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## **OLD GLOBE 2009 SCHEDULE UPDATE:**

### **SHAKESPEARE'S CORIOLANUS REPLACES HENRY VIII AS PART OF SUMMER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

#### **PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED**

***SHAKESPEARE REPERTORY FESTIVAL TO ALSO INCLUDE  
TWELFTH NIGHT, AND ROSTAND'S CLASSIC CYRANO DE BERGERAC***

***THE FIRST WIVES CLUB – A NEW MUSICAL TO DEBUT ON OLD GLOBE STAGE IN  
WORLD-PREMIERE, BROADWAY-BOUND PRODUCTION***

***THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP TO BE STAGED AT OLD GLOBE'S ARENA THEATRE AT MUSEUM OF  
ART'S JAMES S. COPLEY AUDITORIUM***

San Diego – The Old Globe announces that Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* is replacing the previously announced Henry VIII as part of the 2009 Shakespeare Festival. In the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, the Globe will present two works of Shakespeare: *Twelfth Night* and *Coriolanus*, along with Edmond Rostand's celebrated classic, *Cyrano de Bergerac*. The three productions will be performed in nightly rotation in the Globe's outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre **June 13 – September 27, 2009**. Globe Resident Artistic Director **Darko Tresnjak** will once again oversee the Festival and direct *Coriolanus* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*, while Festival favorite **Paul Mullins** (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Measure for Measure*) will direct *Twelfth Night*.

Executive Producer Lou Spisto stated, "We decided to make the change in plays after the casting process began. We rarely make changes in any season; however, we ultimately decided that this new combination of plays worked better than the original. The parameters of the repertory company often factor heavily in play selection and in this case we realized a better plan after the initial season announcement was made in early September. We look forward to producing Henry VIII in a future season and we're pleased that *Coriolanus*, one of Shakespeare's most admired plays, will be presented in combination with the beloved *Twelfth Night* and Rostand's timeless classic, *Cyrano De Bergerac*. This summer's Shakespeare Festival will certainly appeal to many different tastes and, once again, be enjoyed by tens of thousands of San Diegans and visitors from around the country and elsewhere."

As previously announced, the world premiere of *The First Wives Club – A New Musical*, book by Rupert Holmes, music and lyrics by **Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland**, directed by **Francesca Zambello**, will run in the Old Globe Theatre **July 15 – August 16, 2009**. The Arena Theatre at the San Diego Museum of Art's James S. Copley Auditorium will host **Charles Ludlam's** hilarious gothic play, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, directed by **Henry Wishcamper**, to run **August 1 – September 6, 2009**.

For more information or to subscribe to The Old Globe's 2009 Summer Season, please contact Globe Ticket Services at **(619) 23-GLOBE** or visit [www.TheOldGlobe.org](http://www.TheOldGlobe.org).

Set in Paris in 1640, *Cyrano de Bergerac* is a classic tale of romance and tragedy. Talented poet, swordsman and Cadet in the French army, Cyrano falls in love with the beautiful Roxanne but lacks the confidence to reveal his true feelings due to his abnormally large nose. Resigned to his loss, Cyrano offers to help his fellow soldier Christian win her affections by writing love letters on his behalf. Roxanne falls in love with author of the letters not realizing it is Cyrano. His tender verse gives voice to the inarticulate, dashing Christian, gaining him her heart just before both men depart for war. This classic romantic story is laced with swagger, gallantry and sacrifice, and some of the most beautiful verse ever written.

One of the Bard's most beloved comedies, *Twelfth Night* centers on the beautiful heroine Viola, shipwrecked in a strange land. She disguises herself as the boy "Cesario" and works her way into the court of Duke Orsino. Impressed by this articulate and handsome young man, Orsino sends Cesario to woo Lady Olivia on the Duke's behalf, but Cesario speaks so eloquently that Olivia is soon smitten – not with the Duke, but with Cesario. Meanwhile Viola has fallen in love with Orsino and finds herself, along with an entire comic entourage, entangled in a web of disguises, mistaken identities and misplaced affections.

Shakespeare's final tragedy is also considered one of his greatest. This powerful political drama tells the story of the great Roman general whose arrogance leads to his own downfall. One of Shakespeare's most provocative plays, *Coriolanus* is a mesmerizing tale that unfolds as both personal tragedy and political thriller. From exalted war hero – to heavy handed politician to finally, exile – Coriolanus is manipulated by his power hungry mother Volumnia (one of Shakespeare's great female roles) and his unwillingness to compromise his principles as his world spirals out of control in his crusade for vengeance.

Based on the best-selling novel and Hollywood blockbuster of the same name, *The First Wives Club – A New Musical* is a thrilling, Broadway-bound production, featuring a book by Tony winner **Rupert Holmes** (*Curtains!*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Say Goodnight Gracie*) and a score by **Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland**, the threesome who created hits for Martha and The Vandellas, The Miracles, Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops and The Supremes. The production will be directed by award winning opera and theatrical director **Francesca Zambello** (*The Little Mermaid* for Disney on Broadway, *Little House on the Prairie* for the Guthrie Theatre, *Rebecca* at the Vienna Raimund Theatre and recently,

*Porgy and Bess* and the *Wagner Ring Cycle* at the San Francisco Opera where she is the Artistic Advisor. Ms Zambello has won three Olivier Awards and has credits at The Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Albert Hall, Bolshoi, Paris Opera, The Kennedy Center and the Chicago Lyric.) The popular 1996 film “The First Wives Club” — about three divorced women who seek revenge on their former husbands — was based on Olivia Goldsmith's novel and featured a screenplay by Robert Harling. The motion picture grossed over \$130 million and boasted a star-studded cast comprising Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton.

In Charles Ludlam’s hilarious Obie Award-winning play, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, Lady Enid, newly married to the controversial Lord Edgar, arrives at his castle estate on a “dark and stormy night” under the spell of his deceased first wife and haunted by something prowling the moors. She quickly encounters a werewolf, a vampire, an Egyptian princess and the mystery of Irma Vep, whose portrait hangs over the fireplace. This hilarious, tongue-in-cheek production celebrates and skewers such classics as "Rebecca," "Wuthering Heights," "Jane Eyre," and "The Raven" in a fun-filled evening. With dozens of lightning-fast changes, two actors portray all the roles – men, women and monsters – in this hilarious tour-de-farce.

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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 2008/09 Season include the revival of Clare Boothe Luce's The Women, the world premiere of Itamar Moses' new play Back Back Back, John Guare's Six Degrees of Separation, the musical Working, with new songs by Lin-Manuel Miranda, and the world premiere of Cornelia. 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.*