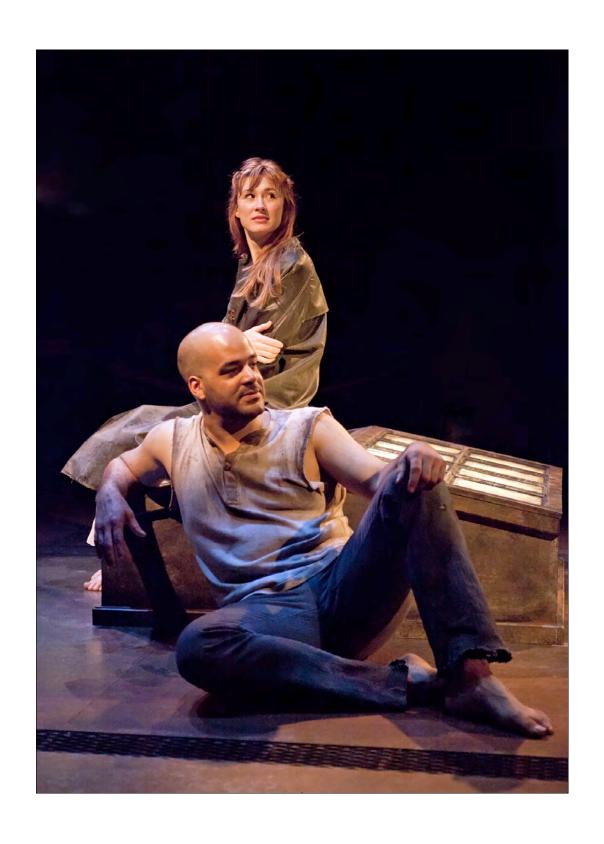


ANNA CHRISTIE



PRESS HIGHLIGHTS



REVIEWS





Client Name: Publication Name: Publishing Date:

March 19, 2012 408,825

Old Globe Theatre

San Diego Union-Tribune

Circulation:

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THEATER REVIEW

OLD GLOBE FINDS ITS SEA LEGS WITH EUGENE O'NEILL'S 'ANNA CHRISTIE'

Humor tapped, and modern feel added

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

The sea air is thick with sin, misery and the incense of cheap whiskey in "Anna Christie," Eugene O'Neill's 1911 saga of a young woman who has washed back into the life of her long-estranged father.

At the Old Globe, though, the hard-won humor of the great playwright's Pulitzer-winning work also comes through - as does a surprisingly modern feel for its wounded but defiant female lead.

Director Daniel Goldstein (whose production of "Godspell" is now running on Broadway) gets at all the rough edges of the play, one whose mishmash of accents and seagoing setting must make it a slippery one to stage. His cast - particularly Bill Buell as father Chris Christopherson and Austin Durant as the rawboned seaman Mat Burke - also navigates with skill the peculiarities of the dialogue and its frequent repetitions. Phrases such as "that ol'

devil sea" return as reliably as the tide.

That one's spat as an epithet by Chris, the graybeard Swedish mariner whom we first see weaving giddily into a beaten-down bar that rises like a bruise on the New York waterfront. It's a place where sailors and drunken dead-enders come to slug down warm lager ladled from a barrel, and try to ward off the darkness beyond the rotted pilings that ring the stage.

Buell is a wonder of bluster and bravado; he gives Chris a sense of both diehard good cheer and deep. abiding fear, and he makes the character's clipped English and tangy phrases like "by yiminy!" sound like his natural tongue.

Kristine Nielsen also is pungent and funny as Chris' gal pal and pub regular Marthy; she gets first-act laughs when she stiff-arms Chris with lines like, "There's plenty other guys on plenty other barges waitin' for me."

When Chris gets word that Anna (Jessica Love) — whom he hasn't seen in 15 years — is coming to town, it seems to fulfill both his



Bill Buell (left), Jessica Love and Austin Durant star in "Anna Christie" at the Old Globe. HENRY DIROCCO

fondest hopes and deepest dread, born of guilt.

And then she arrives — a tough but slumping soul who sighs into a chair with the immediate intent of reaching whiskey-assisted oblivion.

It seems when Anna was a young girl, Chris pawned her off on relatives at a farm in Minnesota, with the excuse that he wanted to spare her from the terrors of a seagoing family. (Two of her brothers have

drowned; her mother also is dead.)

Instead, Anna faced the depravities of her distant kin, who worked her like a slave on the farm and ripped away her innocence.

"Give you a kick when you're down, that's what all men do," she bristles to Marthy, describing how she wound up as a prostitute after fleeing the farm. (She has arrived at the bar after a jail stint and a hospital stay.)





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"Anna Christie" Old Globe Theatre

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays (plus 2 p.m. March 28); 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays: 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays (no matinee March 31). Through April

Where: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: Start at \$29 Phone: (619) 234-5623 Online: theoldglobe.org

Love has moments of raw power in the role, though her rhythms and diction seem more modern than those of her castmates (sometimes distractingly so). This could be at least partly a directorial choice: Goldberg also dips into the starkly contemporary by playing Joni Mitchell's "Blue" (with its fitting lyrical imagery of the ocean) as Anna performs purifying ablutions late in the play.

And it does help tap into

the fiery sense of independence O'Neill wrote into the role. Anna's passion — and fury — flare after the shipwrecked Mat is rescued by Chris' coal barge (Anna's newfound home). They fall in love, but the possessive Mat is soon feuding with Chris about her future.

Anna's riled response: "Nobody owns me, see? Ceptin' myself."

Durant is ideal in the role of the proud Irishman: He makes Mat seem almost of a piece with the tempestuous waves and water. (Wilson Chin's elemental sets and Austin R. Smith's moody lighting convey a strong sense of the nautical, as does Paul Peterson's immersive sound design.)

And if the bonds among these three — which seem as tattered as the shredded sails above the stage threaten to mend too tidily at play's end, Goldstein leaves a sense they're still at sea. His "Anna" concludes, movingly, with a mist and a shiver.

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Bill Buell and Jessica Love in the Old Globe Theatre's "Anna Christie." — Henry DiRocco



Written by James Hebert

1:53 p.m., March 16, 2012

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Client Name: Old Globe Theatre

NC Times-Preview Section Publication Name: Publishing Date:

March 22, 2012

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THEATER REVIEW

Atmospheric 'Christie' is gripping but uneven

By PAM KRAGEN

pkragen@nctimes.com

Eugene O'Neill may have named his Pulitzer Prizewinning 1921 drama "Anna Christie," but the play's really about another temperamental mistress - the ocean (or, as Anna's Swedish father calls it, "dat ole davil sea").

The haunting, daunting push and pull of the sea is everywhere in The Old Globe's intimate, in-theround production of "Anne Christie." Creeping waves of fog blanket the stage, which scenic designer Wilson Chin imaginatively transforms

into a variety of nautical settings with the simplest of rough-hewn materials ropes, rusty steel plates, a lighted platform and ripped canvas. Combined with Paul Peterson's' subtle but relentless sound design and Austin R. Smith's evocative lighting, the design team make the ocean a living, breathing character in the story.

Physically, the show's a wonder, but theatrically, Daniel Goldstein's production is uneven. To be fair, "Anna Christie" is not an easy play, and it's almost never produced because its characters speak in a variety

"Anna Christie"

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of foreign accents and dialects that can be exhausting both for the actors and the audience. He's got a mostly good cast, too — particu-larly Austin Durant as Anna's burly Irish boyfriend Mat Burke - but the choice to modernize the title character

Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson, Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke in Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" at The Old Globe.

Courtesy of Henry DiRocco



throws the well-paced and often-gripping show off-

onstage in Goldstein's staging are firmly of their time and place (1920 New Eng-All of the characters land) except Jessica Love's





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Anna, who looks and sounds like a 21st century woman dropped anachronistically into their midst. Love's hyper-articulate delivery of her uneducated character's lines feels inauthentic and she seems too fresh, healthy, confident and pulled together to have lived the sordid and desperate life she confesses to in Act III.

O'Neill's better known for his dark autobiographical dramas ("Long Day's Journey into Night," "The Iceman Cometh"), so "Anna Christie's a rare comedic gem from his early years. Inspired by O'Neill's own oceanfaring exploits and the colorful multiethnic sea salts he encountered, "Anna Christie" is the story of four troubled people whose lives are inextricably connected to the water.

Chris Christopherson is a hard-drinking Swedishborn sailor who abandoned his 5-year-old daughter, Anna, in the care of his late wife's Minnesota relatives to return to the seafaring life. The play opens 15 years later, when the adult Anna shows up in the New York bar where Chris drinks regularly with his girlfriend, Marthy. It's immediately clear to Marthy and the bartender that Anna's a fallen woman, an ex-prostitute fresh out of the hospital (for a pregnancy or venereal infection?), and Anna does little to hide it.

But to Chris, Anna's an innocent, a long-lost angel he's eager to reconnect with. They embark on a new life together working aboard his coal barge. But when they

See 'Christie! 27

'Christie'

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rescue Mat, a brutish boilerstoker heaved up from the ocean's depths of a sinking ship, Anna and Mat fall instantly in love and begin to contemplate a life together. Chris tries to intervene knowing Anna's life with a sailor like himself will only bring her misery — but it's Anna's confession about her past that causes Mat to question their future together.

Actor Bill Buell has the hardest job, playing the heavily accented, frequently drunk and sometimes cartoonishly superstitious Chris Christopherson (he has lost a father, two brothers and two sons to the sea). It's a high-wire performance, and Buell pulls it off surprisingly well,

particularly the character's lighter moments. And Kristine Nielsen is so terrific as Chris' live-aboard, weathered girlfriend, Marthy (who graciously and poignantly surrenders her place in Chris' life when Anna arrives), that you'll be sad that she's in just one scene. Brent Langdon is good as bartender Larry, and San Diego actors Jason Maddy and John Garcia are welcome faces in small roles.

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Mat is tortured by Anna's past, but in the end, love conquers all — or does it? That "ole davil sea" has one last trick up her sleeve, and as the fog creeps silently back in the closing moments of the play, Chris and the audience are left to wonder whether fate will ultimately reward or punish the starcrossed young lovers.

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THEATER REVIEW: Atmospheric 'Christie' is gripping but uneven

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THEATER REVIEW: Atmospheric 'Christie' is gripping but uneven

By PAM KRAGEN pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times | Posted: Friday, March 16, 2012 8:57 pm | No Comments Posted

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Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson and Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson in Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" at The Old Globe. Photo courtesy of Henry DiRocco.

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ANNA CHRISTIE at The Old Globe Theatre O'Neill Enobles the Mundane

By Welton Jones (http://www.sandiego.com/writers/welton-jones) • Mon, Mar 19th, 2012

Eugene O'Neill is the artist who first forced the world to confront the American Theatre. Almost alone in the early 20th Century, he chose the largest themes life could offer and wrestled them on the raw, brutal terms he found as a self-abusive wanderer his native land's lower depths.

His epic battles between humanity and fate eventually took him to the only Nobel Prize ever won by an American playwright, for a career that gained in power while scorning polish, hurling massive epics onto a theatre primed for frivolity and escapism. O'Neill would have none of that and his influence can be sensed today in every subsequent play born here.

His voice first broke clear of the field with ANNA CHRISTIE, a social melodrama pulled into importance by O'Neill's sheer will. The Old Globe Theatre is paying tribute to the man and his art with a swelling presentation of this root drama.

The characters are stereotypes of the day: the feckless Scandinavian sailor, the long-lost wayward daughter, the brawling Irish stoker, the tough old waterfront mama, the parasitic bartenders. The plot that entangles them – what happens when the girl's past is found out – is as stolid and predictable as a dropped anchor.

It's not the material that counts, though, it's what O'Neill does with it. He simply refuses to melt into sentimentality or collapse into chaos. These people become important despite their dull surfaces because their creator wills it. He has no time for humor, no patience for nuance. Fate must be defied even though Fate, as symbolized by "dat ole davil sea," will always win.

Yes, another hurdle for a classic that needs care in handling: Dialogue in dialect. Stage Scandahoovian and vaudeville Irish.

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(http://static.sandiego.com/articlefiles/b481d152-2cca-4083-80ed-af7b74e3b973/Anna_Christie18_main.jpg)_Bill Buell, Jessica Love and Austin Durant in Old Globe ANNA CHRISTIE.

Director Daniel Goldstein has shaped a lovely, unified and moving relationship between his three principals and that's what matters. His difficulties in fitting a play that begs for realism onto the Globe's arena White Theatre are shared with set designer Wilson Chin, who must make do with random bits of rope, a torn paper ceiling and lots of dry ice. The lighting deign, by Austin R. Smith, helps considerably but the audiences' imagination and good will are essential.

Jessica Love had me with, "Gimme a whiskey, ginger ale on the side. And don't be stingy, baby." even though several generations of movie fans know that as the first words spoken on screen by Greta Garbo. I say now, "Greta who?" My Anna Christie is henceforth Miss Love, slim, haggard, travel-worn, a pitiable victim still tough enough to protect a proud spirit even in a game hopelessly rigged. She shows us the moments when each timid hope flickers alive and also when they're snuffed out. It's a crystalline performance I will cherish.

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Bill Buell plays her father with the gusto written into the part but a still central awareness of his own. Austin Durant is a big, menacing galoot as Anna's Irishman, beast tamed by beauty. Kristine Nielsen as a veteran tramp and bartender Brent Langdon help immensely with the exposition and early atmosphere.

Denitsa Bliznakova's costumes are deadly accurate even to the seedy wear and tear and Chris Miller (assisted, I think, by Carole King) provides incidental music of appropriate heft.

A theatre of the Globe's stature should have a solid record for important American revivals. This ANNA CHRISTIE sets an appropriate standard.

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The Details

Category Arts (http://www.sandiego.com/arts-and-theatre)

Dates 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

through April 15, 2012.

Organization The Old Globe Theatre

Phone (619) 234-5623

Production Play (http://www.sandiego.com/related/production-type/play)

Type

Region Balboa Park (http://www.sandiego.com/related/region/balboa-park)

Ticket Prices \$29-\$67

Venue The White Theatre, Old Globe, Balboa Park

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THEATER REVIEW

Audacious rethink for 'Anna Christie'

DAVID C. NICHOLS

The enduring dramatic power of Eugene O'Neill steers "Anna Christie" at the Old Globe into waters both risky and impressive. O'Neill's 1921 Pulitzer Prize winner about a life-battered tart receives an intimate, audacious rethink, stewarded by director Daniel Goldstein.

O'Neill's narrative teems with details. From Act 1's seedy bar on the waterfront of 1910-era New York City and thereafter, "Anna Christie" is richly atmospheric, its simple plot ebbing and flowing like "dat ole davil sea."

That last is the refrain of Chris Christopherson (an inspired Bill Buell), the sodden Swedish mariner who learns that the daughter he dispatched to Minnesota relatives 15 years ago is returning. This entails ousting Marthy Owen (Kristine Nielsen), his wry, boozesoaked bedmate, which cues up the title character (Jessica Love, valiantly unconventional).

Hardly the angel of Chris' imagination, Anna's first scene with Marthy sets up the central dilemma. Can this damaged prostitute warm up to the father she feels abandoned by? Can she put years of virtual slavery and worse from her Minnesota kin behind her?

An answer, of sorts, arrives when Chris' barge assists a downed tramp steamer, and Anna pulls aboard Mat Burke (the superb Austin Durant), a raw-boned Irishman. Harlot and roughneck immediately clash, but

attraction simmers beneath their back-and-forth. Mat is determined to marry her and then she confesses her sordid past, leading to a purposefully enigmatic ending.

Goldstein's staging deploys striking in-the-round tactics, especially designer Wilson Chin's terrific setting of tattered overhangs, wharf ropes and rusted metal flooring. Austin R. Smith's rich lighting and Paul Peterson's omni-directional sound are pluses.

Purists may resist Love, who charts Anna with such anachronistic articulation as to initially suggest a slumming Vassar coed. That is a deliberate directorial choice. This Anna is too intelligent to have gone on the stroll, and Love's chemistry with Buell's affable Chris and Durant's vivid Mat is fascinating and ultimately poignant. You can imagine a more redolent, old school "Anna Christie," but there's plenty to admire about the vitality on tap here.

'Anna Christie'

Where: The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Saturday-Sunday. 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 2 p.m Saturday-Sundays. Ends April 14.

Contact: (619) 234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org

Running time: 2 hours, 25 minutes

Los Angeles Times | entertainment





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ALL THE ARTS, ALL THE TIME

Theater review: 'Anna Christie' at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego

March 24, 2012 | 10:37 am



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Hardly the angel of Chris' imagination, Anna's first scene with Marthy sets up the central dilemma. Can this damaged, man-hating prostitute warm up to the father she feels abandoned by? Can she put years of virtual slavery and worse from her Minnesota kin, behind her?

An answer, of sorts, arrives when Chris's coal barge assists a downed tramp steamer, and Anna pulls aboard Mat Burke (the superb Austin Durant), a raw-boned Irishman. Harlot and roughneck immediately clash, but attraction simmers beneath their back-and-forth. Chris balks at Anna coupling with a seaman, Mat is determined to marry her -- and then she confesses her sordid past, leading to a purposefully enigmatic ending.

Goldstein's staging deploys striking in-the-round tactics, especially designer Wilson Chin's terrific setting of tattered overhangs, wharf ropes and rusted metal flooring. which scores a coup when the saloon transforms amid copious dry ice into the barge. Austin R. Smith's rich lighting and Paul Peterson's omnidirectional sound are pluses, although costumer Denitsa Bliznakova under-designs Anna's entrance outfit, which O'Neill describes as instantly identifiable hooker garb

Purists may resist Love, who charts Anna with such anachronistic articulation as to initially suggest a slumming Vassar co-ed. That, like the insertion of Joni Mitchell's "Blue" at a key moment, is a deliberate directorial choice. This Anna is too intelligent to have gone on the stroll, and Love's deadpan comic timing and chemistry with Buell's affable, bombastic Chris and Durant's vivid, voracious Mat is fascinating and ultimately poignant.

You can imagine a more redolent, old school "Anna Christie," but there's plenty to admire about the vitality on tap here.

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"Anna Christie," The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park, San Diego. 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 and 7 p.m Saturdays and Sundays. Also, 2 p.m. March 28. Ends April 14. (619) 234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org. Running time: 2

Photo: Bill Buell, left, Jessica Love and Austin Durant. Credit: Henry DiRocco.

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THEATER REVIEW: Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" soars at The Old Globe

JEAN LOWERISON - SDGLN THEATER CRITIC March 19th, 2012



Anna Christie gets title billing, but Anna's father Chris Christopherson is at the heart of Eugene O'Neill's story about a coal barge captain and his daughter reunited after a 15-year estrangement.

"Anna Christie" plays through April 14 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre as part of The Old Globe's Classics Up Close series. Daniel Goldstein directs.

The story is simple: Hard-drinking Chris (Bill Buell) has spent the last 15 years on the sea, while his wife and Anna waited in Sweden for his return. Finally tired of the wait, she took Anna and moved to Minnesota, dying shortly thereafter. Anna ended up living on a Minnesota farm owned by cousins, who treated her like a slave; one of them even raped her when she was 16.

A letter announcing Anna's imminent arrival brings what Chris hopes will be opportunities for reconciliation with his only living relative. It's heartwarming to watch his excitement and fear in the preparations.

His immediate problem is live-in girlfriend Marthy Owen (a wondrously fine Kristine Nielsen). But Marthy, saying "Yuh treated me square, yuhself" is gracious and volunteers to leave.

Anna (Jessica Love) arrives, thin and exhausted, and sinks into a chair at the bar where Marthy is still working on a beer. It doesn't take a minute before Marthy finds out who she is and realizes that she and Anna (Jessica Love) share the world's oldest profession.

Anna has most recently done time in jail and in a hospital. She is spent and in need of a place to rest and regain her strength. She moves to the barge with Chris, who still sees her as innocent and thinks she is the "nurse gal" she claimed to be in a previous letter.

ENLARGE



Photo credit: Henry DiRocco

Austin Durant as Mat Burke and Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson star in "Anna Christie" at the Old Globe.

Anna surprisingly takes to life on the sea, saying it makes her feel "clean somehow." But when Chris rescues some men from a sinking ship, and one of them - Mat Burke (Austin Durant) - falls for Anna, problems arise. This is not the life Chris wants for his daughter: he has already lost two brothers and two sons to "dat ole davil sea."

"Anna Christie" is seldom produced, partly because it is difficult to stage, especially in the round. The sea must be indicated somehow, fog must be shown and lines thrown. Even more difficult is the mishmash of accents and dialects required. Chris

3/19/2012 10:04 AM

has a heavy Swedish accent, even written into the script. Mat is Irish and must have an accent to match.

Atmospherics for this production are good: Wilson Chin's set has a properly rugged look; fog occasionally covers the stage; Austin R. Smith's lighting is mood-inducing but sometimes – such as at the top of the second act – bright and distracting for patrons in some areas of the theater.

Buell owns this production, commanding the stage whenever he's on it. Chris is basically a good man with huge guilt for succumbing to the call of the sea and ignoring that at home. Anna is his blind spot: he needs her to be innocent and undamaged by his actions. Even the required heavy Swedish accent doesn't keep Buell from communicating the swagger and the guilt, the conflict and the hope that have set him psychologically adrift.

Durant is also excellent as Mat, the burly coal stoker who gets what he wants by virtue of brute force. Durant is exactly the kind of person Chris wants to keep away from his Anna. But Mat has the Irish gift of gab and try as he will, Chris cannot keep them apart.

Nielsen's Marthy is a wonder: she paints in look and movement the hard-living waterfront hooker with, yes, a heart of gold who brings her own version of a feminine touch to the male-dominated world of the sea. Pity she didn't have more onstage

Local actors Jason Maddy and John Garcia are welcome faces in small roles.

It's Love's characterization of Anna that gives pause. This Anna looks and sounds more like a modern college student than a beaten-by-life prostitute with a difficult past. Her speech (other than the frequent use of "ain't") is almost the king's English (without the king's accent), where it should be the talk of an uneducated farmgirl-turned-hooker. She seems to have wandered in from some other play.

O'Neill is not known for happy endings, and "Anna Christie" is no exception. "Dat ole davil sea" that claimed so many lives now seems to have another captive, and life goes on.

The details

"Anna Christie" plays through April 14 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 pm; Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm; matinees Saturday and Sunday at 2 pm.

For tickets, call (619) 234-5623 or visit HERE.

To read more reviews by SDGLN Theater Critic Jean Lowerison, click HERE.

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From left, Bill Buell, Jessica Love and Austin Durant in "Anna Christie" Photo by Henry DiRocco

'Anna Christie'

Written by Eugene O'Neill **Directed by Daniel Goldstein Old Globe Theatre** (http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets /production.aspx?PID=9113), San Diego March 10 to April 15, 2012

Bad life decisions—they can lie inert in the past or haunt us for years. You already know which happens in **Eugene O'Neill** (http://www.eoneill.com

/biography.htm)'s "Anna Christie." Set on the northeast coast, the play explores two sailors' love/hate relationship with the sea—and pretty much everything else they encounter.

Chris Christopherson (Bill Buell (http://broadwayworld.com/people/Bill_Buell/)) is an old, garrulous sailor. He is kind, sensitive, opinionated, confused and amiable even when angry. Old Chris, in this production, is basically Swedish Tevya. Back from a run on his coal barge, he's at the saloon with his lady friend Marthy Owen (Kristine Nielsen), when

1 of 5 3/19/2012 5:40 PM he receives a letter from his daughter Anna, who is coming to New York from Minnesota. He hasn't seen Anna since she was a little girl. The sea kept him away.

Anna (Jessica Love) is a coarse, street-smart young woman with no prospects. When Marthy asks, "Do you know who I am?" she responds, "Me in 40 years." She's joining her father because she has nowhere else to go.

The two develop an understanding until shipwrecked sailor Mat Burke (Austin Durant) arrives at the coal barge. Burke is a larger-than-life Irishman who takes an immediate liking to Anna, much to old Chris's annoyance. From then on, sparks fly.

Without question, the production soars with the performances of Buell and Durant. Buell endows every line with his character's iconoclastic style—squeezing out laughs that even O'Neill probably never foresaw. Durant plays Burke as a ginormous ball of rage, walking the razor-thin margin between passion and melodrama and somehow staying on the right side. And, as a side note, if he's not an Irish citizen, he should be. By comparison, Love seems miscast as Anna. She's like a teetotaler experimenting with strong spirits.

The set evokes the weathered decay of any seaport, and the set change between Acts I and II is itself a work of art. Goldstein's direction is nicely paced and thoughtful, comfortably developing the characters and then setting them upon each other.

For the most part, "Anna Christie" is the complete package: amusing, at times riveting, always thought-provoking and even topical during a very strange political season. O'Neill would be pleased.

Josh Baxt

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Tales of arrival and departure

From the moment the bone-tired and recalcitrant Anna Christie plops herself down in Johnny-the-Priest's saloon, you suspect that she's the proverbial "woman with a past." By the end of Act 1, you're damned near sure of it. When your suspicions are confirmed in Act III, you wonder what took Anna's guilt-ridden old salt of a father and churlishly self-righteous lover so long to

figure it out.

Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie, one of the Irish playwright's most melodramatic works (and that's saying something), withholds its emotional explosions. But the tale finally becomes a shouting match between Anna's Swedish father and Irish lover, with the alternately contrite and resolute girl in the middle, dodging flailing arms and recriminations. In an overcooked production at the

FROM LEFT: BILL BUELL, JESSICA LOVE AND AUSTIN DURANT

Old Globe Theatre, Bill Buell (as Anna's father, Chris), Austin Durant (as the lover, Mat Burke) and Jessica Love in the title role occupy the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre like combatants without neutral corners. Lurking in the darkness, invisible, is the "old devil sea" that is the play's much-repeated metaphor. Love's too-measured delivery is swamped by the warring Swedish and Irish accents, and O'Neill's resolution, which

Anna Christie runs through April 15 at the Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. \$29 and up. oldglobe.org

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Wednesday, Mar 21, 2012

Tales of arrival and departure

Reviews of the Old Globe's 'Anna Christie' and Ion's 'Heddatron' top our coverage of plays in local production

By David L. Coddon



Left to right: Bill Buell, Jessica Love and Austin Durant wrangle in 'Anna Christie.'

- Photo by Henry DiRocco

From the moment the bone-tired and recalcitrant Anna Christie plops herself down in Johnny-the-Priest's saloon, you suspect that she's the proverbial "woman with a past." By the end of Act 1, you're damned near sure of it. When your suspicions are confirmed in Act III, you wonder what took Anna's guilt-ridden old salt of a father and churlishly self-righteous lover so long to figure it out.

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between Anna's Swedish father and Irish lover, with the alternately contrite and resolute girl in the middle, dodging flailing arms and recriminations. In an overcooked production at the Old Globe Theatre, Bill Buell (as Anna's father, Chris), Austin Durant (as the lover, Mat Burke) and Jessica Love in the title role occupy the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre like combatants without neutral corners. Lurking in the darkness, invisible, is the "old devil sea" that is the play's much-repeated metaphor. Love's too-measured delivery is swamped by the

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warring Swedish and Irish accents, and O'Neill's resolution, which smacks of Anna's submission, doesn't elicit sympathy for anyone.

Anna Christie runs through April 15 at the Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park. \$29 and up.

If R2D2 took an acid trip, he'd no doubt wind up in the world of *Heddatron*, Elizabeth Meriwether's spaced-out story of a Michigan housewife, Henrik Ibsen and robot abduction. If that sounds like input overload, imagine the task of pulling off a show featuring five functioning robots on Ion Theatre's little BLKBOX stage.

The 'bots are the stars of the show, but a human cast led by Monique Gaffney as abductee Jane Gordon holds its own in a production directed by Claudio Raygoza.

Besides the transcontinental travel, there's a time-travel subplot, in which a doofus Ibsen (Charles Peters) tangles with August Strindberg, a deprecating wife and an uneasy legacy. Heddatron is a narrative and audio-visual mishmash not for the conventional theatergoer, or for those who can't abide Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse of the Heart," resurrected to shuddering effect.

Heddatron runs through March 31 at BLKBOX @ 6th & Penn in Hillcrest. \$12-\$29.

Write to davidc@sdcitybeat.com and editor@sdcitybeat.com.

Opening

Almost Maine: Love both poignant and hilarious happens concurrently in John Cariani's play set in the mythical town of Almost, Maine. Opens March 24 at Scripps Ranch Theatre at Alliant International University. \$22-\$25. scrippsranchtheatre.org

Beau Jest: Moonlight Stage Productions presents James
Sherman's comedy about a daughter's romantic ruse, her
unsuspecting family and some unintended consequences. Opens March 22 at Avo Playhouse,
Vista. \$22-\$30. moonlightstage.com

Rock of Ages: Eighties hits by the likes of Journey, Styx and REO Speedwagon, along with higher-volume fare from Whitesnake, Poison and Twisted Sister, underscore a love story that begins, appropriately, on the Sunset Strip. Opens March 27 at Civic Theatre, Downtown. \$20 and up. broadwaysd.com

The Second City's Laugh Out Loud Tour: A cabaret space in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre is the setting for a special engagement of sketches and improvisations from the famed Second City troupe. Opens March 21 at La Jolla Playhouse. \$30-\$45. lajollaplayhouse.org

Tortilla Curtain: San Diego Repertory Theatre presents a world-premiere play set in Southern California's Topanga Canyon and based on the novel by T.C. Boyle. Previews March 21 and 22; opens March 23 at Lyceum Theatre, Downtown. \$32-\$57.

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THEATER LISTINGS



Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie, starring Bill Buell and Jessica Love, socks in the Old Globe.

Anna Christie

Eugene O'Neill is produced so rarely, it's easy to forget his

gifts, among them authentic dialogue. His Eastern-seaboard characters spew "quare, rough talk" that always rings true. In the Old Globe's opening night performance, authenticity varied from real to none at all. The spare set and costumes suggested a socked-in waterfront. As Anna's controlling father, Bill Buell wavered between emotional truth and actorly accessories (calculated vocal risings, an intermittent accent). Austin Durant was a literal force as Mat Burke, the stoker who falls for Anna, then scorns her tainted past. But in the title role, Jessica Love drew a blank. She gave flat readings devoid of character, accent, or subtext. In the end, she picked up some, but even then gave the unshakable impression of being miscast. SHERYL AND HARVEY WHITE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623. 8PM THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 2PM AND 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM AND 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH APRIL 15.

STORIES THEATER REVIEWS

Dropping the August Title of Eternal Woman at the Old Globe

To combat "the brute force of public opinion," she must outpure the driven snow.

By Jeff Smith | Published Wednesday, March 21, 2012





Ephie Aardema plays Lucy Honeychurch, Edward Staudenmayer is Reverend Mr. Beeber, and Karen Ziemba is Charlotte Bartlett in the Old Globe's world priemere musical A Room with a View.

- Photo by Henry DiRocco

The views in the Old Globe's world premiere musical, *A Room with a View*, are one of the show's best features. Heidi Ettinger's sets re-create Florence, Italy, and Surrey, England, with enlarged postcards from 1908. Rows and pillars pasted with cards kaleidoscope into new playing spaces. For a wood in Act Two, Ettinger flies in maybe 30 green rectangles with different configurations of leaves. The fluid stage — like watching the Louvre on the move — recalls the Cubism of Picasso and Braque, just coming into vogue when the story begins.

E.M. Forster wrote *A Room with a View* in 1908 and made it a time of transition. The Edwardian era was an extension of the old — stern Victorian morality and strict class consciousness — and the beginning of a breakout, like Cubism and ragtime, into freer forms of expression. An unmarried British woman's reputation became a last bastion: to combat "the brute force of public opinion," she must out-pure the driven snow.

Lucy Honeychurch doesn't represent the "medieval lady," Forster says, nor is she in revolt. But she sees men living liberated lives and women encased in idealizing restrictions. "Before the show breaks up she would like to drop the august title of the Eternal Woman, and [become] her transitory self."

Lucy's engaged to well-heeled Cecil Vyse (Forster's giveaway names recall comedies of manners). The marriage of convenience will save her family. But once in Italy, she walks a tightrope between duty — "the only life we know" — and a contrary heart that whispers "passion is sanity." What gives the story much of its poignancy: Lucy does not go gently into her spring awakening.

A Room with a View is a nice musical — both very and merely. It has a definite charm. But along with snipping and tightening, it needs to entertain less and have more at stake. At present, Lucy eases into an inevitable change of heart.

Jeffrey Stock's appealing score, backed by a 14-piece orchestra, combines Italian opera and the British music hall with other popular styles and cadences. Free-spirited George Emerson (Kyle Harris with disheveled, Lord Byron—like hair) sings from-the-heart grabbers "I Know You" and "Let It Rain"; Karen Ziemba show-stops with "Frozen Charlotte"; and Ephie Aardema has the tour de force. In "Ludwig and I," she plays Beethoven's "Tempest Sonata" on the piano and adds an aria of her own. Lucy unleashes her passion and reveals how it's misdirected.

Several in the cast sing better than they act. One-note characters often expand in song.

David Lander's extraordinary lighting rinses the stage in burnt-orange Tuscan sunshine and cooler Surrey hues. In the novel, Forster balances the bright and the bundled up. But director Scott Schwartz keeps the musical on the sunny side. The forces of repression — Reverend Beeber, Cecil Vyse, and Lucy's stern

cousin Charlotte — receive comic treatment. In effect, they come to us prejudged. The Reverend's sudden embrace of life — in a splashy, *Full Monty* water sequence — would ring truer if he'd embraced it less before. Cecil isn't a "vice," just a harmless snob. In much of the first act, Charlotte isn't "frozen" at all, just a mite standoffish. Cartooning the moralizers gives Lucy far less to fight against.

A Room with a View is set in 1908. Next door, at the Old Globe's White Theatre, Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie takes place in 1910. In both, women are property. Their reputations, like fluctuating real-estate values, drive the stories. Lucy fights to preserve hers, at the expense of genuine feeling. Anna Christie wishes Mat Burke, the gruff seaman she's come to love, would overlook her "tainted" past and see her as a "real, decent woman."

O'Neill's produced so rarely, it's easy to forget his gifts: among them, authentic dialogue. His Eastern seaboard characters spew "quare, rough talk," drenched in brine and grog, which always rings true.

In the Old Globe's opening-night performance, authenticity varied from the real deal to none at all. Thick ropes for doorways and gunwales, on a spare set, and rustic costumes worn for warmth alone suggested a socked-in, waterfront atmosphere.

Kristine Nielsen's cameo as Marthy Owen was O'Neill-worthy. Wearing layers of vague browns, red-faced enough for a Fans Hals portrait, Marty was no stranger to a tavern stool. Mat Burke stokes coal on steamers. From his entrance, crawling out of a fog, to his final, puzzled exit, Austin Durant was the larger-than-life Irishman. As he entombed Anna in a brusque, American version of Forster's Eternal Woman, Durant's sea-legged swagger made him a perfect choice to play Yank in O'Neill's *The Hairy Ape*.

Anna's controlling father, Chris Christopherson, is a blaring childlike drunk with a thick Swedish accent. Bill Buell began miles over the top. Even after he settled in, the accent wavered, and he got laughs for lines flecked with pain. In the title role, Jessica Love drew a blank. She gave flat readings devoid of character, accent, or subtext. In the end — when Mat and Chris became a malestrom around her — Love picked up some. But even then, she gave the unshakable impression that she didn't have a clue. ■

A Room with a View, book by Marc Acito; music and lyrics, Jeffrey Stock; based on the E.M. Forster novel

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

Directed by Scott Schwartz; cast: Jacquelynne Fontaine, Glenn Seven Allen, Karen Ziemba, Ephie Aardema, Edward Staudenmayer, Will Reynolds, Etai BenShlomo, Gina Ferrall, Kurt Zischke, Kyle Harris; scenic design, Heidi Ettinger; costumes, Judith Dolan; lighting, David Lander; sound, Jon Weston; musical director, Boko Suzuki

Playing through April 15; Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Matinee Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. 619-234-5623

Anna Christie, by Eugene O'Neill

Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park

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Tuesday morning addenda

O'Neill's boozy, damaged characters

Anna Christie





Bill Buell as Chris and Kristine Nielsen as Marthy in A Room With a View Photo: Henry DiRocco Saturday night, March 16, I attended the Globe's Classics Up Close production of Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie, which has a lot going for it. All it needs is an arbiter of sound levels - speaking and musical - and it could be a winner. Watch for my full review of this show in the next issue of San Diego Uptown News.





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San Diego Uptown News March 30, 2012 **Publication Name:**

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Old Globe opens up O'Neill romance





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Old Globe opens O'Neill romance

By Charlene Baldridge SDUN Theater Critic

The Old Globe opened Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Anna Christie," March 15 in the White Theatre at the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center in Balboa Park. Directed by Daniel Goldstein, the play is part of the Globe's "Classics Up Close" series, intended to reexamine American classics.

Premiering in 1921, the piece is set in a lowlife waterfront bar in New York City and on a coal barge plying local waterways and coastal ports, circa 1910. Major characters are Anna Christopherson, who refers to herself as Anna Christie; her errant yet loving father, Chris; Chris's mistress, Marthy; and an Irish seaman saved from "That Old Devil Sea," which looms large in Chris's mind as bringer of bad things. In the past, with the death of Chris's brothers and now, the Irish sailor. Chris would not want his daughter marrying a seaman.

In the play's initial scene, the drunken Chris and Marthy hoist a few. He has received a letter from Anna saying she taking the train to live with him. Marthy is persuaded to move out, no hard feelings. Chris leaves and Anna arrives, neither Marthy nor Anna knowing initially who the other is.

The scene between the frail yet strong Anna (Jessica Love) and the earthy, good-hearted Marthy (Kristine Nielsen) reveals everything onlookers need to know going forward. Anna's come from Minnesota, where she's been living with her late mother's relatives since she was five years old. She does not remember her father, who takes her to the homey house on the barge and swears he will care for her the rest of her life.

Anna falls in love with the sea, even more so when it delivers up a half-drowned Irish seaman named Mat Burke (Austin Durant), a wild, brawling, beefy man who wants to settle down for love of a good woman. As played by Durant, Mat posses the same edgy combination of lout and lover as Tennessee Williams' later Stanley Kowalski.

Chris (Bill Buell) is against the match for many reasons. Anna is reluctant to marry Mat, and when it becomes apparent that each of the two men wants to run her life, she sits them down and reveals her tawdry past, sending both off on a tear. The denouement is unexpected, even funny, although the Old Devil Sea seems to bode dark events.

Jessica Love is a less jaded Anna than remembered from the Greta Garbo film (her first talkie, in 1930). This Anna is appealing naive despite her hard life. As Chris, Bill Buell's Swedish accent is at first a challenge to understand. Later in the play it seems inconsistent, fading in and out. Though he initially plays with a tad too much volume and bluster, some of his later scenes with Anna are most affecting. The most fascinating, well-performed and perhaps best-written character of

all is Nielsen's Marthy, who slips away at the end of Act I and never returns, at least in the play.

Goldstein's production is tight and tense, an engrossing two and a half hours, with frightening fight scenes directed by George Yé. Scenes are played upon Wilson Chin's imaginative set, lighted atmospherically by Austin R. Smith. Denitsa Bliznakova's distressed costumes could not be better. One could almost smell the sea and sweat. I have a huge quibble with composer Chris Miller's original music, a piano score that becomes intrusively loud and annoying in Paul Peterson's sound design.

"ANNA CHRISTIE"

Through April 15

Tues. & Wed. 7 p.m. Thurs. & Fri. 7 p.m. Sat. 2 & 8 p.m. Sun. 2 & 7 p.m.

The <u>Old Globe</u> Theatre Info: 619-234-5623

Web: www.theoldglobe.com

Tickets: \$29-\$69





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(left) Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson and Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson in The <u>Old Globe</u>'s "Anna Christie." (Photo by Henry DiRocco)



(left) Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke in The Old Globe's "Anna Christie." (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

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Posted: March 30th, 2012 | Arts & Entertainment, Feature, Theater | No Comments

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Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke in Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie, directed by Daniel Goldstein, March 2 - April 8 at The Old Globe. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

Chris (Bill Buell) is against the match for many reasons. Anna is reluctant to marry Mat, and when it becomes apparent that each of the two men wants to run her life, she sits them down and reveals her tawdry past, sending both off on a tear. The denouement is unexpected, even funny, although the Old Devil Sea seems to bode dark events.

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"Anna Christie" continues Tuesdays-Sundays through April 15 in the White Theater, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. For more information, visit theoldglobe.com or call 619-23-GLOBE. Tickets are \$29 – \$69.





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'Anna Christie,' a rough tale of a deserter's prostitute daughter

By Carol Davis



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Carol Davis

SAN DIEGO — The first things noticeable when entering the White Theatre at The Old Globe are the nautical accourrements (Wilson Chin) of heavy ropes defining sections of Johnny-Priest's Saloon, wooden planks of floor, heavy beams both stumped and tall, lots of coiled ropes, dim yellow lighting (Austin R. Smith), fog and a worn out and tattered sail (looks like torn plastic) covering the saloon and later the barge. The small bar has barrels of beer that is hand ladled out to the customers. In the backroom chairs and the doorway lead to a back entrance to the saloon.

Barge Captain Chris (Bill Buell) Christopherson's famous line in *Anna Christie* 'dat ole davil sea' is just that. When asked by a colleague at the opening night performance of Eugene O'Neill's 1911 Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Anna Christie*, if I was seasick yet, I responded that I never met a boat, pleasure or touring, that I was on that I didn't find myself hanging over the sides and wishing that I could be safely on terra firma.

But for the Swedish Captain the sea was in his blood and rather than give it up to care for his daughter after his wife died, he pawned his five-year-old Anna off on his Minnesota relatives where farming was as far away from the sea as one could get.

Anna Christie made its Broadway debut at the Vanderbilt Theatre on November 2, 1921 after several versions and revisions. This last revision helped make a name for O'Neill as one of the finest American dramatists. Greta Garbo (in her first talking film) starred in the 1930 film version and was nominated by the Academy for Best Actress. As part of its "Classics Up Close" series the Old Globe, under the direction of Daniel Goldstein, is presenting this classic that is one of the lesser produced, but still has sea legs.

O'Neill places his characters fifteen years and a lifetime later, at a meeting at Johnny-The Priest's Saloon on the New York waterfront. It's a popular hangout for the weary sailors with no place else to hang their hats. Long absent father Chris, who also makes Johnny-The Priest's Saloon his home base when docked in New York just happens to drop in with his long time companion Marthy (Kristine Neilson adds just the right touches of humor and tenderness to the otherwise rough and tumble world of maritime hardships). He arrives feeling no pain and in time to read the letter from Anna (Jessica Love) saying that she would like to meet up with him. Things are a flurry and Chris goes off to grab some food to work off his drunk.

Anna shows up worn out and sickly but manages to down two full shots of whisky (Ginger Ale on the side) each in one gulp. It seems the farm girl turned prostitute (a secret she confesses to Marthy) is pretty much running on empty and that the turmoil and guilt going on inside this young woman is much like the turmoil of the sea and the guilt of her father for making the sea his mistress. Anna is now about to enter a world she may or may not be up to especially when she meets shipwrecked Mat Burke (Austin Durant) who later becomes a stoker on her father's barge.

The play ambles along with daughter and father getting to know each other and finally forgiving each other enough to agree that Anna will live on the barge with Chris. The problems come to the fore when Mat falls madly in live with Anna and wants to marry her. Chris objects because both will be out to sea most of the time and Anna will be alone.

Ignoring all protestations, Mat proposes marriage anyway. However, convincing Anna that she should marry him is as difficult for Mat as it is for Anna to tell Mat and her father how she lived and made a living after she left the farm. All hell breaks loose when she does. For a while it looks as if someone is going to be dead when all was said and done.

Death might have been easier than all the insults and physical abuse hurled at Anna. Thoughts of how we are treating women today came to mind and, frankly, neither Chris nor Mat could be recommended as Man or Father Of The Year as will be the case when we look back in history at some of the misogyny seen and

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practiced by today's male politicians. (Men give you a kick when you're down) Luckily for both men, Anna was expecting it and it was hers with which to be reckoned.

Director Goldstein's production is not without problems, though. The play itself is problematical. It's tough to stage and in the round; sight lines are obscured depending on where one is sitting. Every character speaks in different tongues and figuring the accents out and understanding the words is challenging. Buell's Chris is still yumpi'n py jiminy, and Burk's Mat has a strong Irish brogue while Love's Anna has an indistinguishable accent that doesn't exactly match her upbringing and background. Added to that, her all-too-modern attitudes are at odds with the rest of the characters.

But it's not the accent or lack thereof that Love has a problem with. It's the credibility factor, and that is sorely missing especially when all this fuss is about her, how she responds to the men in her life and how and what they think of her. While the other characters are locked in the 1920's she is living outside their zone for one thing and for a woman beaten down by circumstances, she just doesn't have that feel. She is described in O'Neill's notes as being tall, blond; her fully developed youthful face is hard beneath layers of makeup, etc. Somehow that's not our Anna. The Anna we see is more independent and strong willed willing to go it alone again if need be.

On the plus side both Buell and Burke are excellent. Both bring the rough, realistic and sometimes-tender sides of men living at sea where only the push and pull of the tides dictates whether they live or die. Buell is still the father who loves his daughter and as misdirected as he may be, he wants what he thinks is best for her. Burke is a handsome bloke too smitten to think clearly. Both argue and fight for the woman they love and want to protect yet both have a different idea how that should be done. Anna, who is the heart of this play, is the only one who will decide and that decision ia left open for discussion at play's end. And if we are looking for 'happily ever after', O'Neill doesn't say.

Other characters with smaller roles that add some needed color include Johnny-The Priest and Larry (John Garcia and Brent Langdon) who share bartending duties and know all about every 'patron' who enters the saloon. They set the tone early on since they were the first to learn about Anna's letter brought to them by Postman (Jason Maddy). Denitsa Bliznakova's seaworthy costume designs fit the times and Paul Peterson's sound design of the sea and all that surrounds it makes this a seagoing voyage worth seeing.

See you at the theatre.

Dates: through April 15th

Organization: The Old Globe

Phone: 619-234-5623

Production Type: Drama

Where: 1393 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

Ticket Prices: starting at \$29.00

Web: theoldglobe.org

Venue: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre

*

Davis is a San Diego-based theatre critic. She may be contacted at carol.davis@sdjewishworld.com

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ANNA CHRISTIE | March 20, 2012

Old Globe's "Anna Christie" still a fine seaworthy saga



Carol Davis

San Diego Theater Examiner



(http://www.examiner.com/theater-insan-diego/bill-buell-jessica-love-andaustin-durant-eugene-o-neill-s-annachristie-at-the-old-globe-theatrethrough-april-15th-photo)

Bill Buell, Jessica Love and Austin Durant in Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie at The Old Globe Theatre through April 15th

Credits: Henry Di Rocco



(http://www.examiner.com/theater-insan-diego/scenes-from-anna-christiepicture)

Slideshow: Scenes from Anna Christie

Fast (http://www.examiner.com/theater-in-

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Diego Theater Examiner Carol Davis is a regular contributor to sdjewishworld.com. Before that she wrote for The San Diego Jewish Times for more than 20 years. Carol has been reviewing live theatre productions for the past 30 years and has been a member of the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle since 1986. Carol can be...

Carol Davis, San

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But that doesn't happen. The play ambles along with daughter and father getting to know each other and eventually forgiving each other enough to agree that Anna will live on the barge with Chris. More problems come to the fore when Mat falls madly in live with Anna and wants to marry her. Chris objects because both men will be out to sea most of the time and Anna will be alone. He does not want his daughter to suffer the same fate her mother suffered. But it's a little late for him to be telling Anna how to live her life.

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Regional Theater Review: ANNA CHRISTIE (The Old Globe in San Diego)

by Tony Frankel on March 21, 2012

in Theater-Regional



ODD CASTING CHOICE NEARLY SINKS SHOW

There is a perplexing and ultimately infuriating casting choice in the Old Globe's production of *Anna Christie* that nearly sinks Eugene O'Neill's 1921 tale of two sea-faring men and the woman who comes between them. Nearly. There is enough fully-realized acting and truly breathtaking stagecraft (including a scene change that, deservedly, received thunderous applause) to recommend this tragicomedy.



Plus, there is the Pulitzer Prize-winning play itself. The attentive spectator will be rewarded by dialogue that masterfully blends exposition with distinct character development and dialect (O'Neill writes phonetically). Listen closely and you will understand why O'Neill is oft regarded as the

greatest American playwright. While director Daniel Goldstein is responsible for both the egregious casting mistake of the titular role and differing but suitable acting styles, he nonetheless unearths the humor necessary to balance O'Neill's tragic circumstances, while triumphantly utilizing the in-the-round theater, offering impeccably inventive staging.



Anna is the daughter of the grizzled and loveable old Swede Chris, who abandoned her at the age of five on a relative's Minnesota farm when his beloved wife died. After a lifetime of abuse, a rape by a cousin, prostitution, arrest and hospitalization, the bedraggled, hardened Anna needs a respite; she decides to live with her estranged father on a coal barge in a New York City harbor. At rise, Chris is alerted by mail that Anna is arriving soon, but neither he nor the audience knows what to expect – we are told she is a nurse. Before exiting, he gives notice to his besotted slattern Marthy to evacuate the barge to make way for his daughter.



In walks the 20-year-old Anna. Her first line to the bartender elucidates O'Neill's brilliance with character definition (and is well-known from the 1930 film of the same name as Greta Garbo's foray into talkies): "Gimme a whiskey – ginger ale on the side. And don't be stingy, baby."

"Gimme" establishes lack of education and etiquette; "Whiskey" tells us this is no proper farm girl. "Ginger Ale" designates a lost youth; "Don't be stingy" indicates that she has been taken advantage of; and "Baby" is a signpost that she knows how to coo to get what she needs from men.



As Anna, actress Jessica Love sits with splayed legs on a tavern chair, slams down some whiskey and bangs the empty glass upside down on a table with bravado. She personifies O'Neill's description as a tall, fully-developed girl, handsome after a large, Viking-daughter fashion. But then she speaks in a monochromatic tone with none of the bitterness, rage, hatred, humor and world-weariness of Anna. Her bizarre, modern-sounding, almost flat delivery – whether she raises her voice or communicates in the slight Swedish accent called for by the script – disconcertingly remains the same for all four acts. It is right out of the Laura Linney school of acting, but with none of the bite – which would make Ms. Love better-suited to play Mary Ann Singleton from *Tales of the City* than Anna Christie.



In the second half, she sheds real tears of pain, but they read as an actress' tears, not those of Anna. Ms. Love lacks the temperament for this role and even when she shouts, there is an odd lack of expressiveness. Later, when Chris begs forgiveness from Anna, Ms. Love says "No hard feelings" with such a centered quiescence that one feels compelled to rush the stage and shake the actress out of what seemed to be a Xanax-induced fog. At this moment in the play, Mr. O'Neill invites Anna to be "suspicious," "dull," "weary" and "wan." Certainly, an actress can make her own choice, but vacant acceptance does not suffice and may sadly keep patrons from recommending what otherwise is a satisfactory piece.



Both Bill Buell as Chris and Kristine Nielsen as Marthy veer towards characterization, but it is an appropriate choice for the weathered seaman and his middle-aged concubine. As the man who consistently and humorously blames the "ole davil sea" for his ills, Mr. Buell is a joy to watch; his eyes positively twinkle with love or pale over with somber regret. This is a patient actor who actually has us believe that his memories have been dormant until the very moment of his recollections. Ms. Nielsen masterfully physicalizes the alcohol-soaked has-been mistress by shuffling and waddling; watching the woman slowly drag a chair across a room when she could easily have lifted it is priceless.



Austin Durant plays Mat Burke, the swarthy, demanding, powerful Irish sailor who takes refuge on the barge after a shipwreck and instantly falls in love with the ill-tempered Anna; it is Mr. Durant who so brings *Anna Christie* to life that his portrayal should be recorded for an "Acting O'Neill" instructional video. A blend of classicism, unpredictability, authority, and vulnerability makes his performance a wonder, especially given the little he is given from his co-star. Mr. Burke's robust guttural brogue comes courtesy of this well-trained actor and dialect coach Jan Gist.



While Mr. Goldstein did not corral his actors into the same stylistic stable, his technical team defies superlatives. Wilson Chin's set is a wonder of minimalism as it easily evoked a barroom and a barge at sea; among other great inventions is the figurative use of ropes as a doorway. The transition from tavern to fog-enshrouded barge was easily the most eloquent, artistic scene change in memory, aided by longshoremen who moved furniture away as if they were hauling a load. Denitsa Bliznakova's costumes were so minutely detailed with rips and stains that one could almost smell the brine, sweat and alcohol of the characters. Austin R. Smith lit from below, the aisles and overhead, utilizing rusty, turn-of-the-century flood lights that barely spilt onto the audience which sat on all four sides of the stage; that's quite an achievement.



As for the casting of Ms. Love, one can look to Calleri Casting, who also cast *The Recommendation* at the Globe. The two weakest actors in that show and Ms. Love are all graduates of Juilliard. Are open calls too time-consuming and expensive? Or does the Globe feel uncomfortable using young talent that hasn't somehow swept through New York? The Globe also has no official Artistic Director, but does Jack O'Brien, AD Emeritus, have no say? Or is it now the Artistic Director's job to manage the company instead of overseeing artistic decisions? Once upon a time, there were producers who could walk in and say, "It's my money and this kid ain't working."

Or maybe it was solely the director's option to select an actress that had audience members actually riled at intermission and afterwards. After all, it was Mr. Goldstein who made the equally dumbfounding decision to

incorporate the hugely incompatible song choice played between acts to illuminate Anna's internal strife: Joni Mitchell's "Blue." Perhaps some lyrics are apt: "You know I've been to sea before; Crown and anchor me or let me sail away." But "Acid, booze, and ass; Needles, guns, and grass," makes director Goldstein's implausible selection scandalous. I don't need Joni to indicate what's happening; I need the actress.

Photos	by.	Henry	DiRocco
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Anna Christie

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STAGESCENEL

STEVEN STANLEY'S STAGESCENELA.COM: SPOTLIGHTING THE BEST IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNI

ANNA CHRISTIE

There are times when a single performance can either salvage a play or sink it. In the case of The Old Globe's revival of Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie, the latter is unfortunately true.



That being said, I must confess to not getting the greatness of the Nobel and Pulitzer Prizewinning playwright.

In a recent review of O'Neill's Desire Under The Elms, I wrote: "It's hard to believe that O'Neill penned Desire's often stilted dialog in the same century as Arthur Miller wrote his wholly naturalistic All My Sons." The language O'Neill's characters spout in Anna Christie seems to this reviewer's ears to be not all that much more true to life, or at least to life as I've seen it portrayed on the stage throughout my years as a theatergoer.

Here's one of Anna's lines: "There ain't nothing to forgive, anyway. It ain't your fault, and it ain't mine, and it ain't his neither. We're all poor nuts, and things happen, and we yust get mixed in wrong, that's all."

The "yust" in O'Neill's script suggests that he intends his lead character to speak with a Swedish accent. The Old Globe's Anna, New York-based actress Jessica Love, enunciates her lines like someone who's been studying in a highbrow elocution school, making them sound no more natural coming from her lips than was the case for Eliza Doolittle at the Ascot Racecourse. You remember the scene. Henry Higgins has taught Eliza perfect diction, but her grammar is still that of a Cockney flower girl when she declares, "And what



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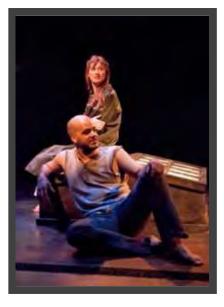


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become of her new straw hat that should have come to me? Somebody pinched it. And what I say is: them 'as pinched it, done her in." Love's delivery sounds like an Americanized version of Audrey Hepburn's in My Fair Lady, though in Eliza's case, there was clearly a reason for the disconnect between pronunciation and grammar, and the scene was being played for laughs.

I hesitate to place the blame entirely on the actress's shoulders. As a recent grad of the highly selective acting program at Julliard, Love is clearly capable at the very least of dazzling a panel of judges. Therefore if the choices she makes here seem all wrong for Anna, many of them may have been made by director Daniel Goldstein.



Still, since the title character is onstage throughout much of Anna Christie, scenes in which Anna appears sink every time the character speaks, no matter the caliber of performances surrounding her.

It's hard to say how I'd feel about Anna Christie (The Play) had I seen its 1993 Broadway revival with Natasha Richardson in the title role, or Liv Ullmann's performance in 1977, or Greta Garbo's on film. Would I then have gotten the greatness of O'Neill's tale of an ex-hooker trying for a new start in life with an Irish sailor named Mat Burke?

Opposite Love as her love interest is another East Coast actor, Austin Durant, whose performance is so absolutely terrific—big, bold, lusty, dynamic, sexy, and ocean deep—that he very nearly salvages Anna Christie. If only "very nearly" were enough.

Bill Buell plays Anna's father Chris Christopherson with ample gusto (and a Swedish accent so thick you could cut it with a knife). It's a performance that comes close to caricature, though doesn't quite cross the line. Then again, each of the characters O'Neill writes is pretty much "a character" as in, "That Chris Christopherson is quite a character."

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As editor of Stage: Los Angeles' most author of *Morocca* English Language Los Angeles since

photo credit: Eric Sch

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Kristine Nelson's blousy Marthy is quite a character too. (The Queen of Blousy, Marie Dressler, played her on screen in 1930.) It's another colorful performance to say the very least.

John Garcia and Brent Langdon do well in the supporting roles of Johnny-The-Priest and Larry. Bryan Banville, Chance Dean, and Jason Maddy are trained actors whose virtual sole purpose in The Old Globe's Anna Christie is to facilitate scene changes.

Which leads me to Wilson Chin's scenic design, one of two reasons (the other being Durant) that you might want to see Anna Christie at The Old Globe.



Chin's Act One design (a seedy bar) seems fairly simple and straightforward, tables and chairs scattered about the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre's in-the-round stage and two ropes hanging from rafters to floor to suggest a door leading to a separate room. Then comes the magic as before our very eyes, and with the aid of the abovementioned cameo players, the bar is transformed into the deck of a fishing scow, the entire stage area bathed in fog throughout the entire second half of Act One, as shown in the above photo. Trust me. You've never seen anything like it.

Other design elements are topnotch creations as well—Austin R. Smith's striking lighting design, Paul Peterson's vivid sound design, Chris Miller's moody original music, and





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Denitsa Bliznakova's mostly grungy 1910 costumes. Jan Gist vocal and dialect coaching has insured some fairly realistic accents, particularly Durant's, but what's up with Anna Christie's? And what's up with those very 2012 hair extensions she's wearing, as anachronistic as director Goldstein's misguided choice of Joni Mitchell's "Blue" to underscore Anna's blues.

Casting is by Calleri Casting. Annette Yé is stage manager.

I'm seeing a production of Long Day's Journey Into Night later this week. Let's see if it can make me more of a Eugene O'Neill fan than The Old Globe's Anna Christie has.

Old Globe Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through April 15. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:00, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00, Saturdays at 2:00 and 8:00, Sundays at 2:00 and 7:00. Wednesday matinee on March 28 at 2:00. Reservations: 619 234-5623

www.oldglobe.org

-Steven Stanley
March 18, 2012

Photos: Henry DiRocco

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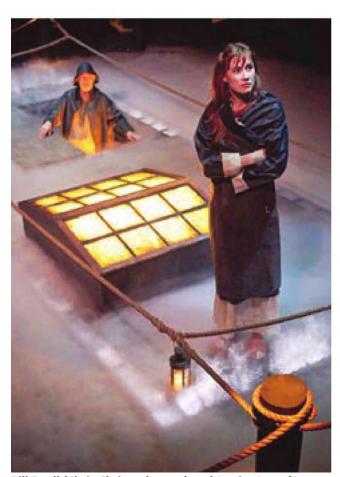
Old Globe Theatre

La Jolla Light March 22, 2012

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It's worth a trip to The Old Globe to meet Anna Christie



Bill Buell (Chris Christopherson) and Jessica Love (Anna Christopherson) on the engaging set of Eugene O'Neill's 'Anna Christie,' at The Old Globe Theatre. HENRY DIROCCO



Let's Review BY DIANA SAENGER

ugene O'Neill's, "Anna Christie," which won ■ the author his second Pulitzer Prize in 1921, has played on numerous stages over the decades, but the version at The Old Globe Theatre this month, may be the best place to see this heartfelt story yet.

Anna, a motherless girl, estranged from her father, has survived, though in unpleasant ways. After ending up in a hospital, she decides to find her father, a crusty old sailor who captains a coal barge. Chris Christopherson is delighted to reacquaint with Anna after 15 years, and despite her reluctance, persuades

her onboard to recuperate.

O'Neill seasoned the character of Chris to perfection. Perhaps that's because O'Neill himself lived in a flophouse above a bar and got a real insight into the sailors who came through the door.

Actor Bill Buell inherits O'Neill's vision of Chris with distinction. He shifts between a robust sea-faring mariner who would rather drink than eat, to a guilt-ridden father who can't hide his joy that his "angel" is home. Buell does an incredible job of handling the brogue of his character and tosses out the line "that old devil sea" which he blames on anything bad that has happened to him - like he was born saying it. His mannerisms are spot-on, like when he's serious about something and his furrowed brow settles his left eyebrow just a tad further down his face than his right brow.

Shortly after Anna is aboard, a group of stranded sailors are rescued from their lifeboat. One is Mat Burke (Austin Durant), a





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If you go

- What: 'Anna Christie'
- When: Matinees, evenings through April 15
- Where: Sheryl and **Harvey White Theatre** at The Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park
- Tickets: From \$29
- Contact: (619) 234-5623 TheOldGlobe.org

strapping, abrasive sailor who clings to Anna on the deck like he's found the best thing since canned tuna.

She, of course, is instantly appalled coming off the trauma of being groped to survive. Chris is all over Mat, instantly shielding Anna and setting the rules Mat must follow to stay on board.

Actor Durant fills the boots of Mat well. His few tender moments are believable, and the one problem I had toward the end where he berates Anna way too many times about her former life, is a script problem, not

one of Mat's doing.

Kristine Nielsen drew loud applause for her role as Marthy, Chris' drunken girlfriend who lovingly gives up her spot on the ship for Anna. Jessica Love doesn't quite measure up in her portrayal, I never felt she was Anna; she always seemed to be an actress delivering her lines. She lacked emotion in some of the pivotal moments of Anna's story, particularly in the later scenes when she suffers so many angry blasts from Mat, but seems willing to bend her life once again just to be loved.

Wilson Chin's scenic design is so authentic playgoers will think they are actually aboard the barge. From the inventive rope work, and the transitions from bar to ship, every scene is transporting. The fog easing in eliminates any thought that one is setting in a theater, and the sound design by Paul Peterson of the sea, bells and horns add to the realism and enjoyment of "Anna Christie."



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It's worth a trip to The Old Globe to meet Anna Christie

By Diana Saenger Let's Review!

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Bill Buell (Chris Christopherson) and Jessica Love (Anna Christopherson) on the engaging set of Eugene O'Neill's 'Anna Christie,' at The Old Globe Theatre. Henry DiRocco

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If you go

What: 'Anna Christie'

When: Matinees, evenings to April 15

Where: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: From \$29

Box Office: (619) 234-5623 Website: TheOldGlobe.org

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Classic Anna



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CUAUHTÉMOC KISH : THEATER REVIEW

A classic up close

Although some dust, "Anna Christie" is a polished accomplishment



(I to r) Bill Buell and Jessica Love in "Anna Christie." (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

he Old Globe Theatre's Classics Up Close series dusts off Eugene O'Neil's 1921
Pulitzer Prize winner, "Anna Christie," and gives it a polished look for display at their Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park.

This four-act play reunites a land-locked daughter and seafaring father after a 15-year separation. Their new bond is strained when she falls for a stoker who was rescued after a shipwreck. Both father and her new beau

come to terms with her past, making the sea the scapegoat for all the wrongdoing in their lives.

Bill Buell plays Chris, the absent father and captain of the coal barge. Buell looks sufficiently weather-beaten and fills out his part with a fine Scandinavian accent. Furthermore, he carries the guilt surrounding his character's daughter around his neck like a heavy anchor, and moves from drunken bravado to timid, repentant soul in the blink of an eye.

"Anna Christie"

The Old Globe Theatre
Through April 15
Tues. & Wed. 7 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri. 8 p.m.
Sat. 2 & 8 p.m.
Sun. 2 & 7 p.m.
619-234-5623
TheOldGlobe.org

The stoker Mat, played by Austin Durant, looks the part of a rock-hard worker that has fed steamship furnaces most of his life. Mat is a simple guy who is smitten with the sight of Anna. He decides Anna will be the woman he returns to from duty at sea, awaiting his arrival behind a white, picket fence and, more than likely, holding a baby in her arms.

Durant flexes his acting muscles well, portraying the part of an uneducated, straight shooter with a strong verve of sailor talk that is rough and to the point. Like



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Anna's father, Mat is quick to raise a hand for a brawl one evening and equally quick to repent the next.

Jessica Love as Anna, the play's eponymous heroine, does not fair as well as the others. Love does not quite measure up to the demands of her assignment and many of her lines seemed recited, lacking any of the emotional grounding expected from a past that included rape and working in a Minnesota prostitution house. Love's turns at toughness seemed forced and her turns at gentle, caring and vulnerable seemed unconvincing.

The other members of the cast filled in this under written drama well enough, with director Daniel Goldstein even having them clear the stage at times. Thus, the diminutive theatre-in-the-round space was delightfully transformed from a bar to a barge in the matter of minutes. Scenic designer Wilson Chin was responsible for the technical wizardry, decorating the stage with props like metal lanterns and rope dividers so the audience's vision would not be impaired.

Paul Peterson provided a sound design that allowed for a dirge-like quality of the power of the sea. The sound haunted the production appropriately, as the characters constantly blame everything on the "devil sea." In the end, although there's some dust accumulating on O'Neil's aged story, it will still shine enough for most playgoers intent on enjoying the classics. ▼



(I to r) Jessica Love and Austin Durant (Photo by Henry DiRocco)



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A classic up close

Posted by admin on 3/23/12 • Categorized as Arts & Entertainment, Theater reviews

"Anna Christie"

Through April 15

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Although some dust, "Anna Christie" is a polished accomplishment



(I to r) Austin Durant as Mat Burke and Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson in Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie," directed by Daniel Goldstein, March 2 - April 8, 2012 at The Old Globe. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

Cuauthémoc Kish | Theater Review

The Old Globe Theatre's Classics Up Close series dusts off Eugene O'Neil's 1921 Pulitzer Prize winner, "Anna Christie," and gives it a polished look for display at their Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park.

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"Anna Christie" – The Old Globe, "Parade" – Cygnet Theatre & "Heddatron" – ion theatre

What happens when your life spirals out of control? You might be abducted by robots, forced into prostitution or faced by an angry lynch mob.

All three occur in local productions. But only one will disturb, unnerve and haunt you.

The musical, Parade" is based in fact, a miscarriage of justice steeped in redneck racism and anti-Semitism.

In 1913, Leo Frank was the superintendent at a pencil factory in Atlanta. As an educated New York Jew, he was considered an alien. So when a 13 year old female employee was brutally murdered, he was the logical scapegoat. The evidence was flimsy, the prosecutor bribed the witnesses, and yellow journalism ran rampant. Frank was sentenced to death.

But his wife took up the fight, convincing the governor to re-open the case. Leo's sentence was commuted to life in prison, infuriating vigilante townsfolk, who kidnapped him and strung him up.

It was a horrific event – which makes for a thrilling musical. For the San Diego premiere of "Parade", Cygnet Theatre artistic director Sean Murray has marshaled an outstanding design team and a masterful cast, backed by an impressive 8-piece orchestra. The gut-wrenching first act is flawless. The production loses some emotional steam in the second act, and ends with an enigmatic last gasp that steals focus and leaves the audience puzzling over its meaning rather than concentrating on the intense, multi-layered complexity of the story.

Jason Robert Brown's music is intricate and exciting, and Alfred Uhry's book is terrific. Love almost conquers all for Leo and Lucille, marvelously portrayed by Brandon Joel Maier and Sandy Campbell.

Love is elusive and oceanic in "Anna Christie," a Pulitzer Prize winner by Eugene O'Neill. It's 1910, and Anna returns to her father, who left her 15 years ago, in the care of Midwest relatives who destroyed her body, soul and reputation. Ready to make a new start, Anna falls for a gruff, coal-shoveling sailor, wonderfully inhabited by Austin Durant. It's not smooth sailing for this poor, damaged gal, played a tad too 21st century by Jessica Love.

The Old Globe production is beautifully designed, with billowing fog and sound that sweep us out to sea.

Jane is swept away, too... only she's abducted by robots, in Elizabeth Meriwether's "Heddatron." ion theatre created five scene-stealing metal bots that transport pregnant, suicidal Jane to the Ecuadoran jungle, to perform "Hedda

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Old Globe's 'Anna Christie' impressive, riveting

By Elizabeth Marie Himchak

A moving and emotionally charged production of Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" is playing at The Old Globe through April 15.



Tempers flare when Anna (Jessica Love) reveals her secret to her father (Bill Buell), left, and Mat Burke (Austin Durant) in "Anna Christie" at The Old Globe through April 15. Photo by Henry DiRocco

O'Neill's dramatic tale of survival, redemption and forgiveness addresses the hidden past of Anna Christopherson aka Anna Christie, who reunites with her estranged father, Chris. In the course of three weeks their troubled pasts collide with the present in a situation inflamed by the presence of Mat Burke. It is his professed love for Anna that is the catalyst for the play's anger-fueled revelation in Act III that forever changes the three main characters' lives.

Jessica Love (Anna), Broadway veteran Bill Buell (Chris) and Austin Durant (Mat) convincingly express their respective characters' range of emotions — at times humorous, but more often pained and angry.

The play, set along the East Coast in 1910, has a controversial subject matter considering the time in which it was written. O'Neill's play opened on Broadway in 1921 and won the Pulitzer Prize in Drama the following year. While focusing on an estranged father and daughter's reunion, it addresses taboo topics such as sexual abuse and society's double standards regarding sexuality for men and women.

The Globe's production is impressive and riveting, not only due to the talents of the three main actors — the ensemble members are present in the first of the four acts — but for its set designed by Wilson Chin.

The intimate theater-in-the-round stage is transformed with the creative use of rope into a multi-room bar for Act I. In Act II, it takes on the appearance of Chris' barge at sea — convincing through the use of trap doors and fog, while in the final two acts it has a more traditional indoor room appearance.

The fog also brings to life the play's fourth main character, whom Chris calls "that old devil sea." The sea — turbulent sometimes, calm at other times — is a perfect metaphor for the trio's emotions and turmoil throughout the two-and-a-half hour play.

"Anna Christie" can be seen in matinee and evening performances through April 15 at The Old Globe's

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Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Free post-show forums with the cast will be offered on March 27, April 3 and 11.

Tickets start at \$29. Purchase at the box office, at www.TheOldGlobe.org or 619-234-5623. Free and \$10 valet parking is available

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Old Globe's 'Anna Christie' a moving tale of forgiveness

BY ELIZABETH MARIE HIMCHAK

A moving and emotionally charged production of Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" is playing at The Old Globe through April 15.

O'Neill's dramatic tale of survival, redemption and forgiveness addresses the hidden past of Anna Christopherson aka

REVIEW

Anna Christie, who reunites with her estranged father, Chris. In the course of three weeks their troubled pasts collide with the present in a situation inflamed by the presence of Mat Burke. It

is his professed love for Anna that is the catalyst for the play's anger-fueled revelation in Act III that forever changes the three main characters' lives.

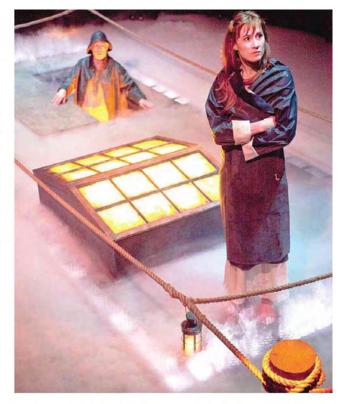
Jessica Love (Anna), Broadway veteran Bill Buell (Chris) and Austin Durant (Mat) convincingly express their respective characters' range of emotions — at times humorous, but more often pained and angry.

The play, set along the East Coast in 1910, has a controversial subject matter considering the time in which it was written. O'Neill's play opened on Broadway in 1921 and won the Pulitzer Prize in Drama the following year. While focusing on an estranged father and daughter's reunion, it addresses taboo topics such as sexual abuse and society's double standards regarding sexuality for men and women.

The Globe's production is impressive and riveting, not only due to the talents of the three main actors — the ensemble members are present in the first of the four acts — but for its set designed by Wilson Chin.

The intimate theater-in-the-round stage is transformed with the creative use of rope into a multi-room bar for Act I. In Act II, it takes on the appearance of Chris' barge at sea - convincing through the use of trap doors and fog, while in the final two acts it has a more traditional indoor room appearance.

The fog also brings to life the play's fourth main character, whom Chris calls "that old devil sea." The sea — turbulent sometimes, calm at other times — is a perfect metaphor for



Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson and Jessica Love as his daughter, Anna, in Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" at The Old Globe through April 15. Photo by Henry DiRocco

the trio's emotions and turmoil throughout the two-and-a-half hour play.

"Anna Christie" can be seen in matinee and evening performances through April 15 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Free post-show forums with the cast will be offered on March 27, April 3 and 11.

Tickets start at \$29. Purchase at the box office, at www.The-OldGlobe.org or 619-234-5623. Free and \$10 valet parking is available





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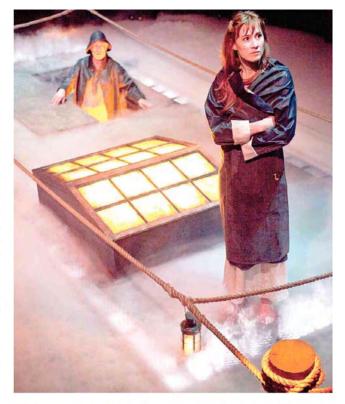
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declaration is summarily well-suited.

This review is based on the opening-night performance of March 17. Parade runs through April 29 at Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town. \$35-\$52. 619-337-1525, cygnettheatre.com

--Martin Jones Westlin

The girls next door

Two current Old Globe Theatre entries share some of their merits and difficulties

Man, does the set for The Old Globe Theatre's current A Room with a View hold some kinda promise. It's as towering as the score, which lilts its way through this satirical comedy's all-too-familiar themes. Edwardian England's repressed sexuality and religious institutions are under the gun as the backdrops move and retract, their Italianate hues taking the eye with them.

But that's close to where the substance ends, as this adaptation from E.M. Forster's novel unveils itself to distraction. Solidly introduced characters suddenly disappear; at least one clever song and dance is totally unnecessary; and the central figure is vocally weak and histrionically overextended. You can look and listen, but this entry doesn't look and listen back.

Lucy Honeychurch (Ephie Aardema) is a romantically stifled English debutante, on holiday in Italy as part of her preparation for married life. She'll meet with obstacles big and small in her stay at a Florence *pensione*, where George Emerson (Kyle Harris), her eventual love interest, happens to live as well. Meanwhile, she's betrothed to Cecil Vyse (Will Reynolds), a stuffed shirt who despises rural society ("The trouble with people is that they exist," he warbles in one



George Emerson (Kyle Harris, left) knows what he wants from Lucy Honeychurch (Ephie Aardema, right) as the unyielding Charlotte Bartlett (Karen Ziemba) looks on. (Photos by Henry DiRocco)

number). Lucy has adopted his attitude—but love will take its course, and all is finally well with Lucy, George and Cecil, who eventually admits that his superior bearing is a ruse.

But for someone in waiting, Lucy looks almost elderly. Aardema's pretty, youthful voice is inconsistent with her settled appearance and with Harris' quiet vitality; the clash just doesn't jibe with what's supposed to play out as a predictable story. Neither are we given a glimpse of what Lucy sees in Cecil, or if she sees anything at all.

Please hang on every note of Jeffrey Stock's lush music and lyrics, however, especially the song "Ludwig and I," wherein the virginal Lucy abandons her troubles by losing herself at the piano in Beethoven's Tempest sonata. This is an astoundingly beautiful tune---unlike "Splash," an amusing but otherwise ill-fitting ragtime song-and-dance that does everything except advance the show.

A Room with a View, directed by Scott Schwartz and with book by Marc Acito, is a visually stunning but aesthetically unremarkable piece, with too much going on in some spots and too little in others.

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Mat Burke (Austin Durant) has made up his mind about Anna's (Jessica Love) potential as his soulmate, and it looks like she's coming around.

Meanwhile, you know you're at a Eugene O'Neill piece when the action starts either (a) in a bar or (b) with characters tipping their hands to their fondness for tipping their glasses. Both elements come into play in *Anna Christie*, one of O'Neill's better pieces, now playing at The Globe. It centers on a broken-down old sea sot who's virtually ignored his daughter since her teens; the daughter who's taken out her anger in a particularly debilitating climate; a headstrong would-be lover who won't take no for an answer; and the reconciliation between the three.

It's one of Gene's better entries because each character finds his/her way out of some sketchy circumstances through a tool more powerful than alcohol itself—good, old-fashioned personal inventory. The (minor) problem is that the playwright has spread his story on too thick, drawing his characters as more angst-ridden than they need to be for the story to make sense.

But Broadway veteran Bull Buell infuses Chris Christopherson, inveterate sailin' man and Anna's wayward father, with untold life in this excellent character sketch. As Anna's would-be husband Mat Burke, Austin Durant holds

our interest via lots of character arcs. Jessica Love's Anna is the weak link—she good, but she's not *good* in the sense that she doesn't carry many of the physical affectations from her former life. She needs to give in to Anna the woman, not just Anna the idea, and that's where director Daniel Goldstein can help.

Do watch Kristine Nielsen in the small part of Marthy Owen, who can drink with the best of 'em and doesn't mind showing off her talent. Nielsen doesn't miss a solitary trick.

These reviews are based on the performances of March 10 and March 18, respectively. Each runs through April 15 at the Globe's mainstage and the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, respectively, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. \$29 and up. 619-23-GLOBE, oldglobe.org

--Martin Jones Westlin

ON SCREEN

'An ideal moment'

Jiro Dreams of Sushi is a testament to one man's labor of culinary artistry

BY JEAN LOWERISON

"You have to fall in love with your job. You must dedicate your life to mastering your skill."

-Chef Jiro Ono

Jiro Ono is probably the best sushi chef in the world. This Sakunin, his eatery, has been in business for 75 years and has a 3-star rating from Michelin Red Guide, the first such restaurant of its kind (a 10-seat sushi bar located in a Tokyo subway station) to receive the guide's highest rating.

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"Anna Christie" Awash with Raw Emotion

Photo by Henry DiRocco



By Barbara Smith Contributing Writer

A father who abandoned his daughter when she was 5 to live a life at sea; a young woman who leads a wayward life and journeys to find her way home; and a sailor who finds the womcharacters in Eugene O'Neill's

masterpiece "Anna Christie," now playing at The Old Globe, intersect in a drama that is awash with raw emotion. Director Daniel Goldstein's revival of this 1921 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about an old seafaring coal barge captain who reconnects with his daughter, a former prostitute, and the bond she forms with a plucked-from-thesea Irish sailor, breathes new life into a classic and with some modern touches in casting and staging, presents a compelling theatrical experience that will challenge your views on truth, responsibility and the redemptive powers of love.

The play opens with Chris Cristopherson, a weathered seaman who doesn't mind swilling down a whiskey or two, in Johnny-the-Priest's saloon, a gathering hole for passing-through sea folk. A letter arrives for him an he has always longed for from his daughter Anna, now only to discover sordid truths in 20, who he left with relatives as her past. The lives of these three a child after her mother died.

See Christie page A8

When Anna comes back into his life, he wants to right the wrongs of the past and invites her to stay with him on his barge. But Anna has secrets from her past including rape by a family member in whose care she was left and a subsequent downward spiral into a life of prostitution. While on the barge, a welcome refuge from her sordid past, Anna meets Mat Burk, a young Irish sailor who is rescued after a shipwreck, and the attraction between the two is intense but fraught with tension because of Anna's ambivalent feelingswhat will happen if he learns the truth about her, she questions—and Chris' resistance at not wanting his daughter's fate to parallel that of her mother's with a man who is slave to "that ole devil sea." Indeed, the sea is a powerful force in the play with its sweeping waves and tides that, like the emotions of the characters, rise up, storm, and ultimately renew.

Jessica Love as Anna suffuses the role with a blend of streetsmart toughness and worn-atthe- seams vulnerability. While Love has a slightly more modern appearance and elocution than perhaps was suggested by O'Neill in his notes ("a tall, blond, Viking-daughter"), she nonetheless draws us in convincingly to her torn emotions. Bill Buell as Chris brings vitality, robustness, and a hugely entertaining comic timing to the role. When he eavesdrops and sees the romantic reconciliation between Anna and Mat. his silent raise-the-rafters "Hurrah" is magnificent. Top acting honors go to Austin Durant as Mat, who is mesmerizing from the moment his powerful frame emerges from the angry sea, dazzling the stage with raw intensity ranging from unbridled rage at Anna after her past is revealed to helpless innocence when confessing his need for her to stay in his life. In an all too short first scene cameo, Kristina Nielsen portrays the role of Marthy, Chris' suds swizzling good time gal, with gusto.

With its deliberately ambiguous ending—both Chris and Mat sign up for a voyage on the same ship to South Africa, an ironical and comical twist, leaving Anna behind to wait for them to return to her-the future is uncertain. But if you are a "glass half full" personality, you exit with a feeling of hope.

Wilson's Chin's expertly executed theatre-in-the-round set evokes the sea's moody mysteries, with dry ice-produced fog, hemp ropes suspended from the ceiling to signify a door, and a metal floor aged with rust. Just as the scenery reflects the sea— "dangerous, ugly, peaceful, beautiful," as Chin describes— 'so too are the conflicts in the minds of the characters in this enthralling play mirrored and stamped indelibly in our own. Anna Christie plays through April 15. For ticket information, visit www.TheOldGlobe.





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Old Globe Theatre

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SD Voice & Viewpoint

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"Anna Christie" Awash with Raw Emotion

Photo by Henry DiRocco



By Barbara Smith Contributing Writer

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See Christie page A8





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Christie

continued from page A5

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Powerful O'neill Revival Premiere's At The Old Globe

Added by Lika on March 20, 2012.

Saved under Culture, Entertainment, Headline, Jack Lyons, Theatre







Jack Lyons Theatre & Film Critic

"Anna Christie", by playwright Eugene O'Neill, America's first Nobel Laureate in Literature, is a powerful drama of alienation and redemption. It's a story that abounds in metaphors concerning a former prostitute who falls in love, but runs into problems and difficulty when it comes time to turn her life around. Sounds pretty tame and prosaic stuff by today's standards however, in 1921 when the play opened at the Vanderbilt Theatre on Broadway, it set some tongues wagging for its frank and earthy approach concerning prostitution by the play's characters. It also won a Pulitzer Prize and a NYC Drama Desk award, clearly announcing that Eugene O'Neill was well on his way to becoming America's premiere playwright.

"Anna Christie" isn't done all that often. There have been only three or four mountings in major American cities since its premiere. In the Old Globe's production, winningly and seamlessly directed by Daniel Goldstein (a hot young director on Broadway just now with his revival production of "Godspell"), the story set in 1910, resonates with the audience through three characters: Chris Christopherson (Bill Buell), Captain of the coal barge 'Simeon Winthrop', Mat Burke (Austin Durant), a young, bellicose Irish stoker who works the steamer

ships, and Anna Christopherson (Jessica Love), the estranged daughter of "Old Chris" who seeks, not only true love, but purification.

Anna's mother died when she was five. The life of a sailor is a lonely one with long stretches of time between sea and home, resulting in Chris' decision to send her to live with relatives on a farm in Minnesota, a thousand miles from any ocean. Old Chris has been at sea for the past fifteen years, and has lost all touch with his daughter. One day a letter arrives announcing that Anna is coming to visit him. He is better known in the bars and saloons of seaports around the world, than he is to his daughter.

Bill Buell brings a tough, but weary, seafaring quality to his Chris. He is blustery, but his inner core is softer than he wants to let on. Alienation is a powerful motivator and now Chris wants to reconnect with his daughter as a way of making up for his years of being an absent non-parent. But, his journey won't be easy. It's full of obstacles. Buell's performance is finely judged and his Swedish accent has the ring of authenticity to it.



Daniel Goldstein directs Eugene O'Neill's classic Anna Christie March 2 - April 8, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

Buell, as Chris, understands the power that the sea holds over him. He both respects and fears it, but it's all he knows... it's the life of a sailor.

As Anna, Jessica Love shows us what years of living without parents and the love of family can do to a young woman who has to do what she can to survive and make her way in a very callous world. Men are her enemy. Inwardly she screams at just the thought of men and her relationships with them. Now she is coming to visit and perhaps, stay with her father on his barge. He has no idea of her past; a past she would love to leave behind. Anna is now ready for a clean fresh beginning. She is just not sure what form it will take.

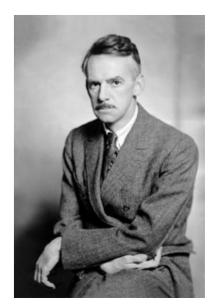
Into this charged atmosphere comes Mat Burke, a young, strong, Irishman who makes his living as a stoker on steamships. Rescued during a storm by Chris and his crew, Mat, played with such intensity by Austin Durant (a world-class perspiration-producing machine if I ever saw one), is full of Celtic charm beneath his tough exterior. Durant has the poetry and the language lilt down pat. When he delivers the dialogue and his feelings to Anna with such ease and passion, it's easy to see why she falls for him. It's love at first sight for both of them. But, ay, here's the rub. Chris doesn't want his Anna married to a sailor. At one point, he says, "Any girl that marries a sailor, is a fool".

Water is the appropriate metaphor for the play. O'Neill worked on tramp steamers in his youth and he has a semi-autobiographical "roman a clef" attachment to the character of Mat. Chris knows the mythic quality water has for sailors, and Anna seeks the cleansing power of the sea, as a way toward a new life.

"Anna Christie" features a wonderful supporting cast. Kristine Nielsen as Marthy Owen, and Brent Langdon as Larry the bartender, nicely play and portray denizens of the seaport and harbor towns familiar to audiences the world over. Rounding out the cast are John Garcia (what a great character face for the movies) as Johnny-the-priest, Jason Maddy as the Postman, Chance Dean as Johnson and a longshoreman, along Bryan Banville as a Longshoreman.

A great deal of the success and look of this winning production goes to the creative team. Scenic Designer Wilson Chin, has taken the arena stage of the White Theatre, and cleverly transformed it into a saloon, a ships exterior, and a couple of ship interior scenes all without challenging the acceptance of the audience. Especially effective are the fog scenes. They place the audience right onboard the boat along with the actors.

The mood lighting by designer Austin R. Smith, for both the exterior and interior scenes lends a verisimilitude to the overall production. Paul Peterson's sound design effectively supplies the sounds of the sea (although I think the soundlevel needs to come down several notches for audiences in the



Nobel Prize- and Pulitzer Prizewinning playwright Eugene O'Neill. O'Neill's Anna Christie will run March 17 - April 22, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo courtesy of The Old Globe.

comfortably intimate 250-seat White stage). The costume designs by Denitsa Bliznakova perfectly match the era and the action. I especially liked the touch of the sweat-stained vest worn by Chris.

"Anna Christie" is a first-rate production and is one of the plays selected in the Old Globe's "classics up close" program. Don't Miss It! The show runs through April 15, 2012. For information call 619-231-5623 or online to www.theoldglobe.org.



Daniel Goldstein directs Eugene O'Neill's classic Anna Christie March 2 - April 8, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Austin Durant as Mat Burke and Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson ~Photo by Henry DiRocco.

Christopherson ~Photo by Henry DiRocco.

Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson and Jessica Love as Anna Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson, Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke ~Photo by Henry DiRocco





Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke ~Photo by Henry DiRocco.





Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson and Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson ~ Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson ~Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson and Kristine Nielsen as Marthy Owen ~Photo by Henry DiRocco.



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Austin Durant as Mat Burke and Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson ~Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Nobel Prize- and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Eugene O'Neill. O'Neill's Anna Christie will run March 17 – April 22, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo courtesy of The Old Globe.



Musicals in LA Page 1 of 9

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Friday, March 30, 2012

Romance Abounds in The Old Globe's A Room With A View



Ephie Aardema and Kyle Harris.

Photo by Henry DiRocco

Apologies to the Old Globe. Reprinted due to a computer







Musicals in LA Page 2 of 9

glitch.

After seeing Marc Acito and Jeffrey Stock's new musical based on E. M. Forster's novel, *A Room With A View*, I couldn't stop thinking about how fortunate we are to live in the 21st century. Women today can, for the most part, make choices based on what they prefer to do rather than what society expects them to do. They can work outside the home, live wherever they like, and marry whomever they choose...not exactly the case in Edwardian England in 1908.

Despite the rigid social restrictions placed on his young heroine, Lucy Honeychurch (Ephie Aardema) comes to find that one of life's biggest lessons is learning to listen to one's own heart. If you want the life of your dreams, there comes a point when you must say 'yes' despite what others may think. In *A Room With A View* Lucy finds the way to her 'yes' by learning to understand and appreciate her own feelings, and who can't identify with that?

It's a story that romantics will adore and one that presents endless possibilities in Acito and Stock's envisioning. Visually it is a beautiful presentation with vintage travel postcards in warm earth tones and lush period accents creating the framework of Heidi Ettinger's gorgeous set design all under the glow of David Lander's inspired lighting.



The cast of A Room With A View



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Thank You For 48,50





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The scenes set in Florence, Italy are sensually and sometimes humorously driven by two characters representing the country's volatility and deep passion, Ragazza (Jacquelynne Fontaine) and Italiano (Glenn Seven Allen). Both are exceptionally trained operatic singers whose voices are glorious bel canto instruments that add a rich texture to the show. "Non Fate Guerra" is a particular highlight, as is the company's Act I finale, complete with Fontaine's high E flat and a cascade of falling rain.

While traveling abroad, the well-bred Lucy Honeychurch and independently minded George Emerson (Kyle Harris) take an instant dislike to each other in typical storytelling fashion. We know without a doubt that these two contrasting personalities will eventually end up together but that may be one of the biggest challenges the show faces; how to develop the story in a way that keeps the audience from drawing the obvious conclusion at the end of the first scene.

While the musical contains strong characters and lovely scenes that take us through the Italian city and English countryside, there is still a sense that the story is biding its time. We know how it's going to end but it shouldn't feel like such a foregone conclusion. Act II especially contains scenes that, while charming and humorous, seem a departure from the real heart of the story.

Lucy's struggle must draw us in from the very beginning and though Aardema is lovely and brings a youthful determination to Lucy that makes a song like "Ludwig and I" a theatrical tour de force, her initial scenes continually focus on her resistant attitude. The result is that it takes us longer to warm up to her than the authors might like. By contrast, George Emerson, played by Harris is a handsome fellow with an inquisitive mind and easy charm. He is instantly likeable. His trio "Splash," with Lucy's brother Freddy (Etai BenShlomo) and Reverend Beeber (Edward Staudenmayer) captures his joie de vivre and also makes for a rousing display of camaraderie among the three men.

Karen Ziemba shines in the Maggie Smith role of Charlotte, Lucy's straight-laced cousin and ever-watchful traveling companion. She delivers her Act II song "Frozen Charlotte" from a powerful well of emotion but the song itself seems out







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- *Chicago Pantage Hollywood
- *Cloudlands South Repertory, Coast Mo
- *The Color Purple Theatre, Hollywood
- *Dames at Sea Co Burbank

Musicals in LA Page 4 of 9

of place in the story. By the way, Judith Dolan's costume design is magnificent, with the construction and detail of Ziemba's dresses being especially stunning. Kurt Zischke gives a moving performance as George's father and Gina Ferrell's double turn as the fearless novelist Miss Lavish and fluttering Mrs. Honeychurch is a delight. Even Will Reynolds makes the most of his rather one-dimensional character, Cecil Vyse.

A Room With A View is a beautifully drawn collage yet for all of its glossy and well put together effects, it feels as though something is missing. Reaching deeper into the psyche of its leading lady and loosening her corset could be just what's needed to make this story truly soar. Internal struggle is always worth the exploration, and with so much going for it already, this is one romance we want to see succeed. A Room With A View has been extended and will run through April 15 at The Old Globe in San Diego. For tickets and information go to www.theoldglobe.org.

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'Anna' sails on emotionally turbulent seas

By <u>David Dixon</u>, Posted on 01 April 2012.







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1 of 5 4/10/2012 9:47 AM



The small cast deals with intense emotions in a compelling way. | Courtesy of Henry Dirocco

The Christopherson's sure are an interesting family. Chris Christopherson (Bill Buell) and his daughter Anna (Jessica Love) both want to protect each other for completely different reasons. Ironically, their good intentions lead them to suffer the consequences of their own actions.

The Old Globe's production of "Anna Christie" is set during Fall 1910 when the alcohol-loving coal barge captain, Chris, is reunited with Anna. He abandoned her as a child because he did not want to expose her to the dangers of the sea. Chris allows the emotionally distant Anna to join him on his barge. Soon after, she falls in love with an easily angered sailor, Mat Burke (Austin Durant). Once Anna tells her father and Mat a secret she has been hiding, they both react in shocking ways that will affect all of their lives.

Eugene O'Neill's dialogue is a big selling point in this revival. His words can be gloomy, yet there are beautiful, poetic moments of hope in which he shows empathy from the main characters.

At its heart, "Anna Christie" is a three-person play, though there is a total of nine performers. The second half of the production is comprised of lengthy intimate conversations, which is when "Anna Christie" is at its best. As individual performers, Love, Buell and Durant can be great, but together they fuse metaphorical fireworks with the almost overwhelmingly disturbing scene when Anna reveals her hidden past. It comes as a shock because there are very few indications that the plot will take such a grim turn.

Director Daniel Goldstein's vision is perfect for O'Neill's melancholy prose, though he also includes personal touches such as when Anna is trying to make a crucial decision for her future as Joni Mitchell's song "Blue" plays in the background. It is risky incorporating the 1970s single into something that was written more than 50 years prior, but it pays off as Mitchell's voice along with Love's sad silence adds a surprising amount of pathos.

Goldstein's direction stands out the most in a transition from Act 1 to Act 2. The unforgettable moment occurs when a saloon is suddenly transformed into Chris' barge. This sequence is a wonderful couple of minutes that cannot be done justice in a review and should be experienced as a live stage performance. "Anna Christie" is surprisingly timeless in its themes. The issues involve abandonment, forgiveness and redemption that all factor into the decisions the flawed characters face. These characters are so emotionally damaged they should not earn sympathy from the audience. Fortunately, O'Neill's writing along with the amazing central actors make them full of humanity.

Without aging a bit, "Anna Christie" is still a beautiful small-scale story with individuals who are not necessarily superior to anyone else in real life. They are only trying to do what every decent person should, attempting to make up for crucial mistakes they have committed in the past.

Tickets and information about "Anna Christie" can be found at theoldglobe.org.

2 of 5 4/10/2012 9:47 AM



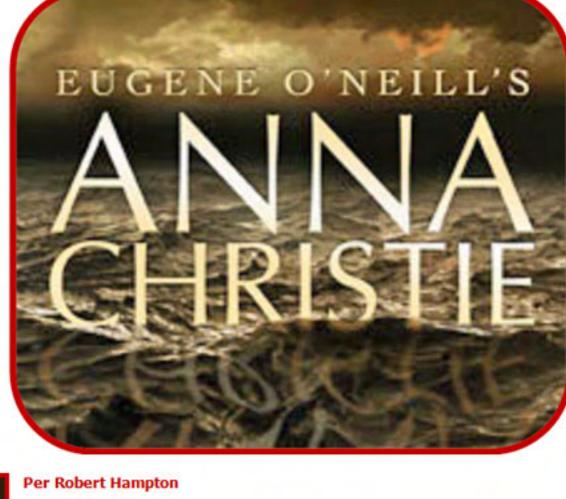






SD OLD GLOBE THEATRE:

Play REVIEW Commentary (As seen 3/13/12)



"ANNA CHRISTIE" - the Old Globe's latest offering in the Harvey

& Cheryl White Theatre in Balboa Park - is a play of rage, love and forgiveness. Written by Eugene O'Neil - it is also a tale of the sea and those who make their living on it. The show will run through April 15, 2012 ZERO IN ON

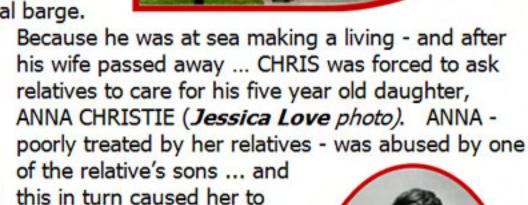


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Buell - is an old salt (looks the part) who now is the Captain of a coal barge.

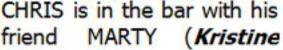
CHRIS CHRISTOPHERSON - played by Bill



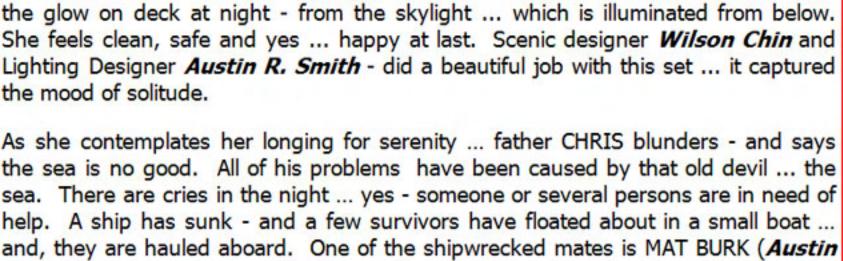
choices. Eugene O'Neil ANNA and her father re-

unite years later in a bar ...

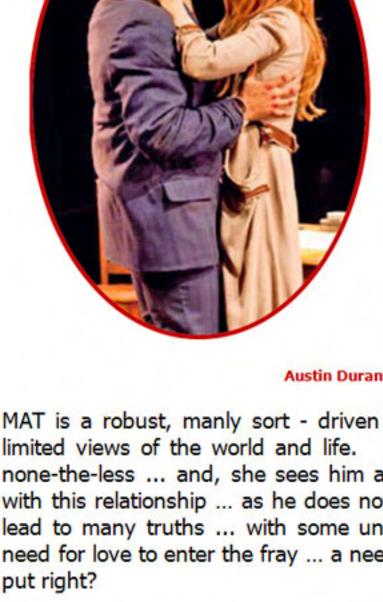
make some poor life

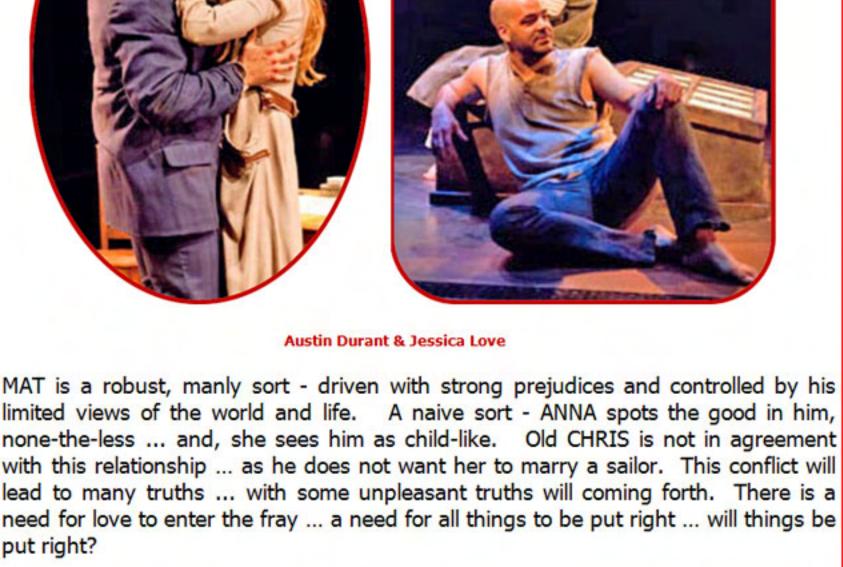


friend Neilson) - who has laid



Durant). MAT and ANNA do not get along at first. He grabs her and attempts a kiss - even though he is half drowned ... ANNA is repelled ... and yet - they





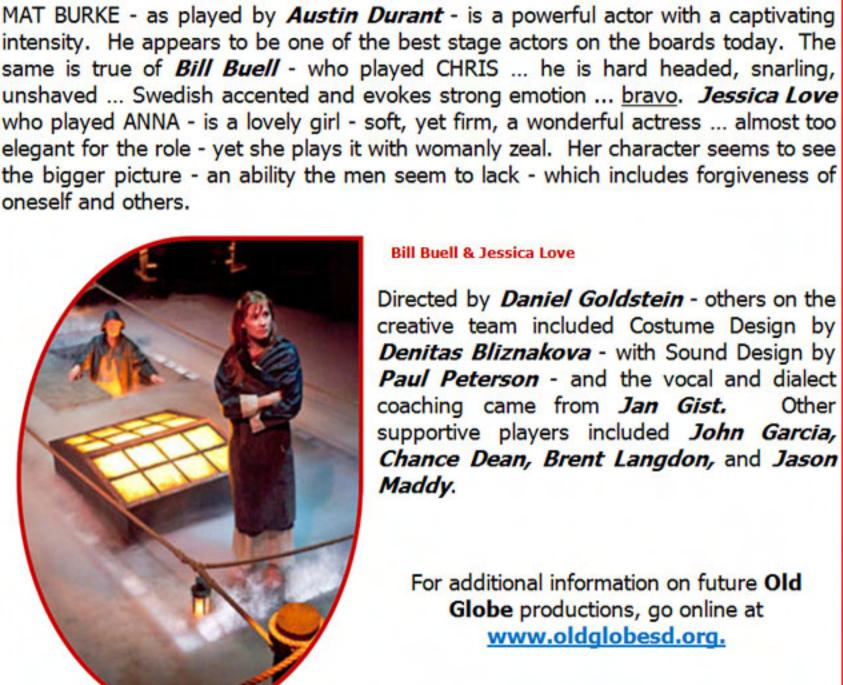
Bill Buell * Jessica Love * Austin Durant

Bill Buell & Jessica Love Directed by *Daniel Goldstein* - others on the creative team included Costume Design by Denitas Bliznakova - with Sound Design by Paul Peterson - and the vocal and dialect coaching came from Jan Gist. supportive players included John Garcia, Chance Dean, Brent Langdon, and Jason

Maddy. For additional information on future Old Globe productions, go online at www.oldglobesd.org.



eventually fall in love.





O'Neill's "Anna Christie" sets sail at Old Globe

hether it's prostitution, sailors, or alcoholism that tickles your fancy, you'll be satisfied by the Old Globe's production of Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic "Anna Christie." This play recounts the tale of a drunken sailor's (Bill Buell) reunion with his estranged daughter Anna (Jessica Love), whose seedy past haunts her wherever she goes.

Just as their relationship begins to take shape, Anna falls in love with a young sailor, named Mat Burke (Austin Durant). Her father cannot stand the thought of his daughter marrying a sailor, knowing that he will inevitably leave her to go to sea.

Both her father and her new love interest find it practically impossible to accept her once she reveals the truth about her shameful past.

This story is full of drama and believable dialogue as the characters grapple with how they wish to perceive themselves, and who they really are. Despite their dire situation, it is difficult to empathize with these ambiguously accented characters. They aren't able to alter their behavior even if it goes against their pretenses of morality, resulting in a somewhat happy ending for all.

The set made effective use of fog machines and lighting to create the sense that the characters really were at sea. Techies dressed as sailors changed the scenes by pulling on ropes as if they were hoisting up the sails on a ship, keeping the atmosphere intact even when the actors were offstage.

The only one able to ruin this atmosphere was Love when she couldn't decide whether to have an accent or just speak with exaggeratedly enunciated words and an "ain't" thrown into her speech just to shake things up. In contrast, Buell's Swedish lilt was so good he was able to garble his speech while being easily understood. His comedic timing set the pace for the entire show, keeping it from slowing down

or getting to heavy, especially during the emotional parts.

The tumultuous relationship between Anna and her potential husband keeps audiences intrigued and wondering whether the two will spend the rest of their lives together or kill each other. Comic relief from this intense drama is offered when Anna's father blames "that old devilsea" for all of the family's woes. Ultimately "Anna Christie" is worth the price of admission, but in the roughly two hours spent sitting down and being entertained, don't expect to learn any great truths about humanity that haven't become clichés.

- Laurel Sorenson



FEATURES





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Page 1 of 1

BRIEFLY

Globe's 'Anna Christie' gets a new director

The official <u>Old Globe</u> announcement of the cast and creative team for next month's production of "Anna Christie" comes with a quiet change of director.

When the Balboa Park theater first revealed last year that it would stage Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1921 drama, it named David Auburn as director. It was an intriguing fit, because Auburn won the Pulitzer Prize in drama 79 years after O'Neill, for writing "Proof."

Now, though, Daniel Goldstein — a wide-ranging director on Broadway — will stage the piece.

The Globe said Auburn withdrew a few months ago for scheduling reasons.

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

Tuesday, Feb. 21st 2012



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Globe's 'Anna' team includes new director

Theater names revival's cast; Goldstein, not Auburn, to stage O'Neill work

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Daniel Goldstein will direct the Eugene O'Neill classic "Anna Christie" for the Old Globe Theatre. — (Old Globe photo)

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Written by James Hebert

11:23 a.m., Feb. 21, 2012

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Globe's 'Anna' team includes new director



Play review: 'Visiting' modest but moving



'Next Fall' finds humor in divergent views

Today's official Old Globe announcement of the cast and creative team for next month's production of "Anna Christie" comes with a quiet change of director.

When the Balboa Park theater first revealed last year that it would stage Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1921 drama about a troubled woman and her budding romance with a sailor, it named David Auburn as director. It was an intriguing fit, since Auburn himself won the Pulitzer Prize in Drama 79 years after O'Neill, for writing the 2000 play "Proof."

Now, though, Daniel Goldstein - a wide-ranging director currently represented on Broadway with a revival of "Godspell" - will stage the piece.

The Globe said Auburn had to withdraw a few months ago for scheduling reasons; the theater had not made an official announcement until now.

Goldstein's cast is topped by Jessica Love, a Globe newcomer, as the title character. She's joined by Austin Durant ("War Horse") as seafarer Mat Burke; the Broadway-seasoned Bill Buell ("Equus," "The Who's Tommy") as Anna's father, Chris Christopherson; Kristine Nielsen and Brent Langdon (a real-life married couple) as Marthy Owen and Larry; plus Chance Dean (Longshoreman, Johnson), John Garcia (Postman, Deckhand), Raymond Lynch (Johnny-the-Priest, Deckhand) and Jason Maddy (Longshoreman, Deckhand).

The casting of Maddy deserves a special spotlight; he's a tireless San Diego actor who made his Globe debut in last summer's Shakespeare Festival. Considering the competition, it's not easy for hometown actors to get a shot at working on the stages of the Globe or La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego's two big regional theaters - both of which frequently cast nationally. But the hard-working and versatile Maddy has earned this one.

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Page 1 of 3

FAMILY DRAMA GIVES 'ANNA CHRISTIE' ITS SEA LEGS

Woman's yearning, father's sorrow hold up a century after O'Neill wrote the play

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

In Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie," the title character is a woman whose body and soul are both at sea.

This long-estranged daughter of a ship's captain has had a tumultuous, storm-tossed life and must try to reconcile both her past and her relationship with her father as the play unfolds.

But Daniel Goldstein, who is directing the <u>Old</u> <u>Globe</u>'s revival of the Pulitzer Prize-winning 1911 play, says that despite the darkness coursing through the work, it also retains a certain rough-hewed humor.

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Goldstein, who makes his
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— and she'll find a laugh
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"I don't think of it as tragedy. I think of it as a family drama, and one that has a lot of really warm spirit."

Goldstein happens to boast his own streak of the aquatic — at least if being a die-hard fan of the band Phish qualifies. (The director, who followed the hugely popular Vermont jam-rock outfit around on tour during his college days, even managed to insert a sly Phish reference into his current Broadway production of the musical "Godspell.")

The Globe's "Anna Christie" is in one small sense a story of the one that got away. When the Balboa Park theater announced the production last fall, it said David Auburn — like O'Neill, a Pulitzer Prize-winner (for the 2000 play "Proof") — would direct.

But Auburn's plans changed — his latest play, "The Columnist," hits Broadway in April — and he had to bow out. So the Globe was able to bring in Goldstein, a busy director who also recently staged "God of Carnage" (a play that hits the Globe this summer) for the Huntington Theatre in Boston.

No Phish will be heard in his "Anna Christie," although Goldstein allows





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Daniel Goldstein is making his Old Globe debut as director of Eugene O'Neill's classic "Anna

Christie." HENRY DIROCCO





Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
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Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Anna Christie" opened in 1911. The <u>Old Globe</u> Theatre's revival of the work opens March 15.

COURTESY OF THE OLD GLOBE

we can see ourselves in it more clearly.

"And how can you not understand the sadness of the father who has not seen his daughter in 10 years, and the yearning of a woman who is looking for

that the production's sole contemporary touch will involve a song by Joni Mitchell.

Yet this 101-year-old play comes complete with its own sense of the immediate, he believes.

"I think that's what's great about O'Neill," Goldstein says of the iconic American playwright and Nobel laureate, who's best known for such monumental dramas as "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and "The Iceman Cometh."

"And a good play in general should feel timeless in its way. The more specific it is to its time period, the more universal it becomes. There's this, I think, incorrect notion that art has to be general to be universal. I actually think that because it's so specific,

"Anna Christie"

Old Globe Theatre

When: Previews begin Saturday. Opens March 15. Schedule: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays (plus 2 p.m. March 28); 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays (no matinees March 10, 11 or 31). Through April 15.

Where: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: Start at \$29 **Phone:** (619) 234-5623 **Online:** theoldglobe.org

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Goldstein adds, in a nod to the playwright's serious-minded image: "I don't know if he was joking — but I don't think he joked so much."

jim.hebert@utsandiego.com (619) 293-2040 Twitter: @jimhebert Facebook.com/HouseSeats Thursday, March 1st 2012



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Theater preview: In 'Anna,' seeking safe harbor

Globe revives O'Neill classic about a troubled woman's romance with sailor, sea



Jessica Love, Bill Buell and Austin Durant (left to right) in the Old Globe's production of Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie." — Henry DiRocco

A Li with Age



Written by James Hebert

1 p.m., March 1, 2012 Updated 2:48 p.m.

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Jude Law returns to West End in 'Anna Christie'

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Globe revives O'Neill classic about a troubled woman's romance with sailor, sea



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Written by James Hebert

1 p.m., March 1, 2012 Updated 2:48 p.m.

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Client Name: Old Globe Theatre

NC Times-Preview Section Publication Name:

Publishing Date: March 08, 2012

Circulation: 71,847 Page Number: 24,25 Article Size: 74 sq inch \$1,380.12 Ad Value:

Page 1 of 3

THEATER FEATURE

Globe revives rare O'Neill classic 'Anna Christie'

By PAM KRAGEN

pkragen@nctimes.com

Eugene O'Neill is one of the great American playwrights of the 20th century, but his early seafaring family saga "Anna Christie" is almost never produced any more.

Daniel Goldstein, who directs the 1921 classic at The Old Globe this month, thinks he may know why.

"It's a play that on the page is pretty difficult to read because it's written in the phonetic dialect of these particular people," Goldstein said, referring to the Swedish, Irish, New York and Midwestern characters in the

"Anna Christie"

WHEN: Previews, Saturday through through March 14; opens March 15 and runs through April 15; showtimes, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

WHERE: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego

TICKETS: \$29 and up INFO: 619-234-5623: theoldglobe.org



Daniel Goldstein

story. "For a director, it's intimidating. When you first read it, it takes a minute to hear the music of the play."
"Anna

Christie"

won the Pulitzer Prize for drama, and its 1930 film adaptation was Swedish actress Greta Garbo's first talking picture. It's the story of Chris Christopherson, a Swedish-born coal barge captain who abandoned his family for the sea. One day, he meets his adult daughter, Anna (whom he hasn't seen since she was 5) in a bar. With the support of his lover, Marthy. Chris decides to take in Anna and the two of them will live and work together on the barge. When she falls in love with Mat Burke, a burly sailor from Ireland, Chris fears Mat will repeat

the cycle of abandonment and discourages their relationship. Meanwhile, Anna is hiding dark secrets from her past.

Goldstein is staging "Anna Christie" in the Old Globe's in-the-round Sheryl and Harvey White theater as part of the Globe's Classics Up Close series. Goldstein

just made his Broadway debut directing another inthe-round production, the musical "Godspell." While critics praised Goldstein's "Godspell" for its lively reimagining, he said he's being very faithful to O'Neill's "Anna Christie" text.

See 'Anna,' 25





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Page 2 of 3



Bill Buell stars as Chris Christopherson, Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke in Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" at The Old Globe. Photo courtesy of Henry DiRocco





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'Anna'

Continued from Page 24

"As a director, I feel my responsibility is to do one thing and one thing only, and that is to tell the story the playwright intended," he said. "A director friend of mine said the playwright is the author of the play, but the director is the author of the production. This will be interpreted through whatever lens I see it through."

This is the first time Goldstein has directed an O'Neill play, and he said he's enjoyed the experience.

"O'Neill is a master of exploring the heart of lost people, and there are four deeply lost people in this play who struggle through two hours of stage time to find each other," he said. "For the audience, I think that getting to see this earlier play of his, you get to see the things that he continued to work on throughout the rest of his career. Themes start to bubble up, and it's really thrilling."

While the play centers on Chris, Anna, Mat and Marthy, there's a fifth character that exerts a silent but powerful influence on the rest—the sea.

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Globe revives rare O'Neill classic 'Anna Christie'

- Story
- Discussion
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Globe revives rare O'Neill classic 'Anna Christie'

By PAM KRAGEN pkragen@nctimes.com North County Times | Posted: Thursday, March 8, 2012 6:00 am | No Comments Posted

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Bill Buell stars as Chris Christopherson, Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as

1 of 4 3/8/2012 2:40 PM

Mat Burke in Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" at The Old Globe. Photo courtesy of Henry DiRocco. hp: || basename: ||





"Anna Christie"

When: Previews, Saturday through March 14; opens March 15 and runs through April 15; showtimes, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Where: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego

Tickets: \$29 and up

Info: 619-234-5623

theoldglobe.org

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Daniel Goldstein, who directs the 1921 classic at The Old Globe this month, thinks he may know why.

"It's a play that on the page is pretty difficult to read because it's written in the phonetic dialect of these particular people," Goldstein said, referring to the Swedish, Irish, New York and Midwestern characters in the story. "For a director, it's intimidating. When you first read it, it takes a minute to hear the music of the play."

"Anna Christie" won the Pulitzer Prize for drama, and its 1930 film adaptation was Swedish actress Greta Garbo's first talking picture. It's the story of Chris Christopherson, a Swedish-born coal barge captain who abandoned his family for the sea. One day, he meets his adult daughter, Anna (whom he hasn't seen since she was 5) in a bar. With the support of his lover, Marthy, Chris decides to take in Anna and the two of them will live and work together on the barge. When she falls in love with Mat

2 of 4 3/8/2012 2:40 PM

Burke, a burly sailor from Ireland, Chris fears Mat will repeat the cycle of abandonment and discourages their relationship. Meanwhile, Anna is hiding dark secrets from her past.

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"As a director, I feel my responsibility is to do one thing and one thing only, and that is to tell the story the playwright intended," he said. "A director friend of mine said the playwright is the author of the play, but the director is the author of the production. This will be interpreted through whatever lens I see it through."

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Posted in Theatre on *Thursday, March 8, 2012 6:00 am* Updated: 12:18 pm. | Tags:

3 of 4 3/8/2012 2:40 PM





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Ad Value: \$753.31

March 08, 2012 93,265 14,17 41 sq inch

Old Globe Theatre

The Californian-Preview

Page 1 of 1

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See 'Anna,' 17

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Continued from Page 14

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Circulation: 14,822 Page Number: 1,11

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Page 1 of 2



Bill Buell (Chris Christopherson), Jessica Love (Anna Christopherson) and Austin Durant (Mat Burke) intrigue in 'Anna Christie," directed by Daniel Goldstein. HENRY DIROCCO

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Page 2 of 2

FROM THEATER, B1

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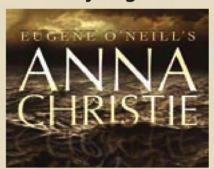
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If you go



- When: Matinees, evenings through April 15
- Where: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at The <u>Old Globe</u> Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
- Tickets: From \$29
- Box Office: (619) 234-5623
- Website: TheOldGlobe.org

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Bill Buell (Chris Christopherson), Jessica Love (Anna Christopherson) and Austin Durant (Mat Burke) intrigue in 'Anna Christie," directed by Daniel Goldstein. Photo by Henry DiRocco

If you go

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When: Matinees, evenings through April 15 Where: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre,

1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: From \$29

Box Office: (619) 23-GLOBE **Website:** theoldglobe.org

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2 of 10 3/15/2012 10:24 AM

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Client Name: Publication Name: Publishing Date:

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Old Globe Theatre

March 22, 2012

16,980

2

Carmel Valley News

Page 1 of 2

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BY DIANA SAENGER

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1363 Old Globe Way,
Balboa Park
Tickets: From \$29
Box Office: (619)

23-GLOBE **Website:** theoldglobe.

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Page 2 of 2



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PHOTO: HENRY DIROCCO





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Old Globe Theatre

Del Mar Times

6,288

March 22, 2012

Page 1 of 2

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org

23-GLORE

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PHOTO: HENRY DIROCCO





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Publication Name: North Park News
Publishing Date: March 01, 2012

Circulation: 12,500 Page Number: 10

Article Size: 28 sq inch Ad Value: \$403.99

Page 1 of 1



Jessica Love stars as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke in 'Anna Christie'. Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Bill Buell, Jessica Love and Austin Durant. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

'Anna Christie' Featured at the Old Globe

The Old Globe announced the cast and creative team for the Globe's revival of "Anna Christie," Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and his estranged daughter. The production will be directed by Daniel Goldstein, who is currently represented on Broadway with the hit revival of "Godspell." "Anna Christie" runs March 10 through April 15 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Opening night is March 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at theoldglobe.org, byphone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Anna Christie is Eugene O'Neill's classic play about a weathered sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they must all come to terms with the harsh reality of her past. Jessica Love makes her Globe debut in the title role made famous on film by Greta Garbo and Austin Durant portrays her seafaring lover, Mat Burke. Broadway veteran Bill Buell plays her father Chris Christopherson. Rounding out the cast of Anna Christie are Chance Dean (Longshoreman, Johnson), John Garcia (Postman, Deckhand), Raymond Lynch (Johnny-the-Priest, Deckhand) and Jason Maddy (Longshoreman, Deckhand). The creative team includes Wilson Chin (Scenic Design), Denitsa Bliznakova (Costume Design), Austin R. Smith (Lighting Design), Paul Peterson (Sound Design), Jan Gist (Vocal and Dialect Coach), Calleri Casting (Casting) and Annette Yé (Stage Manager).





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Circulation: 6,253 Page Number: 7

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Page 1 of 2

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BY DIANA SAENGER

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Bill Buell (Chris Christopherson), Jessica Love (Anna Christopherson) and Austin Durant (Mat Burke) intrigue in 'Anna Christie," directed by Daniel Goldstein. PHOTO: HENRY DIROCCO



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Name: Old Globe Theatre sation Name: Solana Beach Sun March 22, 2012

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Article Size: 59 sq inch Ad Value: \$471.78

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Eugene O'Neill classic 'Anna Christie' opens at The Old Globe

BY DIANA SAENGER

Eugene O'Neill's classic drama "Anna Christie," is a window on the life of Anna Christopherson, a young woman who goes looking for her estranged father, Chris Christopherson, 15 years after he abandoned her to live with relatives.

When she finds her father, now an old sailor who runs a barge and drinks a lot, Anna also meets Mat, and the two fall in love. But will Anna's unrevealed past become the barrier that breaks them apart?

Theater patrons can revisit O'Neill's masterful work in The Old Globe's revival, directed by Daniel Goldstein, and running through April 15. The play won the 1922 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. (And later, the 1993 Drama Desk Award for Best Revival of a Play and the 1993 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play.)

Austin Durant ("Death of a Salesman," "Othello") auditioned for the role of Mat. He received his B.A. from Temple University and his M.F.A. from Yale School of Drama, and was fresh off performing in the film "War Horse," and ready for a change.

"Even though the lan-

If you go

What: 'Anna Christie'
When: Matinees, evenings through April 15
Where: Sheryl and
Harvey White Theatre,
1363 Old Globe Way,
Balboa Park

Tickets: From \$29 Box Office: (619) 23-GLOBE

Website: theoldglobe.

org

guage is a beast, this role resonated with me," Durant said. "Mat is a big feeler, has such pathos and is so passionate. He kind of operates behind a mask, but as things start to unravel about Anna, that persona begins to drop away. The story functions on dramatic irony. We know from the beginning Anna carries a secret that the men in her life have to discover. But O'Neill keeps it interesting in how we get there."

Jessica Love ("Map of Heaven," "Bottom of the World") takes on the role of the woman with a troubled past who is unsure how to regain her self-esteem. Greta Garbo and Charles Bickford played the romantic couple in the 1930 film.

Bill Buell ("The History Boys," "Inherit the Wind") plays Chris Christopherson. Other cast members include Bryan Banville (Longshoreman), Chance Dean (Longshoreman, Johnson), John Garcia (Johnny-the-Priest), Jason Maddy (Postman), and Kristine Nielsen (Marthy Owen).

Goldstein brings a wealth of experience to this production. He's the director of the current Broadway revival of "Godspell," and he directed "God of Carnage," "The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown," "Golden Boy," "Annie" and "Artificial Fellow Traveler." He co-wrote the musical "Unknown Soldier" with Michael Friedman.

"Daniel (Goldstein) brings such energy to the play," Durant said. "He builds a trust in us, and us with him. The play is four different scenes so he has to get us through all the times, all the blows of life, that are thrown at these characters.

"He's picked amazing actors who all know quite a lot about Eugene O'Neill and this classic. The humanity is palpable."





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Bill Buell (Chris Christopherson), Jessica Love (Anna Christopherson) and Austin Durant (Mat Burke) intrigue in 'Anna Christie," directed by Daniel Goldstein.
PHOTO: HENRY DIROCCO

YAHOO! NEWS

Old Globe Opens 'Anna Christie,' Eugene O'Neill's Early Pulitzer Winner, March 15

PLAYBILL By Kenneth Jones | Playbill - 13 mins ago

Jessica Love plays Anna Christie, the estranged prostitute daughter of a crusty sailor in Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prizewinning play, opening March 15 following previews from March 10 in San Diego. Daniel Goldstein, director of Broadway's Godspell, directs.

Austin Durant plays Anna's seafaring lover, Mat Burke, and Broadway veteran Bill Buell (*Titanic*) plays her father Chris Christopherson. Real-life married couple Kristine Nielsen (Broadway's Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson) and Brent Langdon play Marthy Owen and Larry, respectively.

Performances play to April 15 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center.

Love's recent credits include the world premieres of When Tang Met Laika and Map of Heaven at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Durant most recently appeared in Broadway's War Horse. Buell's Broadway credits also include Equus, The History Boys, Inherit the Wind, Urinetown, 42nd Street, The Who's Tommy, Big River, Annie and Anna Karenina.

Langdon appeared in the American premiere of Howard Barker's The Europeans Off-Broadway and Couldn't Say at Abingdon Theatre Company.

Nielsen has been seen on Broadway in Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, To Be Or Not To Be, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Spring Awakening, A Streetcar Named Desire and The Iceman Cometh.

Rounding out the cast of Anna Christie are Bryan Banville (Longshoreman), Chance Dean (Longshoreman, Johnson), John Garcia (Johnny-the-Priest) and Jason Maddy (Postman).

The 1921 play (a rewrite of O'Neill's earlier Christopherson) is billed this way: "Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Anna Christie is Eugene O'Neill's classic play about a weathered sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they must all come to terms with the harsh reality of her past."

The creative team includes Wilson Chin (scenic design), Denitsa Bliznakova (costume design), Austin R. Smith (lighting design), Paul Peterson (sound design), Jan Gist (vocal and dialect coach), Calleri Casting (casting) and Annette Yé (stage manager).

For tickets and information, visit TheOldGlobe.org or call (619) 23-GLOBE.

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The Old Globe Announces A ROOM WITH A VIEW & More for Spring Season



The-Old-Globe-AnnouncesA-ROOM-WITH-A-VIEW-Morefor-Spring-Season-20010101 season, 2012,
NOBODY LOVES YOU and THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS.

The Old Globe Theatre at the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, San Diego, today released its four-month calendar for the March-June season, 2012, featuring musical versions of A ROOM WITH A VIEW,

From March 2 to April 8, 2012 <u>The Old Globe</u> will present **A ROOM WITH A VIEW**, based on the novel by E.M. Forster. With book by Marc Acito, music by <u>Jeffrey Stock</u>, lyrics by <u>Jeffrey Stock</u> and Marc Acito, the musical will be directed by <u>Scott Schwartz</u>.

Based on the beloved novel that inspired the Academy Award-winning film comes a new musical. Amid the golden sunlight and violet-covered hills of Tuscany, shelter Ed English girl Lucy Honeychurch meets freethinking George Emerson. For the first time, she glimpses a world of longing and passion she had never imagined. Back in her corseted Edwardian life, Lucy must decide whether to yield to convention or give up everything she has ever known.

From March 10 to April 15, the Old Glove will present **ANNA CHRISTIE** by Eugene O'Neill and directed by Daniel Goldstein.

The Old Globe's "Classics Up Close" series will continue with Anna Christie, Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they come to understand the harsh reality of her past and show her compassion, love and forgiveness.

On March 23, 2012, The Old Globe will celebrate San Diego's rich Hispanic community with **iVIVA EL TEATRO!**

Guests will enjoy a reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by an 8:00 p.m. performance of the World Premiere musical A ROOM WITH A VIEW.

The <u>Old Globe Theatre</u> will present **THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS**, with music and lyrics by <u>John Kander</u> and <u>Fred Ebb</u>, book by <u>David Thompson</u>, direction and choreography by <u>Susan Stroman</u> from April 29 to June 10, 2012.

From the creators of Chicago, Cabaret and Kiss of the Spider Woman comes The Scottsboro Boys. This daring and wildly entertaining new musical, directed by five-time Tony Award winner <u>Susan Stroman</u>, explores a pivotal moment in American history. Based on the notorious "Scottsboro" case of the 1930s, the story tells of the nine unjustly accused African American men whose lives would eventually spark the Civil Rights Movement.

From May 9 to June 17, 2012 the Old Globe Theatre will present **NOBODY LOVES YOU** with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter, book and lyrics by Itamar Moses and directed by Michelle Tattenbaum.

When Jeff, a young grad student, joins a reality television show to try and win back his ex, he unexpectedly meets a girl who might be the love of his life. But when seduced by the adulation of his fans, Jeff must decide what is more important – fame or love? Nobody Loves You is an irreverent new pop musical comedy about the search for real relationships in a pop culture that is anything but. A World Premiere.

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THEATER NEWS

Brent Langdon, Jessica Love, Kristine Nielsen Set for Old Globe's *Anna Christie* By Bethany Rickwald • Feb 21, 2012 • San Diego 0 Comments



Brent Langdon and Kristine Nielsen (© Henry DiRocco)

The Old Globe has announced the cast and creative team for its upcoming production of Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*, March 10-April 15 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. Daniel Goldstein will direct.

Anna Christie is Eugene O'Neill's classic play about a sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost two decades. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young seafarer.

Real-life married Broadway veterans Kristine Nielsen and Brent Langdon will play Marthy Owen and Larry. The cast will also feature Jessica Love (Anna Christie), Austin Durant (Mat Burke), Bill Buell (Chris Christopherson), Chance Dean (longshoreman, Johnson), John Garcia (postman, deckhand), Raymond Lynch (Johnny-the-Priest, deckhand), and Jason Maddy (longshoreman, deckhand).

The design team will include Wilson Chin (set design), Denitsa Bliznakova (costume design), Austin R. Smith (lighting design), and Paul Peterson (sound design).

For more information and tickets to Anna Christie, click here.



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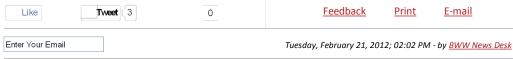
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The Old Globe today announced the cast and creative team for the Globe's revival of Anna Christie, Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and his estranged daughter. The production will be directed by Daniel Goldstein, who is currently represented on Broadway with the hit revival of Godspell. Anna Christie will run March 10 - April 15, 2012 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Preview performances run March 10 - March 14. Opening night is Thursday, March 15 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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Check out photos of the cast below!

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Anna Christie is <u>Eugene O'Neill</u>'s classic play about a weathered sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they must all come to terms with the harsh reality of her past. <u>The Old Globe</u>'s acclaimed "Classics Up Close" series continues with this powerful play from one of America's greatest dramatists.

Jessica Love makes her Globe debut in the title role made famous on film by Greta Garbo and Austin Durant portrays her seafaring lover, Mat Burke. Broadway veteran Bill Buell plays her father Chris Christopherson. Love's recent credits include the World Premieres of When Tang Met Laika and Map of Heaven at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Durant most recently appeared in the smash-hit Broadway production of War Horse. Buell's Broadway credits include Equus, The History Boys, Inherit the Wind, Urinetown, 42nd Street, Titanic, The Who's Tommy, Big River, Annie and Anna Karenina. Real-life married couple Kristine Nielsen and Brent Langdon will play Marthy Owen and Larry, respectively. Nielsen has been seen on Broadway in Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, To Be Or Not To Be, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Spring Awakening, A Streetcar Named Desire and The Iceman Cometh. Langdon appeared in the American Premiere of Howard Barker's The Europeans at Atlantic Theater Company and Couldn't Say at Abingdon Theatre Company.

TICKETS to Anna Christie can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Performances begin on March 10 and continue through April 15. Ticket prices start at \$29. Performance times: Previews: Saturday, March 10 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. There is a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, March 28 and no matinee performance on Saturday, March 31. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco



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Jessica Love, Austin Durant



Jessica Love

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Jessica Love, Bill Buell, Kristine Nielsen, Austin Durant Will Bring Anna Christie To Life at Old Globe

By Kenneth Jones 22 Feb 2012



Jessica Love Photo by Henry DiRocco

Jessica Love will play Anna Christie, the estranged prostitute daughter of a crusty sailor in Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prizewinning play, March 10-April 15 at The Old Globe in San Diego. Daniel Goldstein, director of Broadway's Godspell, directs.

Austin Durant will play Anna's seafaring lover, Mat Burke, and Broadway veteran Bill Buell (*Titanic*) plays her father Chris Christopherson.

Real-life married couple **Kristine** Nielsen and Brent Langdon will play Marthy Owen and Larry, respectively.

Performances play the Sheryl and Harvey 03 Jan 2012 -- PHOTO White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Mendez Goes Solo at Prebys Theatre Center. Opening night is March 15.

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Love's recent credits include the world premieres of When Tang Met Laika and Map of Heaven at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Durant most recently appeared in Broadway's War Horse. Buell's Broadway credits also include Equus, The History Boys, Inherit the Wind, Urinetown, 42nd Street, The Who's Tommy, Big River, Annie and Anna Karenina.

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Couldn't Say at Abingdon Theatre Company.

Nielsen has been seen on Broadway in *Bloody Bloody* Andrew Jackson, To Be Or Not To Be, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Spring Awakening, A Streetcar Named Desire and The Iceman Cometh.

Rounding out the cast of *Anna Christie* are Chance Dean (Longshoreman, Johnson), John Garcia (Postman, Deckhand), Raymond Lynch (Johnnythe-Priest, Deckhand) and Jason Maddy (Longshoreman, Deckhand).

The 1921 play (a rewrite of O'Neill's earlier *Chris Christopherson*) is billed this way: "Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, *Anna Christie* is Eugene O'Neill's classic

play about a weathered sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they must all come to terms with the harsh reality of her past."

The creative team includes Wilson Chin (scenic design), Denitsa Bliznakova (costume design), Austin R. Smith (lighting design), Paul Peterson (sound design), Jan Gist (vocal and dialect coach), Calleri Casting (casting) and Annette Yé (stage manager).

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Anna Christie, Eugene O'Neill's Early Pulitzer Winner, Begins Old Globe Run; Jessica Love and Bill Buell Star

By Kenneth Jones 10 Mar 2012



Jessica Love Photo by Henry DiRocco

Center. Opening night is March 15.

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Photo Flash: Old Globe's ANNA CHRISTIE- Production Shots!



The Old Globe just began performances for Anna Christie, Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and his estranged daughter. The production is directed by Daniel Goldstein, who is currently represented on Broadway with the hit revival of Godspell. Anna Christie will run through April 15, 2012 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Preview performances run through March 14. Opening night is Thursday, March 15 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Check out production shots below!

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Anna Christie is <u>Eugene O'Neill</u>'s classic play about a weathered sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they must all come to terms with the harsh reality of her past. <u>The Old Globe</u>'s acclaimed "Classics Up Close" series continues with this powerful play from one of America's greatest dramatists.

Jessica Love makes her Globe debut in the title role made famous on film by Greta Garbo and Austin Durant portrays her seafaring lover, Mat Burke. Broadway veteran Bill Buell plays her father Chris Christopherson. Love's recent credits include the World Premieres of When Tang Met Laika and Map of Heaven at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Durant most recently appeared in the smash-hit Broadway production of War Horse. Buell's Broadway credits include Equus, The History Boys, Inherit the Wind, Urinetown, 42nd Street, Titanic, The Who's Tommy, Big River, Annie and Anna Karenina. Real-life married couple Kristine Nielsen and Brent Langdon will play Marthy Owen and Larry, respectively. Nielsen has been seen on Broadway in Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, To Be Or Not To Be, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Spring Awakening, A Streetcar Named Desire and The Iceman Cometh. Langdon appeared in the American Premiere of Howard Barker's The Europeans at Atlantic Theater Company and Couldn't Say at Abingdon Theatre Company.

TICKETS to Anna Christie can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Performances begin on March 10 and continue through April 15. Ticket prices start at \$29. Performance times: Previews: Saturday, March 10 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. Regular Performances: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. There is a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, March 28 and no matinee performance on Saturday, March 31. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco

High-Res Photo Gallery

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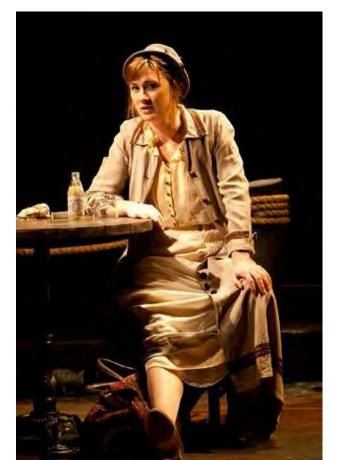


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Austin Durant and Jessica Love



<u>Jessica Love</u>

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Bill Buell and Jessica Love



Bill Buell and Kristine Nielsen



Bill Buell, Jessica Love and Austin Durant



Bill Buell and Jessica Love



Austin Durant and Jessica Love



Jessica Love



Bill Buell and Kristine Nielsen



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6 of 7 3/13/2012 2:28 PM

Luna Stage Announces Comedy Lineup

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March 15, 2012 🔝 🖹 🚮

New and Impro

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Old Globe Opens Anna Christie, Eugene O'Neill's Early

Jessica Love plays Anna Christie, the

estranged prostitute daughter of a crusty

winning play, opening March 15 following

sailor in Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-

previews from March 10 in San Diego.

Austin Durant plays Anna's seafaring

lover, Mat Burke, and Broadway veteran

Bill Buell (Titanic) plays her father Chris

Christopherson. Real-life married couple

Kristine Nielsen (Broadway's Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson) and Brent

Langdon play Marthy Owen and Larry,

Performances play to April 15 at the

the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre

Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of

Daniel Goldstein, director of Broadway's Godspell, directs.

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Pulitzer Winner, March 15

By Kenneth Jones



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15 Mar 2012

Jessica Love

Photo by Henry DiRocco

Center.

Love's recent credits include the world premieres of When Tang Met Laika and Map of Heaven at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Durant most recently appeared in Broadway's War Horse. Buell's Broadway credits also include Equus, The History Boys, Inherit the Wind, Urinetown, 42nd Street, The Who's Tommy, Big River, Annie and Anna Karenina.

respectively.

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Langdon appeared in the American premiere of Howard Barker's The Europeans Off-Broadway and Couldn't Say at Abingdon Theatre Company.

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3/15/2012 10:32 AM 1 of 3

Nielsen has been seen on Broadway in Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, To Be or Not to Be, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Spring Awakening, A Streetcar Named Desire and The Iceman Cometh.

Rounding out the cast of Anna Christie are Bryan Banville (Longshoreman), Chance Dean (Longshoreman, Johnson), John Garcia (Johnnythe-Priest) and Jason Maddy (Postman).

The 1921 play (a rewrite of O'Neill's earlier Chris Christopherson) is billed this way: "Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Anna Christie is Eugene O'Neill's classic All Related Galleries play about a weathered sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young

man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they must all come to terms with the harsh reality of her past."

The creative team includes Wilson Chin (scenic design), Denitsa Bliznakova (costume design), Austin R. Smith (lighting design), Paul Peterson (sound design), Jan Gist (vocal and dialect coach), Calleri Casting (casting) and Annette Yé (stage manager).

For tickets and information, visit TheOldGlobe.org or call (619) 23-GLOBE.



Bill Buell, Jessica Love and Austin Durant photo by Henry DiRocco

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PHOTO EXCLUSIVE: Paul Shaffer Makes "Lazarus" Cameo at Godspell



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Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: LGBT Weekly
Publishing Date: March 15, 2012
Circulation: 50,000

Circulation: 50 Page Number: 17

Article Size: 14 sq inch Ad Value: \$134.18

Page 1 of 1

thursday, march 15



(L to R) Bill Buell stars as Chris Christopherson, Jessica Love as Anna Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke in *Anna Christie*.

Anna Christie

Anna Christie is a gripping account of the relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost twenty years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they come to understand the harsh reality of her past and show her compassion, love and forgiveness.

Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park, 8 p.m., tickets from \$29, 619-234-5623, TheOldGlobe.org. Theatre News: Presidio Sentinel

Franklin's "R.E.S.P.E.C.T" to Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots Are Made for Walking," the international hit musical "Respect: A Musical Journey of Women" recounts the exciting story of women in the 20th century–through Top 40 songs.

"Respect: A Musical Journey of Women" was created by Columbia University professor Dr. Dorothy Marcic based on her book, *RESPECT: Women and Popular Music*, through which she analyzed all Top-40 female song lyrics since 1900. The show includes hits like "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend," "Where The Boys Are," "I Am Woman," "At Seventeen," and dozens more, right up to the present day.

The show will play at the Lyceum Theater, 79 Horton Plaza in downtown San Diego from April 18-June 24, 2012. For information, call 619-544-1000 or visit www.lyceumevents.org.

Old Globe - Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre - Conrad Prebys Theatre Center



) Bill Buell stars as Chris erson, Jessica Love as istopherson and Austin Mat Burke in Eugene Anna Christie, directed by oldstein, March 2 - April t The Old Globe. Photo DiRocco.

Globe's acclaimed "Classics Up Close" series continues with "Anna Christie," Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prizewinning masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomesstrained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her fatherwants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they come to understand the harsh reality of her past and show her compassion, love and forgiveness. Directed by Daniel Goldstein, it closes April 15.

The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. For information, call (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623],

PHOTOS: Digital images of The Old Globe productions are available at www.TheOldGlobe.org/pressroom.

Looking Glass Theatre

"Once Upon a Mattress," the musical comedy based on the story of the Princess and the Pea, will be performed on the campus of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego at 4190 Front Street in Hillcrest, at 8 p.m., April 13, 14 and 20, 21.

In this hilarious retelling of the fairy tale, "The Princess and the Pea," Queen Aggravain has ruled that none may marry until her son, Prince Dauntles, is married. However, she has managed to sabotage every princess that comes

2 of 8 4/19/2012 5:13 PM





Client Name: Publication Name: Publishing Date: Circulation:

Ad Value:

Old Globe Theatre Presidio Sentinel April 01, 2012 15,500 Page Number: 19 Article Size:

38 sq inch \$289.57

Page 1 of 1

Old Globe

- Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre - Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

The Old Globe's acclaimed "Classics Up Close" series continues with "Anna Christie," Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomesstrained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father-

wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they come to understand the harsh reality of her past and show her compassion, love and forgiveness. Directed by Daniel Goldstein, it closes April 15.

The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. For information, call (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623].



(from left) Jessica Love stars as Anna Christopherson, Bill Buell as Chris Christopherson and Austin Durant as Mat Burke in Eugene O'Neill's Anna Christie, directed by Daniel Goldstein, March 2 - April 8, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.



Client Name: Old Globe Theatre
Publication Name: Gay San Diego
Publishing Date: March 09, 2012
Circulation: 22,000

Circulation: 22, Page Number: 16

Article Size: 15 sq inch Ad Value: \$268.25

Page 1 of 1

CUAUHTÉMOC KISH THEATER SCENE



Yasmina Reza (Courtesy Old Globe)

The Old Globe Theatre will present Marc Acito's "A Room With A View" (March 2 - April 8) on the Shiley Stage and Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" (March 10 - April 15) will play at the White Theatre. "Anna Christie" is a classic that tells the tale about the relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Then, starting June 3, the Old Globe's 2012 Summer Season includes the West Coast premiere of Michael Kramer's "Divine Rivalry" (July 7 - Aug. 12) and the San Diego premier of Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage" (July 27 – Sept. 2). "Richard III" (June 3 – Sept. 29) kicks off the summer, followed by "As You Like It" (June 10 - Sept. 30) and "Inherit the Wind" (June 17 - Sept. 25). Visit theoldglobe. org for more information or call them at 619-234-5623.

hearts, minds and bodies to the test. The contestant that keeps at least one hand on a brand-new hard body truck the longest gets to drive it off the lot. Only one can win, but for all involved that truck holds the key to their own private American dream. For tickets and information call them at 858-550-1010 or visit lajollaplayhouse.org.



Yasmina Reza (Courtesy Old Globe)

The Old Globe Theatre will present Marc Acito's "A Room With A View" (March 2 – April 15) on the Shiley Stage and Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" (March 10 – April 15) will play the White Theatre. "Anna Christie" is a classic that tells the tale about the relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Then, starting June 3, the Old Globe's 2012 Summer Season includes the West Coast premiere of Michael Kramer's "Divine Rivalry" (July 7 – Aug. 12) and the San Diego premier of Yasmina Reza's "God of Carnage" (July 27 – Sept. 2). "Richard III" (June 3 – Sept. 29) kicks off the summer, followed by "As You Like It" (June 10 – Sept. 30) and "Inherit the Wind" (June 17 – Sept. 25). Visit theoldglobe.org for more information or call them at 619-234-5623.

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Sunday, March 11 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. Ticket prices range from \$15-\$8. St. Tickets also available for sale at the door. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church is located at 6628 Santa Isabel Street in Carlsbad. For more information call 858-534-4637 or visit www.lajollasymphony.com.

The Coastal City Jazz Band presents "A Musical Journey with Sammy Nestio," 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18 at the Carlsbad Community Church, corner of Jefferson and Pine, Carlsbad. Tickets are \$15, \$12 Seniors and Students. For more information, call Gary Adcock at 858-775-1113.

The **Fifth Annual Ramona Music Fest** is being held noon – 5 p.m. Saturday, March 31 at Dos Picos County Park, 17953 Dos Picos Park Road, Ramona. Between 8 and 10 bands and solo performers will appear, including headliners **Rockola**, **Cactus Twang** and **Whyte**. General adult admission tickets are \$20 if purchased by March 24, and \$25 at the gate. Tickets for ages 11 to 17 are \$10, and children 10 and under enter free. For more information, visit www.RamonaMusicFest.org.

DANCE

City Ballet presents "Bravo! Balanchine!" Friday, March 2 – Sunday, March 4 at the Spreckels Theater, 121 Broadway, Downtown San Diego. The show features 3 full-length ballets choreographed by ballet icon George Balanchine, "Agon," "Who Cares?" and "Donizetti Variations." Performance times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets range from \$29 – \$59. For tickets and more information, visit www.cityballet.org.

Malashock Dance presents their 5th annual fundraiser, "Malashock Thinks You Can Dance! – A Night at Studio 54," 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at Anthology, 1337 India Street, Little Italy, San Diego. All proceeds benefit the artistic, education and outreach programs of Malashock Dance. Cocktails and a silent auction proceed a 3-course dinner beginning at 7:30 p.m., as well as a performance from Grammy award-winner Thelma Houston. Tickets are \$125, \$250, or \$500 per person, and can be purchased online at malashockdance.org or by calling 619-260-1622. For more information email director@malashockdance.org or visit www.malashockdance.org.

THEATER

Moonlight Stage Productions continues their Moonlight at the AVO Playhouse season with "Little Women – The Musical," running through Sunday, March 11 at the AVO Playhouse, 303 Main Street, Vista. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets range from \$22-\$30. For tickets and more information, call 760-724-2110 or visit www.moonlightstage.com.

The **Old Globe Theatre** presents two shows, "A **Room with a View**," opening Friday, March 2 and running through Sunday, April 8 at the Old Globe Theatre, and "Anna Christie," opening Saturday, March 10 and running through Sunday, April 15 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. Tickets begin at \$29 for "Annie Christie" and \$39 for "A Room with a View." The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. For tickets, call 619-23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

The Welk Theatre presents master impressionist Rich Little in his one-man show "Rich Little: Jimmy Stewart & Friends," for five performances only, running Wednesday, Feb. 29 – Sunday, March 4 at the Welk Theatre Resort, 8860 Lawrence Welk Drive, Escondido. Ticket prices and showtimes are available at www.welktheatersandiego.com.

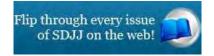
The Broadway Theater begins its 8th season with the comedy/drama "**Grace and Glorie**," running through Sunday, March 4, at the Broadway Theater, 340 East Broadway, Vista. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$17.50. For tickets or more information, call

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What's Goin' On: Theater in Full Swing

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By Eileen Sondak

The world premiere of a new musical from the Old Globe; another Jewish flavored show penned by Alfred Uhry; the Wild West version of the delightfully comic opera "Don Pasquale;" the touring company of "Rock of Ages;" and a musical smorgasbord from the San Diego Symphony are just a few of the eelectic entertainment selections in store for San Diegans this month.

The San Diego Opera's rollicking take on Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" will make a resounding presence at the Civic Theatre March 10-18. With Danielle de Niese as the gun-totin' Norma, John Del Carlo as the old codger, Charles Castronovo as Pasquale's handsome nephew and Jeff Mattsey as the wily doctor — not to mention a rip-roarin' set and ribald costumes — this "Don Pasquale" is a treat for the eyes as well as the ears. Edoardo Muller will conduct the orchestra.

There's another special event, compliments of the San Diego Opera. Renee Fleming will perform a benefit concert March 24. That spectacular one-night-only show is also slated for the Civic.

The Old Globe is rolling out the red carpet for "A Room With a View," a brand new musical based on the novel by E.M. Forster. This staging of the beloved book (which also inspired an Academy Award-winning film) boasts a beautiful score to enhance the timeless tale. Directed by Scott Schwartz, the show will run March 2-April 8.

Also on tap is Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie," which takes up residency at the Globe's White Theatre March 10. This masterpiece by the four-time Pulitzer Prize-winner is about the strained relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Directed by Daniel Goldstein, "Anna Christie" will remain on the boards through April 8.

1 of 6 3/1/2012 10:49 AM





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Publishing Date: March 11, 2012 Circulation: 71,847

Page Number: 4,5

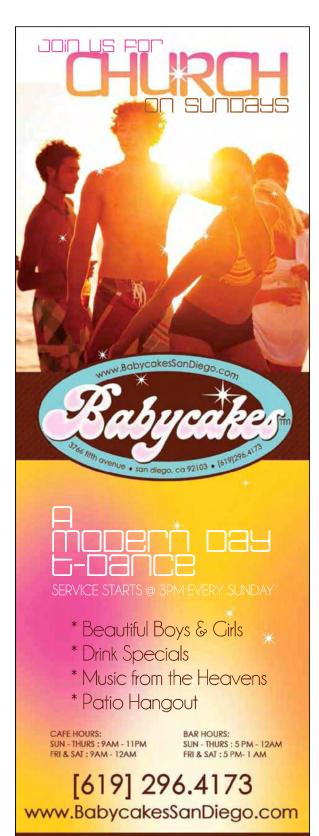
Article Size: 15 sq inch Ad Value: \$284.65

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

"ANNA CHRISTIE" (RIGHT) - The Old Globe presents Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama about the rocky relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years; runs through April 15; 8 p.m. (also 8 p.m. Friday; 2 and 8 p.m. Sat-urday; 2 and 7 p.m. March 18); Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego; tickets start at \$29; the oldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.





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APRIL

Thru April 15, 2012 • World Premiere Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage • Old Globe Theatre • Conrad Prebys The-

arre Center

A ROOM WITH A VIEW
Based on the novel by E.M. Forster
Book by Marc Acito
Music by Jeffrey Stock
Lyrics by Jeffrey Stock and Marc Acito
Directed by Scott Schwartz
From the beloved novel that inspired
the Academy Award-winning film
comes an enchanting new musical.
Amid the golden sunlight and violetcovered hills of Tuscany, sheltered
English girl Lucy Honeychurch meets
freethinking George Emerson. For the
first time, she glimpses a world of longing and passion she had never imagined. Back in her corseted Edwardian
life, Lucy must decide whether to yield
to convention or give up everything
she has ever known. Comic, romantic,
satirical and real, A Room with a View satirical and real, A Room with a View blends a gorgeous score with this timeless story that gives a new voice to these unforgettable characters.

Previews March 2-9, opens March 10, closes April 15. Tickets start at \$39.

See http://www.theoldglobe.org for details POST-SHOW FORUMS: An informal ques-

tion-and-answer session with cast members. Wednesday, March 28. OUT AT THE GLOBE: An evening for GLBT theater lovers with a hosted wine and martini bar, appetizers and door prizes. Thursday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. \$20 (show sold separately).

Thru April 15, 2012 Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre • Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

ANNA CHRISTIE

ANNA CHRISTIE
By Eugene O'Neill
Directed by Daniel Goldstein
The Old Globe's acclaimed "Classics
Up Close" series continues with Anna
Christie, Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer
Prizze-winning masterpiece about the
knotty relationship between an old
sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen
in almost 20 years. Their new bond
becomes strained when she falls in
love with a young man whose seafar-



THE OLD GLOBE

ing life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harbor-ing, they come to understand the harsh reality of her past and show her com-passion, love and forgiveness.

Closes April 15.
Tickets start at \$29. See last page for performance schedule.
POST-SHOW FORUMS: An informal question-and-answer session with cast

Tuesdays, March 27 and April 3 and Wednesday, April 11.

OUT AT THE GLOBE: An evening for GLBT theater lovers with a hosted wine and martini bar, appetizers and door prizes. Thursday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m. \$20 (show sold separately).

INFO:http://www.theoldglobe.org



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Publication Name: La Jolla Light
Publishing Date: April 05, 2012
Circulation: 14,822

Page Number: 6

Article Size: 25 sq inch Ad Value: \$603.14

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Best Best Bets For Events



On Stage

The <u>Old Globe</u> continues productions of two works at opposite ends of the spectrum in April. You can pick from Eugene O'Neill's classic, "Anna Christie," in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, or the musical romantic comedy, "A Room with a View," in The Globe Theatre. Tickets: \$29-\$39 for matinees and evenings through April 15 are still available. (619) 231-1941. TheOldGlobe.org





Client Name: Old Globe Theatre **Publication Name:** Los Angeles Times April 08, 2012 Publishing Date:

831,103 Circulation:

Page Number: 13

Article Size: 3 sq inch Ad Value: \$1,438.92

Page 1 of 1

THEATER

Critics' Choices

Anna Christie The enduring dramatic power of Eugene O'Neill steers this intimate, audacious rethink of his 1921 Pulitzer winner about a life-battered tart, stewarded by director Daniel Goldstein. Purists may resist Jessica Love's deliberately anachronistic title character, but her chemistry with colleagues Bill Buell and Austin Durant is fascinating and ultimately poignant (D.C.N). The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. Today, 2 p.m., 7 p.m.; Tue.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Thu.-Frl., 8 p.m.; Sat., 2 p.m., 8 p.m.; next Sun., 2 p.m., 7 p.m.; ends next Sun. Tickets start at \$29. (619) 234-5623.

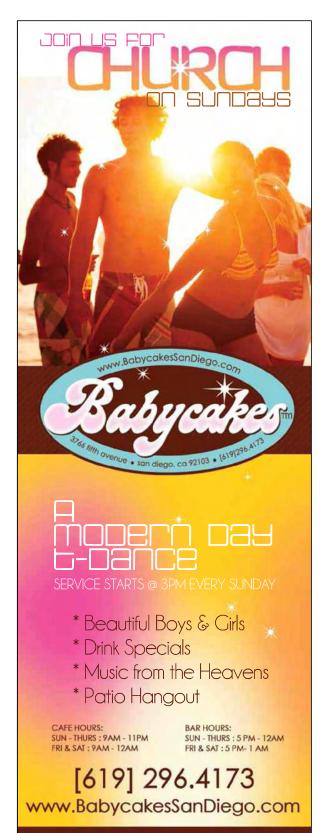


Client Name: Old Globe Theatre

The Place Publication Name: Publishing Date: April 01, 2012 Circulation: 24,585

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APRIL

Thru April 15, 2012 • World Premiere Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage • Old Globe Theatre • Conrad Prebys The-atre Center

arre Center

A ROOM WITH A VIEW
Based on the novel by E.M. Forster
Book by Marc Acito
Music by Jeffrey Stock
Lyrics by Jeffrey Stock and Marc Acito
Directed by Scott Schwartz
From the beloved novel that inspired
the Academy Award-winning film
comes an enchanting new musical.
Amid the golden sunlight and violetcovered hills of Tuscany, sheltered
English girl Lucy Honeychurch meets
freethinking George Emerson. For the
first time, she glimpses a world of longing and passion she had never imagined. Back in her corseted Edwardian
life, Lucy must decide whether to yield
to convention or give up everything
she has ever known. Comic, romantic,
satirical and real, A Room with a View satirical and real, A Room with a View blends a gorgeous score with this time-less story that gives a new voice to these unforgettable characters.

Tickets start at \$39. See http://www.theoldglobe.org for details

Thru April 15, 2012 Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre • Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

ANNA CHRISTIE

ANNA CHRISTIE
By Eugene O'Neill
Directed by Daniel Goldstein
The Old Globe's acclaimed "Classics
Up Close" series continues with Anna
Christie, Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer
Prize-winning masterpiece about the
knotty relationship between an old
sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen
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with a young man whose seafaring
life isn't what her father wants for her.
When Anna reveals to both men the
shameful secret she has been harboring, they come to understand the harsh

ing, they come to understand the harsh reality of her past and show her com-passion, love and forgiveness. Closes April 15.





Tickets start at \$29. See last page for performance schedule. POST-SHOW FORUMS: An informal question-and-answer sesanswer ses-sion with cast members. Wednesday, April 11.





CALL big mike @ 619.807.7324 EMAIL; BM575@AOL.COM

CALENDAR

Orange County/San Diego/Inland Empire

APRIL 2012



TUESDAY, APRIL 10

TITANIC: THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

This exhibition features 200 authentic artifacts recovered from Titanic's wreck site, extensive room re-creations and a giant iceberg wall. Upon entrance to the exhibition you will be issued a replica boarding pass of an actual passenger aboard Titanic. From there, you will begin your chronological journey through Titanic's epic journey, from construction to life on board, to her tragic sinking and eventual discovery and artifact rescue. At the end of the exhibition, you can take your boarding pass to the memorial gallery and discover the fate of your passenger. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through Sept. 9. Special exhibit pricing. (619) 232-3821. sdnhm. org/titanic

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

CHRIS BOTTI

A gifted instrumentalist, a talented composer and a charismatic performer, the former trumpeter for Sting effortlessly crosses the boundaries between pop and classical, jazz and rock. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through April 14. \$40-\$195. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

WHALE WATCHING CRUISES

Sail with aquarium naturalists to locate gray whales on their roundtrip migration from the Bering Sea to Baja's breeding grounds. Get an up-close look at these amazing animals and learn about gray whale baleen, barnacles and prey from aquarium naturalists Tours leave daily from San Diego Bay. \$30-\$40. Through April 15. Birch Aquarium at Scripps (858) 534-7336. aquarium.ucsd.edu. Flagship Cruises & Events at (619) 234-4111. flagshipsd.com.

STEPPING OUT

In this raucously funny musical, eight tap students present a huge tap extravaganza that they have worked on for eight weeks while developing their skills and overcoming their inhibitions. Welk Resorts Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido, Dates varv through May 20. \$65-\$80. (888) 802-7469. welktheatre.com.

JAZZ AT THE MERC

Road Work Ahead. Bill Mays, Peter Sprague, Bob Magnussen and Jim Plank. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. \$15. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13



ANNA CHRISTIE

Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. The Old Globe Theatre, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through April 15. \$29-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldalobe.ora.

BLITHE SPIRIT

The comedy explores the question: How does it feel to be haunted by both of your "dearly departed" ex-wives? Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St., Temecula. Weekends through April 22. \$23-\$28. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

THE FLOWER FIELDS AT **CARLSBAD RANCH**

For more than 60 years, Giant Tecolote Ranunculus flowers bloom, transforming the rolling hills of North San Diego County into a spectacular and coordinated display of natural color and beauty. This annual burst of color, which has become part of the area's local heritage, is also one of nature's official ways of announcing the arrival of spring here in Southern California. Explore 50-acres including the one-acre Orchid Showcase and the 4,000 sq. ft. Paul Ecke Jr. Family Barn designed to recall even more of a ranch setting. The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch, Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad. Through May 13. \$10-\$11. (760) 431-0352, theflowerfields.com.

SENSE & SENSIBILITY

The death of Mr. Dashwood leaves his second wife and three daughters in dire financial circumstances. The lack of fortune affects the marriage ability of both practical Elinor and romantic Marianne. Can love find a way to transcend class, status and reputation or will hardship thwart a happy ending for both the sister who is "all sense" and the one who is "all sensibility?" LifeHouse Theater, 1135 N. Church St., Redlands. \$14-\$18. Weekends through May 13. (909) 335-3037 ext. 21. lifehousetheater.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

AVOCADO FESTIVAL

Guacamole contests, arts and crafts, a farmer's market, food courts and refreshment gardens. live entertainment and children's activities. Downtown Fallbrook. (760) 728-5845. fallbrookchamberofcommerce.org.

ICE AGE FOSSILS FROM JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

Lecture by Eric Scott. San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. \$6-\$8. (909) 307-2669. sbcountymuseum.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

RESPECT: A MUSICAL JOURNEY OF WOMEN

Through the lyrics of Top 40 songs, "Respect"



tells the story of women in the 20th century. The popular, high-energy musical combines excerpts from 60 songs with women's personal stories of struggle from co-dependent to independent and from being the property of their husbands to presidents of corporations. The Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, San Diego. Dates vary through June 24. \$42-\$57. (619) 544-1000. lyceumevents.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

LA BOHEME

Carefree Bohemians and star-struck lovers - penniless, hungry and ill — fill the concert hall with their astonishing voices as Puccini's sad tale unfolds. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Also April 21 & 24. \$25-\$185. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

JAZZ AT THE MERC

Bruce Lett Trio. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. \$15. (866) 653-8696, temeculatheater.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

3 BROADWAY DIVAS

Debbie Gravitte, Jan Horvath and Christine Noll join the Desert Symphony with showstoppers from "Evita," "Gypsy," "Wicked" and other musicals. McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert. \$45-\$90. (760) 340-2787. mccallumtheatre.com.

ORGANIC AND BIODYNAMIC WINE TASTING

Celebrate "Earth Day" weekend with organic and bio-dynamic wines from around the world. including reds and whites from France, Italy and California. Bacchus Wine Bar and Market, 647 G St., San Diego, Also April 21, \$20, (619) 236-0005. bacchuswinemarket.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

PAVEL HAAS QUARTET

Performance by one of the leading young ensembles in the classical music world. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. \$40-\$60. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.





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Old Globe Theatre

San Diego Yu Yu April 01, 2012

10,150

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Performing Arts

⑤ FEATURES **⑥** HIGHLIGHTS **②** PROGRAM **⑥** INFORMATION



Anna Christie アナ・クリスティ

再会した娘に秘められた過去は… E・オニールのピューリッツアー賞戯曲

② ○ 15 年間音信不通だった娘と再会する老水夫。 若い船乗りに恋している娘の姿に父親は複雑な思い を抱く。その男が歩んできた人生は娘を不幸にする。 実は、娘も誰にも語らぬ暗い過去を引きずっていた。 その苛酷な現実とは…。愛憎、欺瞞、侮蔑、懺悔、 憐憫、寛容の本質を鋭く斬り込む "人間劇場"。革新的 リアリズムの手法で「アメリカ近代演劇の開祖」と呼ば れた劇作家、ユージン・オニール (1888-1953) の本人2 度目となるピューリッツア賞受賞作品。1921年初演。

- THE GLOBE THEATRES (Old Globe Theatre), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park /
- ☎ 619-239-2255 (T)。 期間 4/15 (日) まで。 チケット \$29 ~ \$69 (一般)。 www.oldglobe.org