically acclaimed performance of "Eliza Doolittle" in the NY Philharmonic production of *My Fair Lady*, a Carnegie Hall debut, and the completion of her first album, Kelli was ready to dig into creating a new "Nellie" for the new century.

A native of Oklahoma, Kelli received a degree in opera, and after winning the State Metropolitan Opera Competition moved to New York and enrolled in the Lee Strasberg Institute. She made her Broadway debut in *Jekyll & Hyde* and followed it with Sondheim's *Follies*, *Sweet Smell of Success* opposite John Lithgow; and *Dracula*.

In 2003, Kelli committed to a production of *The Light in the Piazza* at Seattle's Intiman Theatre. The show landed on Broadway in 2005 and earned Kelli her first Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations. She moved from one huge critical and commercial success to another when she joined Harry Connick on Broadway in the 2006 Tony award winning production of *The Pajama Game* for which Kelli received Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Award nominations. Kelli has worked regionally and Off Broadway in *Sunday in the Park with George* at Reprise, *My Life With Albertine* at Playwright's Horizons, and *Beauty* at The La Jolla Playhouse.

In addition to her critically acclaimed Carnegie Hall solo debut with the NY Pops conducted by Rob Fisher, Kelli's concerts include Carnegie Hall with Barbara Cook, The Kennedy Center with Marvin Hamlisch and the NSO, The New York Philharmonic with Marvin Hamlisch, Lincoln Center, Town Hall, Cooper Union, Joe's Pub, The Philly Pops conducted by Peter Nero and most recently made her debut at the Café Carlyle. She performed at the 2009 Kennedy Center Honors as part of the Barbra Streisand tribute.

Among her film and television credits are Martin Scorsese's industrial opposite Simon Baker; *The Dying Gaul* starring Patricia Clarkson and Campbell Scott; *Blue Blood* (NBC pilot), *All Rise* (NBC Pilot), *Alexander Hamilton* (Maria Reynolds) starring Brian F. O'Byrne (PBS), *NUMB3RS* (CBS); *All My Children*, the upcoming animated series *Car Talk*, as well as numerous live performances on national television shows.

Kelli's recordings include: *South Pacific* (Sony), *The Light in the Piazza* (Nonesuch records; Grammy nom.), *The Pajama Game* (Sony; Grammy nom.), *The Sweet Smell of Success* (Sony), *My Life with Albertine* (PS Classics), *Dream True* (PS Classics), *Julie Styne Goes Hollywood* (PS Classics) and her solo album *Wonder in the World* on Ghostlight Records.

**Ted Sperling's** Broadway and off-Broadway credits as music director include the current Broadway revivals of *Guys and Dolls* and *South Pacific*, *The Light in the Piazza* (for which he won the 2005 Tony and Drama Desk Awards for his orchestrations), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Fully Monty*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *My Favorite Year*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Wise Guys*, *A New Brain*, *Saturn Returns*, and *Floyd Collins*.

Mr. Sperling's work as a stage director includes the off-Broadway productions of *Striking 12* and *See What I Wanna See* as well as the premiere of *Charlotte: Life? Or Theater?* and a revival of *Lady in the Dark* in Philadelphia. He has conducted the scores for the films *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Everything Is Illuminated*, and directed the short musical film, *Love Mom*.

Mr. Sperling made his professional acting debut as an original cast member of the Broadway musical *Titanic*.

Mr. Sperling has an active concert career as well, working with Audra McDonald, Victoria Clark, Deborah Voigt, Patti Lupone, Kelli O'Hara and Paulo Szot. He has conducted the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago and San Francisco Symphony orchestras, and at the Houston Grand Opera. He has put together many programs for Lincoln Center's American Songbook series, as well as the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y's Lyrics and Lyricists series.

Mr. Sperling is the recipient of the Shen Family Foundation's Musical Theatre Leadership Award. He currently holds the post of Director of the Music Theater Initiative at the Public Theater.

**Paulo Szot** is one of the most acclaimed and versatile baritones in the opera world. He is currently starring in the Broadway revival of *South Pacific* at Lincoln Center Theatre and won the 2008 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Emile De Beque. He also won the Drama Desk and Outer Critic's Circle awards for his participation in *South Pacific*.

Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and the son of Polish immigrants, Mr. Szot has appeared with many major opera companies throughout the world both in Europe, the U.S., and in his native Brazil.

Paulo Szot will make his Metropolitan Opera debut in the 2009/2010 season in a new production of *The Nose* by Shostakovich conducted by Valery Gergiev. His other future opera appearances include his Paris Opera debut as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, and his Dallas Opera debut in the title role of *Don Giovanni*. He recently returned to the Opera de Marseille as Camille in *The Merry Widow*. Also during the 2008-2009 season Mr. Szot will make his New York Philharmonic debut in a concert conducted by Marvin Hamlisch appearing alongside Liza Minnelli, and he will debut at the Ravinia Festival in concert with Kelli O'Hara. Engagements during the 2009-2010 Season include his Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Pops Orchestra in a program of Lerner and Lowe. He will sing solo concerts at the Orange County Performing Arts Center, The Broad Stage in Santa Monica, and for The Old Globe Theatre.

Mr. Szot appeared in the 2007-2008 season as Marcello in *La bohème* at Opera National de Bordeaux and also made his debut in Antwerp at De Vlaamse Opera as the Count in *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Paulo Szot made his U.S. debut in the 2003-2004 season as Escamillo in *Carmen* at the New York City Opera and covered the title role of *Don Giovanni* at the Metropolitan Opera. He sang the role of *Don Giovanni* with Michigan Opera Theater that season, and then made his European debut in 2004 in the title role of *Eugene Onegin* in Marseille receiving high praise from the French press. Mr. Szot returned to the New York City Opera in the 2004-2005 season as the Count in *Le nozze di Figaro* and also returned to the Met that season to cover Figaro in that same opera. He appeared as Escamillo in *Carmen* in Palm Beach that season and then debuted at the Teatro Municipal in Santiago in the same role.

The 2005-2006 season brought Paulo Szot's debut with the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto as *Escamillo*. He returned to Marseille to appear as Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas*. He also appeared that season with the Jacksonville Symphony and returned to Marseille as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. Mr. Szot made his debut at Opéra de Bordeaux that season in the title role of *Don Giovanni*. He returned to the New York City Opera in the 2006-2007 season as Belcore in a new production of *L'elisir d'amore* staged by Jonathan Miller and appeared in *Maria Golovin* at the Spoleto Festival in Italy and in *Le nozze di Figaro* in Boston. He debuts this season at the Liceo in Barcelona in *Le portrait de Manon* and appears in Nice in *Così fan tutte*.

Other roles in his repertoire include Marcello in *La bohème*, Yeletsky in *Pique Dame*, Silvio in *I pagliacci*, Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette*, Lescaut in *Manon*, and Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* among others.