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JACK O'BRIEN ANNOUNCES **THE OLD GLOBE'S 2003/2004 SEASON**

SUBSCRIPTION SEASON INCLUDES:
TOM STOPPARD'S *ROUGH CROSSING*
-- Rough Crossing to Highlight Globe's Annual Gala on September 20 --
WEST COAST PREMIERE OF MILLER'S *RESURRECTION BLUES*
WILLIAM INGE'S CLASSIC *BUS STOP*
WADSWORTH'S ADAPTATION OF MOLIERE'S *DON JUAN*
OLIVIER AWARD-WINNER *BLUE/ORANGE*
WEST COAST PREMIERE OF JENNY LAIRD'S *SKY GIRLS*
PULITZER PRIZE-WINNER NILO CRUZ'S *TWO SISTERS AND A PIANO*
NICKY SILVER'S *THE FOOD CHAIN*
*-- Special Subscriber Offers for *HAIRSPRAY*, Holiday Shows and More --*

PLUS SAN DIEGO'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION:
DR. SEUSS' *HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!*
-- Globe Production Joins Special Year-Long "Seussentennial" Celebration --
AND GLOBE PREMIERE OF NEW HOLIDAY MUSICAL *STRIKING 12*

San Diego – The Old Globe's Artistic Director, Jack O'Brien, is pleased to announce the 2003/2004 Season. In this dynamic, newly-structured season, which runs from September 2003 to June 2004, the Globe brings to the stage some of the greatest masterworks of all time. From hilarious intellectual farces to classic American dramas to contemporary comedies, this exciting season explores a variety of styles and periods by a legion of the world's most respected playwrights.

Kicking off the season in the Old Globe Theatre will be **Tom Stoppard's** stylish and sophisticated farce, ***Rough Crossing*** (9/13 - 10/26). The season continues with William Inge's masterwork, ***Bus Stop*** (1/24 - 2/29), followed by the West Coast premiere of **Arthur Miller's** new work, ***Resurrection Blues*** (3/20 - 4/25). The final Old Globe production will be **Stephen Wadsworth's** acclaimed adaptation and translation of the **Moliere** classic ***Don Juan*** (5/8 - 6/13). In the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, the season includes the West Coast premiere of Joe Penhall's searing comedy ***Blue/Orange*** (9/19 - 10/26); **Jenny Laird's** heartwarming ***Sky Girls*** (1/10 - 2/15); ***Two Sisters and a Piano*** (3/6 - 4/11) by recent Pulitzer Prize-Winner **Nilo Cruz**, and **Nicky Silver's** hilarious romp, ***The Food Chain*** (4/24 - 5/30).

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“The Old Globe’s new season is teeming with some of the most popular and important plays of our time,” said O’Brien. “The Season includes great works by masters such as Moliere, Miller, Inge and Stoppard, as well as today’s most sought-after young playwrights, like Nilo Cruz, Jenny Laird and Joe Penhall. We take great pride in this thrilling season and believe it will be much loved by our audiences.”

The Season also includes three non-subscription holiday productions, including the popular **Dr. Seuss’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*** (11/9 - 12/31) in the Old Globe Theatre; as well as two new additions to the holiday festival: ***Striking 12*** (12/7 - 31), in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, and *La Pastorela de Felicidad* in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. This year’s production of *Grinch* will be part of the “**Seussentennial**” celebration – a yearlong tribute to Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

As an exciting added benefit exclusively for Globe subscribers, the Globe is offering a special opportunity to purchase tickets to ***Hairspray***, the Broadway musical sensation, directed by the Globe’s own **Jack O’Brien**, in cooperation with Broadway/San Diego. One of the most successful shows of the 2002 Broadway season, this critically-acclaimed production has been playing to sold-out houses in New York and is sure to sell out during its San Diego run. But Globe subscribers can be assured guaranteed seats when it comes to San Diego’s Civic Theatre in July 2004.

The Old Globe is also pleased to announce its annual **Gala** on **September 20**, which will include a cocktail reception and silent auction, a special performance of Stoppard’s ***Rough Crossing***, followed by dinner and dancing on the Globe plaza. Tickets are \$500 or \$5,000 per table. This exciting annual event, chaired by **Katherine Kennedy**, is the Globe’s largest fund-raiser, celebrating the achievements of the year as well as supporting the institution’s educational outreach programs.

New Scheduling and Subscription Options

This dynamic season also inaugurates a new structure, consisting of eight plays in the subscription series, presented from September through May, and two non-subscribed holiday productions. Patrons can subscribe to either of two 4-play series or the full 8-play series, with added incentives for the 8-play package. Subscribers also have the added bonus of having a chance to buy tickets to *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and *Striking 12* before they go on sale to the public. The structural changes have been introduced in order to make The Old Globe season more convenient for subscription purchasing, offering a more traditional theater schedule. The September through May season will be followed by the annual Summer Festival from June – September, 2004, which will include the theater’s longstanding tradition of outdoor Shakespeare productions.

Other exciting changes this season include earlier **7:00pm curtain times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays** (in response to a patron survey); the continuation of the Globe’s popular **\$19 ticket price**, which is available in advance for all performances in the 8-play subscription series; as well as a return to many popular special events, such as “Thank Globe It’s Friday.” Subscriptions to The Old Globe’s 2003/2004 Season are available by calling Ticket Services at **(619) 239-2255**.

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In the Old Globe Theatre

Rough Crossing

By Tom Stoppard

Directed by Stan Wojewodski

September 13 – October 26; opening: Thursday, September 18

Set in the 1930s on an ocean liner sailing across the Atlantic, Stoppard's hilarious adaptation of Ferenc Molnar's *Play at the Castle* tells the story of a musical-comedy writing team and their young, speech-impaired composer, who are on deadline to complete their new piece during their four-day crossing. Their cast – a haughty leading lady and her vain leading man, along with a peripatetic ship steward – aren't helping matters, and it's questionable whether the "show will go on" as they rehearse amid mishaps and misunderstandings – and very stormy seas! One of the most acclaimed playwrights of our time, Stoppard is the recipient of three Tony Awards, a Drama Desk Award and a Golden Globe. Author of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Real Thing*, *Arcadia*, *The Invention of Love*, among many others, he has also written several screenplays, such as *Brazil*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Empire of the Sun*, *Billy Bathgate* and *The Russia House*, to name a few.

Bus Stop

By William Inge

Directed by Joseph Hardy

January 24 – February 29; opening: Thursday, January 29

This classic American drama revolves around a group of bus passengers stranded in a 1950s Kansas roadside diner during a snowstorm. Among them are a young cowboy, Bo, who has "abducted" a nightclub singer, Cherie, from Kansas City with plans to marry her and take her back to his Montana ranch; Bo's buddy, the soft-spoken cowboy Virgil; and Mr. Lyman, an aging alcoholic professor. Carl, the bus driver, Will, the town sheriff; and two waitresses who run the diner – the poetry-loving high school girl Elma and the world-weary Grace – make up the rest of the group. This nostalgic heartland drama gives audiences a glimpse of the American past as it explores timeless human emotions. Born in Independence, Kansas in 1913, Inge was first a professor and a drama critic before writing his first play in 1947. His acclaimed works include *Come Back*, *Little Sheba*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Picnic*, and *Splendor in the Grass* (Academy Award). One of the dominant playwrights of the 1950s, Inge captured the essence of midwestern life on stage.

Resurrection Blues

By Arthur Miller

Directed by Mark Lamos

March 20 – April 25; opening: Thursday, March 25

Arthur Miller's self-described "satire" is set in an unnamed South American country and follows the actions of the chief-of-state and a Christ-like dissident who, with his many followers, threatens the current totalitarian rule. When this "messiah" is captured, the dictator sells exclusive broadcast rights to the young man's execution – by crucifixion – to an American television network. At once poetic, humorous and thought provoking, *Resurrection Blues* brilliantly satirizes misguided global politics and the predatory nature of a media-saturated culture. For more than half a century Arthur Miller has stood as one of America's quintessential playwrights. He has received countless awards for his contributions to the American Theatre, including three Tony awards, the Kennedy Center Honors Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lucille Lortel Lifetime Achievement Award, a Special Drama Desk Award for Lifetime Achievement, and a special Tony for Lifetime Achievement.

Don Juan

By Moliere

Adapted and Directed by Stephen Wadsworth

May 8 – June 13; opening: Thursday, May 13

Heavily censored in Moliere's time, this classic story features the infamous Don Juan, as he defies every warning to change his ways – from abandoning his wife whom he abducted from a convent, to seducing a young peasant girl, to conning his own father. It is not until the supernatural intervenes that the evil seducer even considers a moral turnaround. This vital adaptation embroiders the conventions of French drama and commedia dell'arte, with Wadsworth's exquisite theatrical sensibilities. "An undeniably rich and ambitious piece of work, packed with both spectacle and ideas," stated *Variety* of Wadsworth's production. Stephen Wadsworth has directed major works at theaters and opera houses all over the world. Credits include *As You Like It* at the Globe; a trilogy of plays by Marivaux at the McCarter Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Berkeley Rep and the Huntington Theatre; Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* at Berkeley Rep and Seattle Rep, as well as multiple operas at such venues as La Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, and New York City Opera, among others.

In the Cassius Carter Centre Stage

Blue/Orange

By Joe Penhall

Directed by Richard Seer

September 19 – October 26; opening: Thursday, September 25

Winner of the 2001 Olivier Award for "Best New Play," *Blue/Orange* has been hailed by critics: "Exuberant...Penhall has the gift of making serious points in a comic manner," wrote *The Guardian*, while *The New York Times* raved, "Dialogue fueled by testosterone and paced like a volley of bullets...a ferocious comedy." The play shows us two psychiatrists – one young and inexperienced, the other established in his career – who fight over the diagnosis and treatment of their patient, a young black man named Chris, who claims to be the son of an exiled African dictator. The two doctors end up using Chris as a pawn in their own battles and audiences are left wondering who is the more unstable of the threesome in this edgy comedy.

Sky Girls

By Jenny Laird

Directed by Brendon Fox

January 10 – February 15; opening: Thursday, January 15

This touching play follows the path of five fictional World War II female fliers who hope to become US Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs). Set in 1944 at Avenger Field, an Army Air Force base in the dusty town of Sweetwater, TX, the final WASP trainee class struggles to earn their wings as they battle possible internal sabotage, media frenzy, public concern and a crucial Congressional vote to formally militarize the program or to disband it altogether. Merging fact and fiction, the five characters are guided by the "spirit" of real life aviation legend, Jacqueline Cochran, who created the WASP program in 1943, earning her the Distinguished Service Medal for services to her country during World War II. Laird is the recipient of Northlight Theatre's 2001 Selma Melvoin New Play commission. She was also the recipient of a 2001 Illinois Arts Council Playwriting Fellowship, the Cunningham Prize for Playwriting, and most recently, an NEA Grant for a production of *Only the Sound* at Chicago Dramatists, where she is a resident playwright.

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Two Sisters and a Piano

By Nilo Cruz

Directed by Karen Carpenter

March 6 – April 11; opening: Thursday, March 11

In 1991 Havana, just after the collapse of the Soviet empire, two sisters – a writer, Maria, and a pianist, Sofia – are placed under house arrest for speaking out against Castro’s regime. For these two passionate, artistic siblings, this punishment is an excruciating test of the soul. Overseeing their confinement is Lieutenant Portuondo, who adds another element of tension as his police brutality changes to an intense attraction to Maria. “Beautiful...the playwright lets us glimpse at Cuba beyond the politics,” wrote *The Wall Street Journal*. *Variety* called it “an earnest and affecting drama.” In this piercing and passionate play, this Pulitzer Prize-winning, Cuban-born playwright deftly shows audiences the intimate joys and sorrows of one family in a fascinating, politically charged country.

The Food Chain

By Nicky Silver

Directed by Matt August

April 24 – May 30; opening: Thursday, April 29

Social satire meets absurdist comedy in this hilarious off-Broadway hit that centers on the actions of an anorexic poet; her closed-mouthed husband; a “delicious” male model; his food “junkie” stalker; along with a wacky crisis hotline volunteer. This award-winning comedy hilariously examines our preoccupation with food, sex, looks, and fashion. Nicky Silver is considered a master of razor-sharp wit and black humor. One of the leading comic voices of his generation, Nicky Silver has written several highly acclaimed plays, including the award-winning *Pterodactyls*, *Fat Men in Skirts* and *Free Will and Wanton Lust*.

Holiday Offerings: A New Musical and a Yearlong Celebration of Seuss

Dr. Seuss’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Book & Lyrics by Timothy Mason; Music by Mel Marvin

Directed by Jack O’Brien

Old Globe Theatre

November 9 – December 31; opening Thursday, November 13

America's favorite holiday fable, back for a sixth incredible year, is a wonderful, whimsical production that will once again jump right off the pages of the classic Dr. Seuss book and onto the Old Globe stage. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* has been hailed by critics: “This *Grinch* is a smash,” wrote the *L.A. Times*, while the *San Diego Union-Tribune* raved, “Jack O’Brien scaled this Globe holiday show...to the heartfelt humanity of the season.” Come take part in the fun as the Globe is transformed into snow-covered *Who*-ville right down to the last can of *Who*-hash!

This year’s presentation of Dr. Seuss’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* also incorporates festivities surrounding the Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss) “**Seussentennial**” celebration. In commemoration of what would have been Mr. Geisel’s 100th birthday on March 4, 2004, The Old Globe will join in a yearlong tribute, in conjunction with Dr. Seuss Enterprises, to honor the man known and loved by generations of Americans as Dr. Seuss. The “Seussentennial: A Century of Imagination” will celebrate Geisel’s creativity, imagination and invaluable contributions to our society through his beloved books and iconic characters. The Globe’s celebratory events kick off in November 2003 with the sixth annual production of his much-loved holiday fable, and will continue throughout the year with readings, galas and various Seuss activities, ending with the theater’s *Grinch* presentation in November 2004.

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Striking 12

By Brendan Milburn, Rachel Sheinkin and Valerie Vigoda

Directed by Ted Sperling

Cassius Carter Centre Stage

December 7 – 31; opening: Wednesday, December 10

Playing in the Carter opposite *Grinch* will be the delightful musical piece, ***Striking 12***, a fun holiday tribute, written and performed by the popular folk rock group, **GrooveLily**. The show blends the contemporary tale of a grumpy guy home alone on New Year's Eve, with the Hans Christian Andersen story of "The Little Match Girl." Keyboardist Brendan Milburn plays a disconsolate man on the annual end-of-year holiday until a pretty door-to-door saleswoman, Valerie Vigoda (on vocals and violin), offers to sell him "full spectrum light bulbs" to help chase away "Seasonal Affectation Disorder," or S.A.D. Brendan sends her off, but soon regrets his rude dismissal upon re-reading the poignant fairy tale about the poor 19th century Danish match seller. The group's drummer, Gene Lewin, also chimes in with various funny incidental characters throughout the show, as well as a hip, upbeat version of "Little Drummer Boy." All ends happily in this charming cabaret-style production gives audiences a fun twist on the holidays along with an enchanting concert evening with GrooveLily!

La Pastorela de Felicidad

By Max Branscomb

Directed by William Virchis

Lowell Davies Festival Theatre

December 12 – 28, 2003

The Old Globe will also present Teatro Máscara Mágica's acclaimed holiday play, *La Pastorela de Felicidad*, created by William Virchis and Globe Literary and Multicultural Associate Raúl Moncada, bringing this popular community production back to the Globe, its first home in San Diego. Considered the oldest Christmas show in existence, *La Pastorela* tells the story (in English and Spanish) of the shepherds who, on their way Bethlehem, are waylaid by the devil and his minions, but the Archangels Michael and Gabriel step in to assist the weary travelers in reaching their destination. Each year, the story is told in new and different way, often incorporating topical themes and music.

Globe's Season 2003/2004 Schedule

Rough Crossing

9/13–10/26; opening Thursday, 9/18

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

11/9 – 12/31; opening Thursday, 11/13

Bus Stop

1/24–2/29; opening: Thursday, 1/29

Resurrection Blues

3/20–4/25; opening: Thursday, 3/25

Don Juan

5/8 – 6/13; opening: Thursday, 5/13

Blue/Orange

9/19–10/26; opening Thursday, 9/25

Striking 12

12/7 – 12/31; opening: Wednesday, 12/10

La Pastorela de Felicidad: 12/12 – 12/28

Sky Girls

1/10–2/15; opening: Thursday, 1/15

Two Sisters and a Piano

3/6–4/11; opening: Thursday, 3/11

The Food Chain

4/24 – 5/30; opening: Thursday, 4/29

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The internationally-acclaimed, Tony® Award-winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theaters in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for over 68 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 12-14 plays and musicals on its three stages, including the highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theater artists from around the world, as exemplified by Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan, Tina Landau, Nora Ephron and John Goodman, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Imaginary Friends, The Full Monty, Pride's Crossing 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. Under the leadership of Artistic Directors Jack O'Brien and Craig Noel and Executive Director Louis G. Spisto, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.