



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

News

Jack O'Brien, *Artistic Director*
Louis G. Spisto, *Executive Director*
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OLD GLOBE TO BRING BACK POPULAR SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL FOR SUMMER 2004

ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR DARKO TRESNJAK TO SERVE AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR GLOBE'S 2004 FESTIVAL SEASON, TO BE PERFORMED IN REPERTORY

San Diego – The Tony® Award-winning Old Globe's Artistic Director Jack O'Brien and Executive Director Louis Spisto are pleased to announce the return of **The Old Globe Shakespeare Festival** in the summer of 2004, with three productions, including *Antony and Cleopatra*, *As You Like It*, and, in its first-ever production at the Globe, *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, to run in repertory in the Lowell Davies Festival Theatre from June 25 through September 26, 2004. **Darko Tresnjak**, director of the Globe's acclaimed 2002 production of *Pericles*, will serve as the Festival Rep's Artistic Director. These three Shakespeare productions will be part of a **five-play summer season**, which will include a production in the Old Globe Theatre and in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage, to be announced at a later date.

“The national reputation of the Globe began years ago when one professional company first presented three Shakespearean plays in rotating repertory; one of the world's greatest theatre traditions, and one that necessarily had to be curtailed over the past several decades because of the producing burden of three separate theatres, said Globe Artistic Director **Jack O'Brien**. “But now, in a genuine burst of pride and excitement, we announce that we will be reviving the great Globe tradition of repertory in the summer of 2004 with a dazzling debut season.”

The organization's current leaders recognize the Globe's great association with the works of Shakespeare and are eager to build upon its strengths and historical roots in Balboa Park. Only a handful of professional theatre companies still present their productions in repertory, and the revival of this outstanding Shakespeare Festival – at a theatre internationally-renowned for its Shakespeare productions – will continue to place The Old Globe at the forefront of the theatre industry, as well as continue its tradition as a national treasure and a major destination for educators, tourists and the community at large.

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“Producing and presenting an artistically significant Shakespeare Festival in repertory will allow the Globe to reconnect with our past, improve our service to the institution’s artistic mission, serve a larger local and regional audience, and expand our education and outreach programs,” said Globe Executive Director **Louis G. Spisto**. “With all three plays now being performed at the beginning of the school year, it will increase our ability to bring school groups to Balboa Park to attend performances, as well as visit other institutions. Similarly, the Globe will explore new partnerships with other institutions to create appealing opportunities for culturally-minded visitors.”

The three plays will be performed by a resident acting company, which will be comprised of a large group of professional actors as well as 14 graduate acting students from The Old Globe/University of San Diego Master of Fine Arts program. In its first year, 78 performances are planned, with productions rotating on a nightly basis, allowing audiences the opportunity to see three different Shakespeare productions on three consecutive nights. In addition, there will be a production in the Old Globe Theatre and in the Cassius Carter Centre Stage running simultaneously with the Shakespeare Festival, giving visitors the opportunity to see all five plays over the course of one weekend.

Nearly 20 years have passed since The Old Globe presented Shakespeare in repertory, and the Theatre is thrilled to bring back this time-honored tradition begun by founding Globe company member **Craig Noel**. Shakespeare at the Globe dates back to the institution’s artistic roots, when, in its very first year of existence, the Theatre presented 50-minute versions of Shakespeare plays, performed in repertory, as part of the 1935 California Exposition. From 1949 to 1984, the Bard’s work became an even more integral part of the Globe’s programming by originating and hosting the annual San Diego National Shakespeare Festival – an ambitious, summer-long event in which at least three Shakespeare plays were presented in repertory.

Considered one of the most talented and sought-after directors of his generation, **Darko Tresnjak**, who helmed the Globe’s stunning 2002 production of *Pericles*, will spearhead the annual Shakespeare Festival, casting and directing a single company to perform three plays in repertory in the outdoor theatre. The inaugural season will include the epic *Antony and Cleopatra*, directed by Tresnjak; followed by the classic comedy *As You Like It*; directed by Associate Artistic Director **Karen Carpenter**; and finally, Tresnjak will direct the intriguing and rarely-performed *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, co-authored by Shakespeare and John Fletcher.

O’Brien remarked, “To be able to fold into our midst a new and authentically visionary talent like Darko Tresnjak is something I’ve longed to achieve in facing our new and vital future, and the thrilling return to a great classical repertory of plays rotating in the Festival Stage will create a climate of excitement and theatricality unlike anything we’ve known in this community for literally decades. To be able to add this jewel to our 2004 production calendar is a huge credit to the Globe staff and Board of Directors. I’m literally over the moon with excitement about it all!”

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Audiences who saw The Old Globe's acclaimed production of *Julius Caesar* last season can continue to follow Mark Antony's story in next summer's *Antony and Cleopatra* (June 25 – September 26). Antony now rules the Eastern provinces of the Roman Empire – including Egypt – where he has fallen passionately in love with the alluring Cleopatra. Spanning 10 years and two continents, the play offers a sweeping saga in which this pair of classic lovers must play out their tragic story among warring countries, sparking jealousies, hostilities and intrigues in this fascinating and dangerous political world.

In the ravishing, romantic comedy *As You Like It* (June 29 through September 25) audiences are taken on a journey for peace and acceptance, in company with a wide range of characters, among them the beloved Rosalind, one of Shakespeare's most famous heroines; the melancholy Jacques, who delivers Shakespeare's famous "Seven Ages of Man" speech, and many others. Balboa Park becomes the enchanted Forest of Arden in this delightful Shakespeare favorite, in which identities are masked, genders crossed, wits matched, and lives irrevocably changed.

Co-written by Shakespeare and John Fletcher, *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (July 2 through September 24) is a haunting tale of friendship torn asunder by two cousins' love of the same woman. Their rivalry creates a predicament that can only be resolved by the gods. In its thrilling debut at the Globe, this rarely-performed play combines the theatrical powers of Fletcher with the genius of Shakespeare, in what was to become the last words the Bard ever wrote for the stage.

Darko Tresnjak has directed acclaimed works in the realms of theater, opera and dance. He is a recipient of the 2001 Alan Schneider Award for Directing Excellence, a 2002 National Theater Artist Residency Grant at the Huntington Theatre, an NEA New Forms Grant, and the Boris Sagal Directing Fellowship at Williamstown Theatre Festival. His recent directing credits include *Pericles* at The Old Globe, *Heartbreak House* and *Amphitryon* at the Huntington Theatre; *A Little Night Music* at Goodspeed Opera House; *Under Milk Wood*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Moving Picture*, *The Love of Three Oranges* and *Princess Turandot* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* at Long Wharf Theatre. His opera credits include *The Magic Flute* at Opera Theater of Saint Louis; *Orfeo ed Euridice* at Virginia Opera, *Turandot* at Opera Carolina, and *La Traviata*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Così fan tutte*, as well as the American premiere of Rimsky-Korsakov's *May Night*, at Sarasota Opera. As a member of Philadelphia's Mum Puppettheater, he toured across the United States and Japan. Tresnjak grew up in Yugoslavia, the United States and Poland. He was educated at Swarthmore College and Columbia University.

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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 67 years. The 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 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 Old Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting the standard for excellence in American theater.