



BETHANY



PRESS HIGHLIGHTS



REVIEWS



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‘BETHANY’ PROBES CRACKS IN THE AMERICAN DREAM

Play, making its West Coast debut at the Old Globe, makes its audiences think

PAM KRAGEN • U-T

In Laura Marks’ engaging new play “Bethany,” the lead character Crystal seems to have it all. She’s smart, hardworking, attractive and, when we first meet her in 2009, moving into a nice suburban home.

But, like many Americans during the

recession, Crystal is barely hanging on — just one paycheck from the streets. She is the 99 percent, a working single mom driven to desperate extremes to keep her family together.

But the play that made its West Coast premiere Thursday in the Old Globe’s Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre is



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'Bethany'

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays (plus 2 p.m. Feb. 12); 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays. (No matinee on Feb. 15.) Through Feb. 23.

Where: Old Globe Theatre's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park.

Tickets: About \$29-\$72 (discounts available)

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

more than that. It wickedly skewers the "American dream" idea that we de-

serve wealth and success. Crystal may be likable and her reasoning sound, but

she repeatedly breaks the law to get what she wants. Audience members may be torn on whether they identify with or abhor her.

As the play opens, Crystal — a struggling car saleswoman at a doomed Saturn dealership — is at a low ebb. With no commissions, she has lost her home and, subsequently, her 5-year-old daughter Bethany after police found them living in a car.



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Complicating matters are two men who enter her life on the same day. She is forced to share the house with Gary, a mentally unstable drifter with a hair-trigger temper. And she's strung along by customer Charlie, a "visualize wealth" motivational speaker who vows to buy a luxury Saturn, but only if she'll sweeten the deal with sex.

The 90-minute play takes several twists, some surprising, some melodramatic and some clichéd. Director Gaye Taylor Upchurch maintains a level of suspense and draws honest performances from her cast. But the in-the-round staging hurts the play's authenticity. It's hard to hide the staged fakery in a fight scene, and an awkwardly placed door in Lauren Helpert's set blocks the sightlines from a good number of seats.

As Crystal, the birdlike Jennifer Ferrin takes her character on a harrowing journey. She's kind but calculating and manages to keep Crystal sympathetic despite her crimes. James Shanklin is a standout as Charlie, the sleazy wealth guru whose self-empowerment mantras — "the higher power wants you to be rich," "this is the universe ... giving me everything I deserve" — mask his own deep failures.

Carlo Albán is unsettling as Gary, the increasingly menacing squatter who babbles about EMF radiation, the military-industrial complex and his dream of starting a new society with Crystal.

DeAnna Driscoll is delightfully acidic as Shannon, the embittered dealership manager. As the no-nonsense social worker Toni, Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson is smart, cool and measured but compassionate. And Globe vet Amanda Naughton gives the story a surprise twist as the suspicious, deluded housewife Patricia.

By naming the play for the unseen child, Marks questions the lengths Americans will go to provide a better life for their children. If society doesn't reward our hard work with material wealth, do we deserve it anyway? "Bethany" makes you think.



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As the play opens, Crystal — a struggling car saleswoman at a doomed Saturn dealership — is at a low ebb. With no commissions, she has lost her home and, subsequently, her 5-year-old daughter Bethany after police found them living in a car. In an ingenious high-wire scheme to regain custody, she breaks into a foreclosed home and uses it to convince a social worker that she's back on her feet.

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Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson as Toni (left) and Crystal Ferrin as Jennifer in Laura Marks' "Bethany," at the Old Globe through Feb. 23. JIM COX

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Review: 'Bethany' probes cracks in society

Melodrama hurts Old Globe play, but plot is thought-provoking

By Pam Kragen (/staff/pam-kragen/) 12:31 p.m. Jan. 31, 2014



Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson as Toni and Crystal Ferrin as Jennifer with Carlo Albán (background) in Laura Marks' "Bethany" at The Old Globe. — *Jim Cox*

In Laura Marks' engaging new play "Bethany," the lead character Crystal seems to have it all. She's smart, hardworking, attractive and, when we first meet her in 2009, moving into a nice suburban home.

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As the play opens, Crystal — a struggling car saleswoman at a doomed Saturn dealership — is at a low ebb. With no commissions, she has lost her home and, subsequently, her 5-year-old daughter Bethany after police found them living in a car. In an ingenious high-wire scheme to regain custody, she breaks into a foreclosed home and uses it to convince a social worker that she's back on her feet.

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Carlo Albán is unsettling as Gary, the increasingly menacing squatter who babbles about EMF radiation, the military-industrial complex and his dream of starting a new society with Crystal.

DeAnna Driscoll is delightfully acidic as Shannon, the embittered, who-gives-a-damn-anymore dealership manager.

As the no-nonsense social worker Toni, Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson is smart, cool and measured but compassionate. Her sly, subtle performance makes you wonder whether she sees through Crystal's lies but wants to reunite mother and child anyway.

And Globe vet Amanda Naughton gives the story a surprise twist as the suspicious, deluded housewife Patricia.

The spare physical production features costumes by Sarah J. Holden, lighting by Japhy Weideman and sound and music by Leon Rothenberg.

By naming the play for the unseen child, Marks questions the lengths Americans will go to provide a better life for their children. If society doesn't reward our hard work with material wealth, do we deserve it anyway? "Bethany" makes you think.

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Theater review: 'Bethany,' at Old Globe, challenges credibility

Laura Marks' play, concerning squatters in a foreclosed house, features plot points that defy common sense, and the production compounds the problem — though the characterizations mostly are well drawn.



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By Charles McNulty, Los Angeles Times Theater Critic

February 3, 2014 4:05 p.m.

SAN DIEGO — The foreclosure crisis is more than background noise in Laura Marks' "Bethany," now at the Old Globe. It's the setup for a recessionary drama that turns — not very plausibly, I hasten to add — into a bloody thriller.

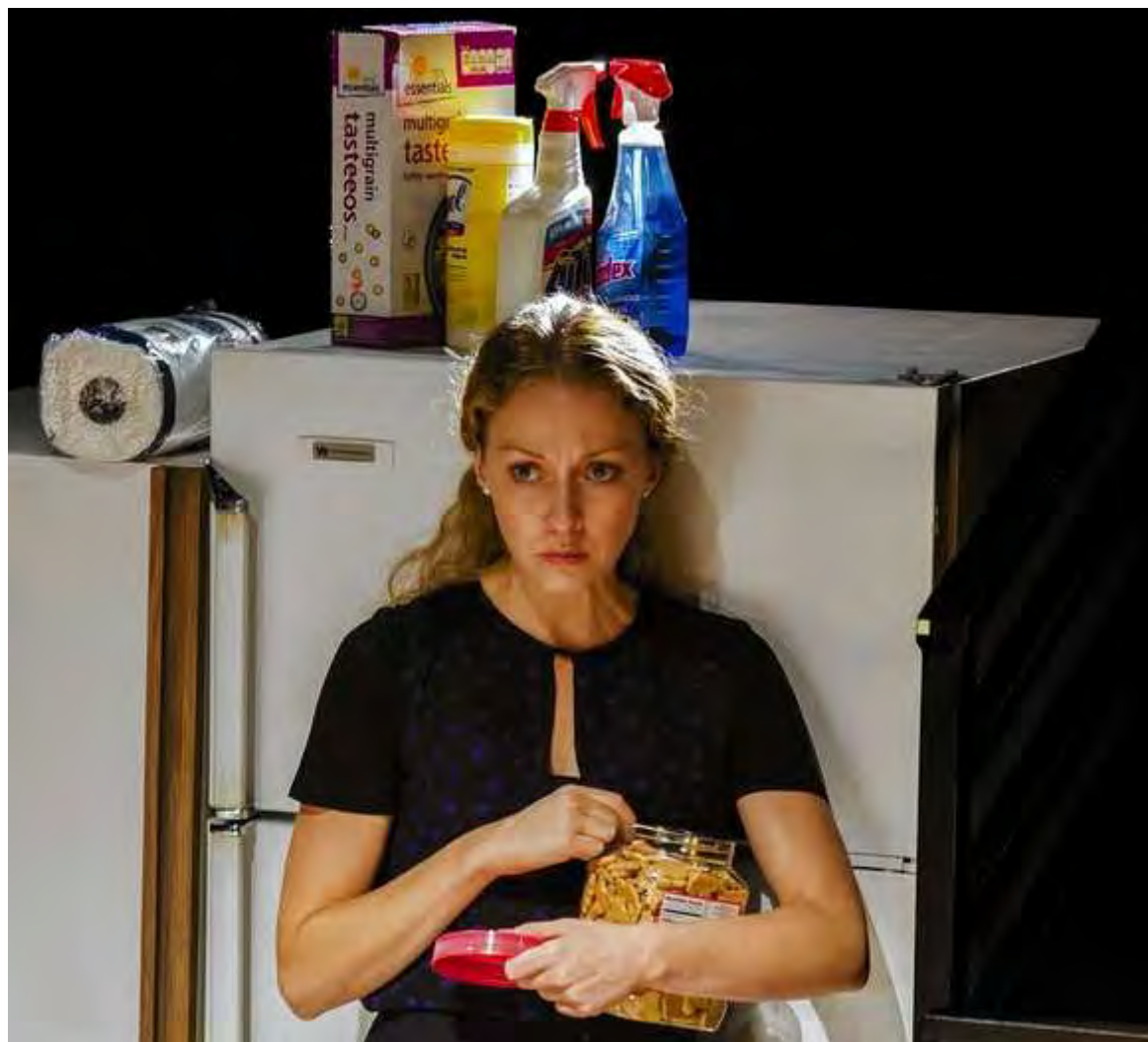
Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin), a single mother who has lost her home, decides to break into a foreclosed house that still has electricity and running water. Her plan is to pass this off as her new rental home to the social worker in charge of her case for getting her daughter back.

Crystal lost custody of Bethany when the two were living out of her car. Working on commission at an automobile dealership in a town where hardly anyone can afford their mortgage, never mind an expensive set of wheels, Crystal doesn't have many options.

But it's hard to credit her decision to stay in the abandoned house after she discovers that there's

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Jennifer Ferrin stars as Crystal in "Bethany." (Jim Cox / January 24, 2014)

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already an illegal occupant — one who, for all his talk of being harmless, seems borderline insane.

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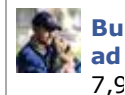
Carlo Albán plays Gary, the paranoid upstairs squatter, with a simian air. He doesn't so much talk as grunt, and there's a menacing quality to his stupefied stare that would send most people running for the nearest exit.

Crystal's decision to share the house with Gary is the first of several plot points defying common sense. (Note to unlawful tenants: Don't bunk with a stranger who starts swinging a two-by-four every time there's a knock at the door.)

Are we really supposed to believe that a social worker (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson) wouldn't call the landlord of the property Crystal claims to be renting? Even more difficult to swallow is the business between Crystal and Charlie (James Shanklin). A



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The daring theater of 'Prudencia Hart,'
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Review: Other voices but not its own in
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middle-aged out-of-work schlub trying to repackage himself as a motivational speaker, Charlie feebly pretends to be interested in buying a car from Crystal while clumsily putting the moves on her.

Charlie's behavior is so transparent that even Gary, hardly the brightest bulb, can't help being outraged that Crystal is falling for it.

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Suspending audience disbelief would be hard enough given the material, but the production, directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch on a blandly functional set by Lauren Helpert, compounds the difficulty. The actors have been encouraged to proceed in a realistic fashion, but the scenes have a halting flow that throws into relief the eye-rolling nature of a plot that only grows steadily more violent and far-fetched.

The problem isn't, for the most, the characterizations. Albán's Gary is the least believable (an issue of interpretation as much as writing), but the other portraits are individually well drawn. Yet the contrived way these characters are brought together undermines any attempt at verisimilitude.

"Bethany," which had a successful New York premiere last year in a Women's Project Theater production starring America Ferrera, strives to show us the desperate consequences of an economy cruelly stacked against ordinary citizens. The subject is indeed powerfully resonant, but the faulty execution keeps the play from hitting home.

charles.mculty@latimes.com

'Bethany'

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When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays. Ends Feb. 23.

Tickets: Start at \$29

Contact: (619) 234-5623

Running time: 1 hour, 30 minutes

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Bethany

The Old Globe

Artists have responded to hard times in multiple ways but usually in ways that manage to point out the abuses of income disparity and maybe to make fun of them. In the Great Depression, for example, there were lavish productions with silly story lines that often showed a plucky youngster gaining wealth and fame through outwitting the numbskulls who were supposedly the captains of industry. Theatre companies also presented realistic social drama that critiqued societal notions of valorizing the rich and blaming the poor for their plight. Sometimes, theatres aimed their work at audiences whose members might normally not be able to afford to attend.



Jennifer Ferrin and James Shanklin

Having given Old Globe audiences the silly production, in the stylish form of the pre-Broadway offering of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, artistic director Barry Edelstein has counterbalanced that silliness with three socially conscious plays featuring characters who typically do not populate Globe audiences. He claims in a program essay that these three plays represent the direction that playwriting is going currently. Last fall's *The Few* featured truckers, and the upcoming *Water by the Spoonful* focuses on a veteran of the Iraq war. The Globe's current production, Laura Marks' *Bethany*, deals with homelessness, particularly among women.

Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) is a young mother and automobile salesperson who has lost her home (and her daughter, to the local social welfare agency) as the new car market has left her without sufficient income. Finding a position at a Saturn dealership in the exurbs and not wanting her supervisors to know that she is homeless, she finds a recently foreclosed property and squats in it. The only problem is that a young man named Gary (Carlo Albán) has already taken over the bedroom. Gary has political delusions, but he seems harmless enough.

Crystal sets out to make enough money to stabilize her life, get her daughter back from social services, and find a permanent place to live. The steps involved seem difficult but not impossible. In the process, Crystal meets up with Charlie (James Shanklin), a self-styled motivational speaker and guru who is interested in buying the top of the line Saturn sports car. He's also, as it turns out, interested in Crystal.

As you might imagine, Crystal's path to income self-sufficiency is not a smooth one. Charlie, upon whose commission her plan turns, is not as flush as he portrays himself to be. And, while both of the male characters are pigs, each in his own way, so are some of the female

characters. Crystal herself is not immune to pigdom, though Ms. Marks encourages the audience to root for her throughout.

Bethany might have been a moral tale and as such it would have been a familiar one. Crystal makes a series of ethically questionable choices, starting with breaking into the house in which she's squatting, and at every turn her moral compass becomes progressively skewed. But, Ms. Marks seems to be a moral nihilist, spreading the message that everyone's a taker and the only way to succeed is to become a taker, too. It's easy to laugh at such advice when coming from Charlie, whose insights on life, love, and money seem to be lifted directly from "The Secret." But, it's harder to laugh when the heroine turns out to have bought into the same philosophy.

That said, the Globe has mounted a visually creative production with actors who do their best to inhabit their characters, under insightful direction from Gaye Taylor Upchurch. A couple of them, local performers DeAnna Driscoll and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson, aren't given much to work with as the sales supervisor at the dealership and the social services inspector, but they find a moral weariness in these put-upon types that is refreshing. Mr. Albán provides much-needed humor in playing his off-the-wall character, and Amanda Naughton does a nice turn as a woman who knows the score.

Ms. Ferris and Mr. Shanklin are both featured in the television series "Hell on Wheels," and the fact that they have experience acting with each other probably benefits this production. Each seems to have a good sense of what the other is doing as an actor, without making their joint moves seem calculated. There is a creepiness to their relationship that is truly chilling. Audiences, however, may yearn for a return to the lavish and silly send-ups of wealth before this 100-minute, no-intermission muted polemic comes to a close.

As is often the case at the Globe, the production values are first rate, in particular Lauren Helpert's creative set that shifts easily among the various locales to which the play takes us. Sarah J. Holden's costumes and Japhy Weideman's lighting design fit well with the concept, and Leon Rothenberg's original music and sometimes deliberately intrusive sound design sets the tone for the play's horrific climax.

Mr. Edelstein is right in his assessment: Ms. Marks' voice does represent a high quality version of what I'm seeing in contemporary playwrighting. I'd really like to root for someone who makes better choices, though.

The Old Globe presents *Bethany*, by Laura Marks. Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch with scenic design by Lauren Helpert, costume design by Sarah J. Holden, lighting design by Japhy Weideman, and original music and sound design by Leon Rothenberg. Cast members include Carlo Albán, DeAnna Driscoll, Jennifer Ferrin, Amanda Naughton, James Shanklin, and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson.

Through February 23, 2014, in the Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. Tickets are available by calling the box office at (619) 23-GLOBE [234-5623] or online at www.oldglobe.org.

Photo: Jim Cox

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THEATER REVIEW: "Bethany" at The Old Globe

JEAN LOWERISON - SDGLN THEATER CRITIC

January 31st, 2014

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Business-suited Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin, of AMC's "Hell on Wheels" series) jimmies open the door of a foreclosed home and enters, only to find a scruffy squatter named Gary (Carlo Albán) – with a wicked-looking two-by-four in his hand – has preceded her.

Gary says he's harmless and is using the upstairs bedroom. He suggests she take the living room. And thus an uneasy roommate situation is born with this paranoid conspiracy theorist.

It's 2009 – the height of the recession – and Crystal is one of its victims. She's lost her home to foreclosure and her five-year-old daughter Bethany to a county agency. Her sales job at the local Saturn agency may be her only chance to dig herself out of the hole and get Bethany back.

You'll need to suspend disbelief to make sense of Laura Marks' one-act "Bethany," in its West Coast premiere through Feb. 23 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. For example, you'd think the sea of foreclosed homes Crystal sees through the window would afford the possibility of picking another that she wouldn't have to share with a stranger.

At the Saturn dealership, Crystal encounters Charlie (James Shanklin), a self-styled self-help guru – you know, the type who tells you God wants you to be rich and all you have to do is believe you deserve it. We see him several times practicing his spiel in the mirror.

He comes in to look at a fancy model Saturn and seems close to putting his signature on that dotted line. Crystal realizes this may be her chance to get herself back on track, so she applies the full-court sales press – even after he tells her he has been in earlier and worked with another salesperson.

Stealing a colleague's customer is frowned upon here. Crystal's boss Shannon, played brilliantly by DeAnna Driscoll, puts it this way: "There's a special place in hell for women who don't help other women."

But these are desperate times and she needs that sale. She also needs to convince social worker Toni (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson) that she's financially stable enough to take care of Bethany. The question is how far she is willing to go to accomplish this.



Photo credit: Jim Cox

Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Carlo Albán as Gary in "Bethany."

Nothing comes easy here, but Ferrin’s Crystal shows remarkable pluck – if somewhat questionable ethics – in her struggle to survive.

Gaye Taylor Upchurch (who also helmed the New York opening) gives this ever-darkening piece a sense of foreboding.

Driscoll’s Shannon is briskly venomous as Crystal’s boss; Thompson an efficient pencil pusher as social worker Toni.

The men in this slice of Crystal’s life are difficult to even watch, much less care about. Is Albán’s Gary just a crazy without a treatment center? A darkly dangerous person? Or just a prop? What’s his story?

Shanklin’s Charlie has two thankless tasks: he’s slimy and given too many of those “only believe” speeches to deliver. But he’s convincing at both.

Lauren Helpert’s appropriately spare set design serves nicely in the round. Sarah J. Holden’s costumes set the time and mood well.

Japhy Weideman’s lighting and especially Leon Rothenberg’s original music and sound design contribute to the atmosphere.

In “Bethany,” Marks gives us an uncomfortable portrait of what bad times can do to presumably good people. You probably won’t guess where it’s going, but you may, like me, be consulting your watch and wishing they’d hurry up and get there.

The details

“Bethany” plays through Feb. 23 at The Old Globe’s Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 pm; Thursday and Friday at 8 pm.; Saturday at 2 and 8 pm; Sunday at 2 and 7 pm.

Tickets: (619) 234-5623 or [HERE](#).

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January 31, 2014

Homeless Mom Battles Long Odds in Old Globe BETHANY

- [THEATER REVIEW](#)

by Welton Jones

Do everything exactly the way you're taught and you still get screwed in the brutal world of BETHANY, a new play by Laura Marks now in its West Coast premiere at the Old Globe's White Theatre.

It's a brutal world that seems all too familiar, as in, well, take a look around. The young mother fighting to regain custody of her five-year-old has her health, a winning manner, a quick resourcefulness and (for the moment, at least) a full-time job. Yet, according to a Globe program note contributed by the San Diego Housing Federation, she could never survive here. Not by a whole fifth of her income.

And she's hardly alone. Everybody in the play teeters on the brink of ruin or already has slipped over the edge. The playwright hasn't time for background – no origin stories, no specific locales, not even last names –

in her urgent report from the roiling crisis that rips at civilization.



Jennifer Ferrin and Carlo Albán in BETHANY at the Old Globe. Jim Cox Photo.

One character has a good investment councilor. One staggers under added duties of laid-off co-workers. One slithers beneath the radar. None inspire much hope.

Yet the young mother, Crystal by name, is irresistible, battling for whatever shred of dignity she can clutch to help win back her daughter. Despite being employee of the month twice in one year at the Ford dealership where she sold cars, she lost her house to the bank. After a couple of nights sleeping in her car, she sought help from a local shelter.

As she bitterly tells the story, her welcome was: “Sorry, the shelter’s full but why don’t we take that little girl off your hands?” Now she must have permission to even speak to the child.

But she’s fighting back with a rickety plan that requires several elements to stay aligned just long enough for the agency to restore her daughter. Her new job at the Saturn dealer is a straight 7½ percent commission: Less than \$2,500 if she sells a luxury model to a slick customer dawdling over a decision. She’s found a deserted house, in a nightmare tract neighborhood of deserted repossessions, that still has electricity and water turned on, plus a door lock that yields to a plastic credit card. She’s stocking it with some cheap bulk food, cleaning stuff and a few sticks of furniture from Goodwill. Just enough, with a forged lease and a bit of luck, to satisfy the social worker coming next week.

She hasn’t planned much beyond that.

The plan almost seems to be working. Except life intrudes. That customer is far more interested in her than the car. That house already has a squatter, a skittish, seedy wild thing who babbles of government conspiracies and mind-control. And the Saturn dealership, this being the year 2009, is about to fail.

Crystal takes chances, changes her story on the run and stays in the game. Her ability to sparkle on cue obscures the steel within. Despite a trashy culture that has perverted her survival skills, this is a mother fighting for her child. And when the author lowers the curtain, Crystal still is not beaten.

The Globe production has been staged with an artistry matching the author's in nearly every case. Only the brief, savage violence rings false. Otherwise, Gaye Taylor Upchurch allows room for the play to resonate. She lets the text carry the load and helps the actors find the precise path between each character's right and wrong. Upchurch weaves a scrim of sincerity that supplements Marks' remarkable ear for precise, loaded dialogue.



Jennifer Ferrin and James Shanklin in Old Globe BETHANY. Jim Cox Photo.

Jennifer Ferrin gives Crystal a vibrant, pert front to the world and suggests, rather than shows, her depths. The character keeps on being whapped in the face by unforeseen crises which Ferrin has her absorb with barely a stagger and always a recovery plausible enough to move right along.

The troll skulking around the house, surviving on surplus C-rations and solitude, is played by Carlo Alban with a rich gloss of crazy but a preoccupied paranoia that makes him harmless. That lusting customer, seen preening himself for his lectures on predatory capitalism, is presented as a major slime bag by James Shanklin, who may have done overtime researching that façade and those outfits among middle management.

The supporting roles, as rich in suggested detail as they are spare in specifics, must have tempted the actors to expand. Upchurch's steady vision obviously ruled and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson as the worn social worker, DeAnna Driscoll as a dour supervisor at Saturn and Amanda Naughton as an anxious wife all contribute their bits to the downward spiral.

Lauren Helpert devised the frightfully sterile set, including murals of regimented suburbia; Sarah J. Holden found costumes all too right; and Japhy Weideman sliced the stage with, in effect, walls of light.

For more on this subject, see Arthur Miler's DEATH OF A SALESMAN. Attention must be paid. BETHANY may lack Miller's howling at the gods but it provides instead a female perspective of indomitable sustenance. Willie Loman had a wife; Crystal has only herself. Life is guilty in both cases.

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'Bethany,' a provocative portrait of a woman

Posted on 02 February 2014.

By **Eric George Tauber**



Eric George Tauber

SAN DIEGO— What would you do for your child?

If your child were taken from you, what would you do to get her back?

Before you answer “anything,” think about what “anything” might entail. Desperation doesn’t bring out the best in any of us. It’s easy to say, “I would never...” when you’ve never had to. These are the choices Crystal finds herself making in *Bethany* now playing at the Old Globe.

We begin with Charlie, a motivational speaker who reassures us that we *deserve* to be rich. Indeed, our “higher power” *wants* us to be rich. All we really need to do is tell ourselves this until we *truly believe* it. It’s *narrischkeit*, of course, but it’s *narrischkeit* we *want* to hear. Yet faith alone doesn’t pay the bills or stop a foreclosure.

With a dearth of affordable housing and well paying jobs, Crystal finds herself homeless. Fortunately, there’s an abundance of foreclosed signs on houses that still have water and electricity. If she can just break into one, she’ll have a roof over her head. However, she didn’t get there first. Gary did.

Gary has been living “under the radar” for a lot longer. While he looks and smells like a homeless guy and she doesn’t, at the point of intersection, they’re

not so far apart. And she needs him to show her the ropes. The connection between them keeps us guessing where this is going. But he's homeless for a reason.

Crystal's efforts to make an abandoned house "homey" reminded me of Charlie Chaplin in *Gold Rush*, eating his shoe with a knife and fork to feel like a human being. Crystal needs a real-enough looking house to get her daughter back.

Crystal isn't unemployed. She has a job ... sort of. Crystal sells cars for Saturn: straight commission. So, you know where this is going. But she has a hot prospect: Charlie may just buy that sporty, fully-loaded, red number in the showroom. But Charlie's not just shopping for a set of wheels.

At the climax came a less-than-convincing fight scene. Granted, you never want your actors to *really* get hurt. And it's pretty hard to choreograph with a 4x4. But the art of stage combat is to make it *look* brutal. This fight fell short and the man next to us was even chuckling.

Jennifer Ferrin (aka Louise on AMC's "Hell on Wheels") is compelling as Crystal. She has a laser focus on one goal: getting her daughter back from foster care. We feel with her as this motivates and justifies every choice.

Carlo Albán is intriguing as Gary. He's remarkably articulate as he rapid-fire rants his paranoid government conspiracy theories. He's even kind of endearing in a shaggy, bashful rescue dog kind of way. But his mental illness makes him dangerously unpredictable.

Sylvia M'lafi Thompson, a well-known figure in San Diego's theatre scene, gave a very genuine performance as the social worker, Toni. She balanced that blend of caring, tired and jaded common case-workers. Having worked with at-risk kids myself, I've seen my share come into the job full of *menshlichkeit* only to be worn down by the job.

James Shanklin (aka "Hell on Wheels" Aaron Hatch) is charmingly sinister as Charlie. We know he's a manipulative *sheister* from the get-go, but he tells us what we want to believe about ourselves. I would like to have seen more development in his character. The writer only gave us one face of a multi-headed dragon.

I would like to see more development overall. Playing 90 minutes without an intermission, *Bethany* struck me as more of a work-in-progress than a finished product. Nonetheless, *Bethany* is a provocative and powerful portrait of a woman with hard choices and few good options.

*

Eric Tauber is a freelance writer specializing in the arts. He may be contacted via eric.tauber@sdjewishworld.com

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Entertainment :: Theatre

Bethany

by Rodney Rodriguez

Contributor

Monday Feb 3, 2014

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Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Carlo Albán as Gary in the West Coast Premiere of Laura Marks' 'Bethany' (Source:Jim Cox)

Just how far will you go for your child? Crystal (AMC's "Hell on Wheels" actress Jennifer Ferrin) is in between homes and finds her way into the life, and residence, of transient Gary (Carlo Alban). Together they start on a new path overcoming the hand fate has dealt but one fateful night their destinies change. When Crystal is left with few choices, she makes a decision that will forever alter her life and takes her on a journey that tests just how far she is willing to go for her only child.

Full of suspense, intrigue, and Hitchcock-like action **"Bethany"** delivers on every level. Not since last season's "Good People" has the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre seen such captivating performances.

James Shanklin leads the way with his performance of Charlie, a sleazy life-coach who has no business telling others the right way to live life. Ferrin is a close second as the mother willing to do whatever it takes to hold on to her child. The empathy she elicits from the audience is so real and so thick that anything she does seems plausible and understandable. Anything. She takes that trust and pushes the boundaries of acceptance and the audience eats up every moment of it.

James Shanklin leads the way with his performance of Charlie, a sleazy life-coach who has no business telling others the right way to live life. Jennifer Ferrin is a close second as the mother willing to do whatever it takes to hold on to her child.

Alban plays the paranoid Gary who himself is perpetually in-between residences. Though he tries to teach Crystal the ways of the world, he ultimately feels betrayed and acts out against her. His

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performance is spot on, bringing the audience from uproarious laughter to an unnerving fright in mere seconds. Much like *Crystal*, the audience never quite knows what they're in for.

Director Gaye Taylor Upchurch does a phenomenal job at bringing Laura Marks's script to the stage. There are several moments in the script that could have easily been forgotten, but in such a short production (this play is performed without intermission) every moment is exploited and put on display for the audience to writhe and delight in.

Lauren Helpert's scenic design is brilliant and perfectly accentuated by Japhy Weideman's lighting design. Families heed the Old Globe's warnings: this production contains scenes that may be disturbing to certain audiences, primarily younger audiences. Despite the violence and occasional foul language, this production is fine for teenage audiences and up.

Indeed all ages will enjoy this thriller that will keep theatre-goers on the edge of their seats right until the end. Pleasingly uncomfortable and acutely executed "Bethany" is everything right with so much that is wrong in today's society.

"Bethany" runs through March 16 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at The Old Globe in Balboa Park. For info or tickets, call 619-23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

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Quirky Tragi-Comedy At San Diego's Old Globe Theatre



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Jack Lyons Theatre & Film Critic

"Bethany", written by playwright Laura Marks and directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, is a dark, tragic-comedy that chronicles the efforts of a young single mother who has been caught up in the economic roller coaster of the housing and financial market bubbles of 2009. To figure out a way to survive, Marks' heroine has to make some dangerous decisions. The way the play is crafted, it's more a case of style over substance and it's sprinkled with more than few clichés about how to handle tough times in America.

New car salesperson Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin, in a strong performance) is on the brink of losing her job at a local Saturn agency. Her pragmatic

thinking supervisor Shannon (DeAnna Driscoll), drop hints about the agency going out of business. Now her only goal is to begin an urgent search for solutions on how to get her life back on track following her

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bank foreclosure. She 's a single mother of Bethany, her five year-old daughter, who has been placed in children's protective care when it's discovered that they have been living in Crystal's car. Her caseworker, Toni (a sympathetic Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson) assists Crystal, but warns her that if she makes any unexpected miscues, she could lose Bethany in the process.

Needing time to think and concoct a plan to get Bethany back, Crystal breaks into a foreclosed abandoned house, only to discover she's not the only person looking for a roof over her head and time to think. Gary (Carlo Alban) a homeless, unkempt, and paranoid squatter has already laid claim to the house. But after talking to Crystal he agrees to share the space. It becomes an uneasy, tense, détente, but not without risks.

The next day at work Crystal meets customer Charlie (James Shanklin), a slick-talking, street-smart, business type with a "line" a mile long. He's a self-styled wealth-is-the-answer-to-everything, guru. He says he is interested in buying a \$44,000 top of the line high-tech Saturn.

When Charlie senses how desperate the attractive Crystal is to make a sale, he offers to "negotiate" with her, after hours, up close and personal about the sale; taking great pleasure in humiliating her in the process. Up against it, Crystal agrees. Charlie may think he's won the day, but his here-to-fore unmentioned wife Patricia (Amanda Naughton), has something to say about his "pyrrhic sexual victory" over Crystal.

"Bethany", as a modern day story may resonate with some because of the financial woes so many Americans, like Crystal, find themselves in today. But the resonating ends there. The premise is problematic from the beginning in that it strains logic and credulity, plus it has a few too



(http://desertlocalnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Bethany23_web.jpg)

Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Carlo Albán -Photo by Jim Cox.



(http://desertlocalnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Bethany15_web.jpg)

Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and James Shanklin -Photo by Jim Cox

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many “plot-holes”(pun intended) that the core story keeps falling into.

Having said that, the actors, however, are solid in their performances.

Shanklin's Charlie is a neat and subtle study of a greedy bully who simply must offend in behavior and cheat on the side. It's a delicious portrayal of a white-collar sleaze-bag.

Alban's take on

Gary, the homeless

and the disenfranchised of the world, has the ring of authenticity, albeit, a crazy paranoid viewpoint. Naughton's “understanding wife” concerning Charlie's behavior is puzzling. He's not Aristotle Onnasis, so money can't be the reason she stays with him. Obviously the answer must lie elsewhere. Thompson's caseworker Toni portrayal, is sensitively drawn.

As for Jennifer Ferrin's Crystal, she literally changes and ages in front of you as she passes from crisis to crisis. It's a wonderfully nuanced performance of someone who feels the world is closing in and about to crush her but is helpless in being able to do anything about it.

The state-of-the-art Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, has few equals when it comes to delivering technical requests from directors. Lauren Helpen's spare scenic design; Sarah J. Holden's costumes, and Japhy Weideman's night and day, lighting design, are all first-rate in this arena-staged production.

“Bethany” runs at the White Stage through February 23, 2014.



(http://desertlocalnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Bethany16_web.jpg)

Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Sylvia M'Lafi
Thompson-Photo by Jim Cox.

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THEATER

The moral deterioration of Crystal, to whom circumstances have dealt a bad hand (worst of all, the surrender of her daughter to foster care), is startling in The Old Globe's production of Laura Marks' one-act ***Bethany***. Jennifer Ferrin takes initially sweet and persevering car saleswoman Crystal to some very dark places, and her transformation is the strongest element of *Bethany*, which often strains believability: Desperate though she may be, would Crystal really tolerate a flammable paranoid like homeless Gary (Carlo Alban) as a "roommate" in the foreclosed-on house they're squatting in? Could she so easily forge a lease to fool a smart social worker (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson)?

Bethany's final half-hour is pretty harrowing, its sketchy stage-fighting aside. Marks' play makes a graphic statement about survival in terrible times.

Bethany runs through Feb. 23 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park. \$29 and up. oldglobe.org.

—David L. Coddon



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Wednesday, Feb 05, 2014

Moxie and Old Globe wrestle with reality

Reviews of 'Crumbs from the Table of Joy' and 'Bethany' top our coverage of local plays

By [David L. Coddon](#)



Cashae Monya (left) and Jada Temple in *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*



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- Photo courtesy of Moxie Theatre

Ernestine Crump longs to find something to believe in, something of her own. Her widowed father, Godfrey, believes in Father Divine, whose portrait hovers over the Crump family's careworn Brooklyn apartment. Her sister Ermina believes that mastering the street talk of the day (1950) will deliver her acceptance in a neighborhood intolerant of African-Americans. Ernestine's Aunt Lily believes communism can empower her race, and she believes, too, that the past is no place to live.

In Lynn Nottage's lyrical *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, first produced 19 years ago and now on stage at Moxie Theatre, belief wrestles with doubt, and dreams with reality.

Director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg was involved in that first New York production, and her intuition about the narrative and its characters is clear in Moxie's sensitively told staging. Cashae Monya, so impressive in Moxie's *The Bluest Eye* last year, beautifully embodies Lily's flamboyance and guarded vulnerability. Noteworthy, too, is Vimel Sephus as Godfrey, Jada Temple as Ernestine and Jennifer Eve Thorn as Gerte, the white German woman Godfrey marries, further bubbling up household and neighborhood tensions. *Crumbs* is a story of connection and identity that resonates.

It runs through March 2 at Moxie Theatre in Rolando. \$27. moxietheatre.com

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

Opening

The Dixie Swim Club: This one follows five Southern women over time, from college through middle age, as they reconnect periodically at a beach retreat. Presented by Different Stages, it opens Feb. 8 at Swedenborg Hall in University Heights. differentstages.biz

San Diego I Love You 2.0: Audiences are guided to several locations in University Heights to experience a local love story. See Page 13 for details. Presented by Circle Circle dot dot, it runs Feb. 8, 9, 15 and 16, starting at Bourbon Street Bar & Grill in University Heights. circle2dot2.com

The Who & The What: An author of a book about women and Islam is at serious odds with her traditional Muslim father and her sister. Opens Feb. 11 at La Jolla Playhouse. lajollaplayhouse.com

The Winter's Tale: A king goes kooky with jealousy, suspecting that his pregnant wife has had



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Theater

Old Globe stages Laura Marks's *Bethany* in the round..... **77**



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Downsized dreams

The play tackles a major contemporary issue head on: living one paycheck away from destitution.

In the New Testament, Bethany was the village on the Mount of Olives where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. In Laura Marks's *Bethany*, young Crystal struggles to keep from falling. Though twice voted salesperson of the month at a Ford dealership, she lost her job, then her home, then her daughter, Bethany. The authorities found them sleeping in a car. When they placed the child in a foster home, Crystal vowed to do anything to get Bethany back. Any thing.

It's 2009. Crystal's cold streak continues. She lands work at a Saturn dealership. Unbeknownst to her, the company will soon go under. So many houses have foreclosed in her small, unnamed city that entire streets are dark at night (at the Old Globe, to reinforce the point, panels display aerial views of tract homes, half of them erased). As resourceful as she is desperate, Crystal chooses a house that still has electricity and moves in. She'll forge a lease, ship-shape the place for the foster child inspectors, and make a home for Bethany.

Along with the slim chance of pulling off that iffy ruse, Crystal has another problem. Homeless Gary, a jittery survivalist, occupies the house already. If she passed him on the street in cheerful economic times, Crystal would speed up. These

days his paranoid ravings about the Military Industrial Complex, the "barter economy to come," and electromagnetic field radiation make a kind of sense to her — though why, after a brief conversation, she decides to share the house with him makes less.

THEATER

JEFF SMITH

Somehow Gary sold her on the idea. In many ways *Bethany* is about buying and selling: of things and schemes, even life

plans. There's a social economy, the play suggests, along with a material one. The three main characters, battered by downsized dreams, try to sell each other visions of the future.

To underline the point, Charlie pretends to buy a high-end Saturn from Crystal. He says he's a "transformative motivational speaker." He urges audiences at Holiday Inns to "turn your life around." But Charlie may not be what he claims. He often rehearses speeches to make them sound spontaneous.

Like Gary, Charlie manages to lead Crystal downward (the males may differ in speech and dress, but they're selfish jerks). Crystal's choices cross the line between "doing anything," and everything else.

Bethany premiered in New York and enjoyed

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There's a social economy, Bethany suggests, along with a material one.

Bethany, by Laura Marks

Old Globe Theatre, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park

Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch; cast: Carlo Alban, DeAnna Driscoll, Jennifer Ferrin, Amanda Naughton, James Shanklin, Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson; scenic design Lauren Helpert; costumes, Sarah J. Holden; lighting, Japhy Weideman; original music and sound, Leon Rothenberg

Playing through February 23; 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. TheOldGlobe.org

a successful run. And the play tackles a major contemporary issue head on: living one paycheck away from destitution. But the loose, wavering version, in the Old Globe's intimate White The-

atre, doesn't work. This is a surprise, because Gaye Taylor Upchurch directed both.

The staging wrestles with the in-the-round configuration. On Lauren Helpert's minimal-



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ist set — awfully clean for an abandoned home — the actors enter from three sets of stairs. The repeated goings and comings take time. Better use of the stage-level entrances would have picked up the pace and sustained suspense.

The play often pauses, but the actors only fill them with mundane business: sweep the floor, clean the kitchen, groceries in the fridge. If these acts have pregnant, Pinteresque import, it's not apparent. They're mostly dead visual air.

As played by Carlo Alban, Jennifer Ferrin, and James Shanklin, Gary, Crystal, and Charlie lack depth. They reflect shifting emotional surfaces but rarely the sense of inner lives struggling with extreme choices, ethical codes, or even the suggestion of thinking.

Alban plays Gary as a watered-down Mark Wahlberg. His hair is too styled for a homeless man, and his outfit should be more distressed. The play works against the character. He's whatever a scene needs: comic figure, sympathetic ear, raging brute.

For a motivational speaker, Shanklin's Charlie lacks any hint of charisma, either genuine or homemade. Ferrin hits the appropriate emotional marks, but plays Crystal almost subtext-free. The trio tone themselves down so much they could

be performing for TV.

A more convincing fight scene might have absolved many flaws. At play's end, Gary and Crystal assault each other. On opening night, Ferrin and Alban looked like they were rehearsing the lengthy sequence in slow motion — I swing the board, you duck — rather than acting them in earnest. It was hard enough to believe that Crystal had any chance against Gary, who may have a military background. The phony, by the numbers fight made it impossible.

Local Bias Alert: three San Diegans were cast in supporting roles. Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (a dignified social worker), Amanda Naughton (Charlie's mousey, understanding wife), and especially DeAnna Driscoll (terrific as Crystal's hip, harsh when need be, and humane sales manager) did themselves, and us, proud. ■

San Diego Reader



- There's a social economy, *Bethany* suggests, along with a material one.
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Downsized dreams

1 0

Old Globe stages Laura Marks's *Bethany* in the round

By [Jeff Smith](#), [Feb. 5, 2014](#)

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Old Globe Theatre, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park

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It's 2009. Crystal's cold streak continues. She lands work at a Saturn dealership. Unbeknownst to her, the company will soon go under. So many houses have foreclosed in her small, unnamed city that entire streets are dark at night (at the Old Globe, to reinforce the point, panels display aerial views of tract homes, half of them erased). As resourceful as she is desperate, Crystal chooses a house that still has electricity and moves in. She'll forge a lease, ship-shape the place for the foster child inspectors, and make a home for Bethany.

Along with the slim chance of pulling off that iffy ruse, Crystal has another problem. Homeless Gary, a jittery survivalist, occupies the house already. If she passed him on the street in cheerful economic times, Crystal would speed up. These days his paranoid ravings about the Military Industrial Complex, the "barter economy to come," and electromagnetic field radiation make a kind of sense to her — though why, after a brief conversation, she decides to share the house with him makes less.

Somehow Gary sold her on the idea. In many ways *Bethany* is about buying and selling: of things and schemes, even life plans. There's a social economy, the play suggests, along with a material one. The three main characters, battered by downsized dreams, try to sell each other visions of the future.

To underline the point, Charlie pretends to buy a high-end Saturn from Crystal. He says he's a "transformative motivational speaker." He urges audiences at Holiday Inns to "turn your life around." But Charlie may not be what he claims. He often rehearses speeches to make them sound spontaneous.

Like Gary, Charlie manages to lead Crystal downward (the males may differ in speech and dress, but they're selfish jerks). Crystal's choices cross the line between "doing anything," and everything else.

Bethany premiered in New York and enjoyed a successful run. And the play tackles a major contemporary issue head on: living one paycheck away from destitution. But the loose, wavering version, in the Old Globe's intimate White Theatre, doesn't work. This is a surprise, because Gaye Taylor Upchurch directed both.

The staging wrestles with the in-the-round configuration. On Lauren Helpert's minimalist set — awfully clean for an abandoned home — the actors enter from three sets of stairs. The repeated goings and comings take time. Better use of the stage-level entrances would have picked up the pace and sustained

suspense.

The play often pauses, but the actors only fill them with mundane business: sweep the floor, clean the kitchen, groceries in the fridge. If these acts have pregnant, Pinteresque import, it's not apparent. They're mostly dead visual air.

As played by Carlo Alban, Jennifer Ferrin, and James Shanklin, Gary, Crystal, and Charlie lack depth. They reflect shifting emotional surfaces but rarely the sense of inner lives struggling with extreme choices, ethical codes, or even the suggestion of thinking.

Alban plays Gary as a watered-down Mark Wahlberg. His hair is too styled for a homeless man, and his outfit should be more distressed. The play works against the character. He's whatever a scene needs: comic figure, sympathetic ear, raging brute.

For a motivational speaker, Shanklin's Charlie lacks any hint of charisma, either genuine or homemade. Ferrin hits the appropriate emotional marks, but plays Crystal almost subtext-free. The trio tone themselves down so much they could be performing for TV.

A more convincing fight scene might have absolved many flaws. At play's end, Gary and Crystal assault each other. On opening night, Ferrin and Alban looked like they were rehearsing the lengthy sequence in slow motion — I swing the board, you duck — rather than acting them in earnest. It was hard enough to believe that Crystal had any chance against Gary, who may have a military background. The phony, by the numbers fight made it impossible.

[Bethany](#)

- [The Old Globe Theatre](#), 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
- \$29 - \$72

Local Bias Alert: three San Diegans were cast in supporting roles. Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (a dignified social worker), Amanda Naughton (Charlie's mousey, understanding wife), and especially DeAnna Driscoll (terrific as Crystal's hip, harsh when need be, and humane sales manager) did themselves, and us, proud.

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Bethany, San Diego

Desperation mixes unsteadily with blind ambition in this uneven, arms-length drama.

By Laura Marks

Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch

The Old Globe (<http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?PID=10534>), San Diego

Jan. 25 – Feb. 23, 2014

There is an emerging genre describing the economic downturn that began in late 2008 and continues today. Mass layoffs, foreclosures, the dystopian trajectory of the banking crisis — we are reliving these nightmares in fiction. Add “Bethany” to the list.

Set in a hopeless any-suburb in early 2009, “Bethany” follows Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) as she struggles to get her life in order. For reasons that are at first obscure, Crystal has decided to squat in a recently foreclosed home. Quite literally, the lights are on but

nobody's home.

Her plans take a turn when she discovers noticeably unstable Gary (Carlo Albán) has already staked out her dream house. Gary is paranoid, suspicious, prone to violence — the perfect roommate. That Crystal is spending more than 30 seconds in the same room with Gary underscores her desperation.

And desperation is what this story is all about. Crystal works as a pure commission salesperson at a failing Saturn dealership. When skeezy motivational speaker Charlie (James Shanklin) expresses interest in a top-of-the-line vehicle, Crystal turns on all her sales charm to close the deal.

As the story unfolds and we learn the roots of Crystal's desperation, it becomes an evolving test to see how far she will go to bring her plans to fruition. We want her to succeed; we just don't want her to do so at any cost.

Ferrin does an admirable job as Crystal, ably making rapid transitions between despairing failure and perky salesbot. Albán seems less comfortable as the unsettling Gary. As for Shanklin, if his goal was to make us want to beat his character without mercy, he succeeds impressively.

The set evokes the cookie cutter suburbia we both dread and aspire to, middle class bordering on squalor. The direction is mostly on point, though the action scenes are less than credible.

In the end, the show gets about halfway to its destination. We empathize with Crystal, feel some anguish at her plight, but don't quite find the emotional resonance. The play allows us to keep our distance, so we do.



Josh Baxt

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Josh Baxt (<http://culturevulture.net/author/joshbaxt/>)

 San Diego, CA

Josh Baxt has an MFA in creative writing from San Diego State University and writes for a local nonprofit. His play, *Like a War*, was produced for the annual Fritz litz. Josh's short fiction has been published in the anthologies *Sunshine Noir* and *Hunger and Thirst*, as well as the journal *City Works*.

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examiner.com

"Bethany": A slice of Americana most would like to ignore.



Jim Cox



Carol Davis
San Diego Theater Examiner

"Bethany"

Rating:

February 3, 2014

San Diego, CA---When something doesn't touch us personally, oft times it's difficult to feel the full impact of say the homeless, jobless, less fortunate. It's not turning a blind eye it just doesn't live our collective consciousness. On the other hand if that was your fortune, or misfortune, you have to live it every day.

In Laura Marks West Coast Premiere of her new play, "Bethany" now showing through Feb. 23rd on the Sheryl and Harvey White Stage of the Old Globe Theatre, the impact of today's economy and the devastation it visits on its citizens is being presented in living color; no holds barred. Director Gaye Taylor Upchurch manages to keep the tension taught while allowing her characters latitude to bring Ms. Marks' story to light.

Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) sells Saturn cars.

On her last job, (that she lost) according to her, she was selling Ford and was employee of the month two months running. Now she is back hustling Saturn's and is barely able to keep her head above water, but remains optimistic on the outside. Her entire world depends on

'closing the deal'. Soon enough this dealership will close, but she doesn't know it yet.

She is bone broke and on the verge of being out on the streets again. She has just settled into some new digs (it's actually one of many foreclosures in any neighborhood) and is ready to set up housekeeping when she meets up with her roommate, Gary (Carlo Albán), who is a walking time bomb. He rants about the downfall of capitalism, the toxins of the military complex, the fate of animals living in a crowded society and on and on. If she had her head on straight, she would have been out in a heartbeat, something Gary offers. "You could live in the park".

The house still has running water and electricity. Gary eats 'C' rations from the Army-Navy store ('they last forever') and is somewhat of a hermit. They share a space together but don't live together, if that makes sense. He was squatting there first and took the 'room upstairs' and she gets the one downstairs, 'the living room carpet is really soft'. Their relationship is tenuous to say the least.

She seems to have a bit of money for cleaning supplies, some rental furniture, just enough to make the place look livable for the social worker Toni (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson) to report back to Social Services that Bethany, her five year old daughter will have a safe place to live.

Bethany is now in foster care as both were found living on the streets in her car. The homeless shelter was too full to accommodate them. Social Services took her daughter and now it's up to her to prove that she is stable enough to have her daughter back with her.

When we see her next at the car dealership she is with a customer, Charlie (James Shanklin) who from all indications, is 'very interested in buying the 'red sporty Sky Redline' fully loaded. Prospects of getting her little girl back look good and Crystal is on the fast track, she hopes, to making a comeback as things are moving in her direction in a positive way. Would that it could be that easy.

A bit about Charlie: Charlie is a middle-aged guy who sells hope in the form of motivational seminars. He is what he calls a "Transformative Motivational Speaker". We first see him standing in front of his bathroom mirror practicing his spiel. You've heard the talk, 'listen to what I have to say and your lives will be changed forever, yadda, yadda, yadda. He calls it 'synchronicity'.

Yup! We now find him at...the Saturn dealership with a wandering eye for Crystal who is so

caught up in her job of selling a car that she fails to pay attention to the intensions of her potential client.

Tasked with a fragile balancing act to get and hold her life together, Crystal is seen maneuvering through a maze of challenges; holding on to a job, keeping Charlie at bay, one way or another, managing Gary's frightening outbursts, coming face to face with Charlie's wife, Patricia (Amanda Naughton) keeping her manager, Shannon (DeAnna Driscoll) convinced that she can do the job and finally (but certainly not least) satisfying Toni's questionnaires along with convincing child protective services that she is a fit mother.

Who ever said that they would do anything to keep their family together, should think twice about taking that literally.

Crystal is one of those statistics that we keep hearing about every time the list of those living on the fringes becomes public. We tisk, tisk, wonder when government agencies will finally kick in and assist, as the numbers keep growing longer. There's nothing wrong with assistance. There is something terribly wrong with being so frightened of losing your precious child that you will do anything and everything to prevent that from happening.

Working with The Women's Project Ms. Marks has honed in on a critical problem we have in this country. Like Crystal, so many are living on the brink of ruin. Ms. Ferrin's Crystal shows what she has many creative tricks up her sleeve; some work, some not so much, but don't tell her she's defeated. Her performance is picture perfect of someone so determined to succeed that one has to wonder what power drugs she is on. On the other hand, one wonders what other choices she might have had.

Judging by his looks Carlo Albán's Gary would be intimidating to anyone in their right mind. How Crystal was able to sleep at night was a mystery to me. Yet, his character is almost comical when listening to him spew his vitriol while circling the wagons. And when he poses as the plumber in her house to satisfy the social worker, it's downright funny.

James Shanklin's Charlie is the perfect sleaze ball. One would never assume subtlety to be his ace in the hole, but Crystal is so determined to make a sale she just about breaks all the rules especially in Gary's eyes.

Local artists Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson's Toni and DeAnna Driscoll's Shannon are perfect as the weary and worn social worker and the cynical dealership manager. Amanda Naughton's

Patricia tries to keep it cool as she confronts Crystal with a sharp blow as to the true nature of her down on his luck husband, but folds after...well I won't spoil the whole story.

Set in the round some scenes are more difficult to see but Lauren Helpert's set design gives an accurate picture of a deserted house not ready for prime time. The Saturn logo is perfect. Japhy Weideman's lighting design keeps us pretty much in the dark when the characters are in the home but turns up the volume at the dealership. Sarah J. Holden's costumes are suitable and Leon Rothenberg's original music and sound design complete the technical aspects of the production.

Flight engineer J. David Brimmer's fight scenes were hidden from my view during the altercation between Crystal and Gary, but that was OK because from the outcome, it sounded and felt pretty brutal. Yes, there is confrontation, some violence and blood.

In the program notes playwright Laura Marks shares her experience of both she and her husband being laid off from their jobs and the psychological affects it had on their family. When one is living the American Dream and unaware that millions more are living the American Nightmare, it's incomprehensible to imagine the things they might do to survive; things that under ordinary circumstances, one would never consider entertaining.

See you at the theatre.

Dates: Through Feb. 25th

Organization: The Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

Phone: 619-234-5623

Production Type: Drama

Where: 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Ticket Prices: Start @ \$29.00

Web: theoldglobe.org

Venue: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre

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“BETHANY” – The Old Globe, “CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY” - Moxie Theatre & “MACBETH” – Intrepid Shakespeare Company

Everybody has an agenda. And when motives clash, bad things can happen to pretty good people. One reckless turn, and the rest of the road can be studded with briars and brambles, blood and tears – even “murder most foul.”

Whether protecting a child, acquiring a crown or trying to maintain a forbidden relationship, passion can be a power for good... or evil.

In the compelling drama, “Bethany,” by Laura Marks, Crystal lost her job. Then her house. Then they took away her daughter. She’ll do anything to get the little girl back. That includes lying, squatting in a foreclosed house, giving away her body, even becoming violent. It’s 2009, the peak of the Great Recession, and desperation is epidemic. Despite a few implausible plot-points, with angel-faced Jennifer Ferrin playing anguished but indomitable Crystal, it’s hard not to feel sympathy, empathy and compassion. Gaye Taylor Upchurch, who directed the New York premiere last year, marshals an excellent cast of six, including three locals, who acquit themselves with aplomb in small but crucial roles. At the Old Globe, the design work is outstanding, the characters sharply etched. This is one intense, edge-of-your-seat, 90-minute, morally slippery cautionary tale.

At Moxie Theatre, director Delicia Turner Sonnenberg brings a light touch and a bit of whimsy to “Crumbs from the Table of Joy,” an early work by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage. Irresistible 18 year-old Jada Temple is the narrator of this coming-of-age memory play about a struggling African American family. The recently widowed, newly religious father and his two teenage daughters relocate from Florida to Brooklyn, to be closer to Father Divine, the real-life, controversial spiritual guru. Soon, a sassy, communist/activist aunt moves in, preaching black empowerment. And then the father unexpectedly brings home a new bride – who’s white and German. It being 1950, havoc ensues, inside and outside the home. The costumes are period-perfect, and as Aunt Lily, Cashae Monya gives a killer performance.

Speaking of killers, Intrepid Shakespeare Company is reprising “Macbeth,” which was their first show four years ago. Now, the historically spooked tragedy is their 13th production. It’s very dark – in every way. The costumes are mostly black; the lighting is dim. The audience flanks the central action, which features some odd directorial choices, most notably, the character Seyton, played as a jocular Satan (his announcement of Lady Macbeth’s death elicits an unnerving laugh from the audience). There’s too much screaming throughout; the half-masked, howling witches are virtually unintelligible. Macbeth and his Lady have no sexual chemistry, which usually heightens their bloody resolve. Sean Yael-Cox and Sandy Campbell are at their best in their madness. The fight scenes are potent, as are the sound design and Banquo’s ghostly appearances.

All three productions show that maintaining moral equilibrium can be hazardous to the health.

Intrepid Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” runs through February 16 at San Dieguito Academy in Encinitas.

“Bethany” plays through February 23 in The Old Globe’s White Theatre.

“Crumbs From The Table Of Joy” continues through March 2 at Moxie Theatre.

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“MAPLE AND VINE” – Cygnet Theatre

Let’s say you’re psychologically over-stressed and technologically over-stimulated. Maybe your hyper-connectivity is making you feel disconnected. You could start up a relationship with your Siri-like operating system, as in the Spike Jonze film, “Her.” Or you could escape to another era entirely, as Jordan Harrison suggests in his 2011 fantasy, “Maple and Vine,” now having its San Diego premiere at Cygnet Theatre.

Set in a virtual world, both stories focus on alienation and authentic interaction. In both, the central characters embrace an imaginary life. The movie protagonist learns that human interactions trump electronic ones after all. In the play, life with fewer options and distractions may be confining, but it’s also liberating.

We first meet Katha, still reeling from the loss of a baby six months ago, as she impulsively walks out on her high-power, high-anxiety job. Almost immediately, she meets a guy from the Society of Dynamic Obsolescence, who invites her to join their gated Midwestern community, where it’s perpetually 1955.

Katha’s Japanese-American husband, Ryu, a disenchanted plastic surgeon, reluctantly and implausibly agrees to give it a six-month trial. She becomes a cheerful, aproned housewife, and he gets a menial factory job putting boxes together. The squeaky-clean world around them is filled with white bread and white gloves, cheese puffs and Dubonnet. Everything is proper and in its place. The gender roles and rules



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CHARLENE BALDRIDGE THEATER REVIEW

The new urban squatters

Pop philosophy, self-delusion, despair, determination and paranoia are just a few of the conditions and survival methods that swirl around the characters in "Bethany," a new play by Juilliard playwright graduate Laura Marks that plays in its West Coast premiere at The Old Globe through Feb. 23. Gaye Taylor Upchurch, who staged the off-Broadway production last year, directs.

Fragmented thoughts and paraphrased platitudes of Marks' characters include the following: "Go with the devil you know." "This is the universe, taking care of me." "You must be ready to receive transmissions." "We met for a reason: there is much we can learn from each other."

The most overtly delusional and quite likely schizophrenic is Gary (darkly threatening Carlo Alban), who blames our society's ills on "the military industrial complex," redolent of so many homegrown terrorists.

It's early 2009 in America, the economy has collapsed, and homeless Gary goes from foreclosed home to foreclosed home, seeking electricity and water and refuge from the streets. Currently, he resides in an upstairs bedroom of such a house in an unoccupied exurban subdivision.

A Saturn salesperson, Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin, who currently plays Louise Ellison on AMC's "Hell on Wheels") is looking for shelter as well, having been foreclosed

"Bethany"

Through Feb. 23
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 Sat 2 & 8 p.m.
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upon. She and Bethany, her little girl, were living in Crystal's car until authorities took the child into protective custody. Crystal has to have a home in which to meet with Toni, the welfare worker (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson) assigned to her case. She would do anything to get her child back. Crystal picks the place already inhabited by Gary, who is, as he puts it, "the devil you know." No dummy and full of ingratiating wiles, Gary plays plumber when Toni calls to interview Crystal.

Meanwhile, at the Saturn dealership run by a woman named Shannon (Deanna Driscoll), Crystal seems close to closing a deal with Charlie (natural James Shanklin, who plays Aaron Hatch on "Hell on Wheels"). Charlie is a

self-help guru whose platitudes are ever more inane while situations collapse as rapidly as the housing market. His deluded wife (Amanda Naughton) says, "He's just not himself right now."

Doggedly, Crystal controls it all, doing whatever she must to achieve her goal, at least until the house of cards collapses along with the Saturn dealership.

The playwright masterfully propels the breathless audience toward their individually imagined mayhem and catastrophic denouement. There is suspense. There is blood. Yes.

Whether the onlooker feels cheated depends upon each one's sensibility and expectations. No matter, it was a jolly good ride.

J. David Brimmer deserves an award for his extraordinary fight

choreography and Leon Rothenberg for his suspenseful original music and sound design. The designers are Lauren Helpen, whose set morphs easily from house to dealership; Sarah J. Holden, whose costume designs support illusions; and Japhy Weideman, whose moody lighting enhances the eeriness of a forsaken neighborhood.

Upchurch understands character and the tonal shifts employed by Marks, who is most certainly a playwright to watch. There is much wisdom and depth in her darkly comedic, gruesome and triumphant exurban tragedy.

Note: The Cabrillo Bridge is currently closed. Closest drop-off point is Alcazar Garden parking lot. ▼



(l to r) Jennifer Ferrin and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson
 (Photo by Jim Cox)



Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal
 (Photo by Jim Cox)

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The new urban squatters

 Posted: February 8th, 2014 | [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Featured](#), [Theater Reviews](#) | [No Comments](#)

Charlene Baldridge | Theater Review

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Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal (Photo by Jim Cox)



(l to r) Jennifer Ferrin and Carlo Albán (Photo by Jim Cox)

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Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson as Toni (Photo by Jim Cox)

"Bethany"

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Let's Review

DIANA SAENGER

Reality hits hard in Globe's 'Bethany'



Although the West Coast premiere of "Bethany" at The Old Globe may entice audiences with its sweet, female title (Bethany refers to a young girl who never appears in Laura Marks' dark thriller), it may leave some patrons aghast.

In the drama directed by Gaye Taylor

Upchurch, Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) suddenly finds herself among the many Americans who learn their hard work is of no worth when they lose their jobs or homes during the recent recession. In one neighborhood, foreclosure after foreclosure has left many of the houses empty.

Crystal sticks a key (never figured out how she got the key) into a door belonging to one of those houses and lets herself in. The furnishings are sparse, but she checks the refrigerator and a cabinet, and finds some food items.

Suddenly, a man comes running down the stairs with a board in his hand and begins screaming at Crystal and trying to hit her with the board. She eventually calms the man, who she learns is Gary (Carlo Alban). He confesses he's homeless and not leaving this residence, so she talks

him into letting her stay, as well.

Crystal soon discovers that Gary is mentally unstable. He constantly rants about the government controlling the people and taking away their freedoms. Crystal realizes she'll never get Gary to leave, so she walks on tiptoes to keep things manageable.

We learn that Crystal has lost

custody of her 5-year-old daughter and needs a home to get her child back.

To fool the social worker Toni (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson) and pull this off, Crystal needs money that she hopes will

If you go

- **What:** "Bethany"
- **When:** Matinees, evenings to Feb. 23
- **Where:** Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
- **Tickets:** From \$29
- **Box Office:** (619) 23-GLOBE
- **Website:** www.TheOldGlobe.org

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Jennifer Ferrin (Crystal) and Carlo Albán (Gary) knock heads. JIM COX

come through soon. Crystal is a car salesperson and has a rich man on the hook.

Charlie (James Shanklin) likes the car he sees, but has bigger eyes for Crystal. One evening, he schemes his way to her house and gives her an ultimatum: He'll buy the car if she sleeps with him. Crystal is in for a few surprises concerning her job and the car sale ...

Will Crystal make the sale? Will she get

her daughter back? And can she handle it when Gary goes so far off his rocker that her life is in danger?

Not to be a spoiler, but there were some big open mouths at the end of the last act. I wasn't the only one to be utterly taken aback, wondering why there were missing elements in the play that could have smoothed out the results. This is a drama for mature audiences only. ♦

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Let's Review: Reality hits hard in Globe's 'Bethany'



Jennifer Ferrin (Crystal) and Carlo Albán (Gary) knock heads. Jim Cox

If you go

- **What:** "Bethany"
- **When:** Matinees, evenings to Feb. 23
- **Where:** Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park
- **Tickets:** From \$29
- **Box Office:** (619) 23-GLOBE
- **Website:** www.TheOldGlobe.org

By Diana Saenger

Although the West Coast premiere of "Bethany" at The Old Globe may entice audiences with its sweet, female title (Bethany refers to a young girl who never appears in Laura Marks' dark thriller), it may leave some patrons aghast.

In the drama directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) suddenly finds herself among the many Americans who learn their hard work is of no worth when they lose their jobs or homes during the recent recession. In one neighborhood, foreclosure after foreclosure has left many of the houses empty.

Crystal uses a credit card to jimmy the lock open on a door belonging to one of those houses and lets herself in. The furnishings are sparse, but she checks the refrigerator and a cabinet, and finds some food items.

Suddenly, a man comes running down the stairs with a board in his hand and begins screaming at Crystal and trying to hit her with the board. She eventually calms the man, who she learns is Gary (Carlo Alban). He confesses he's homeless and not leaving this residence, so she talks him into letting her stay, as well.

Crystal soon discovers that Gary is mentally unstable. He constantly rants about the government controlling the people and taking away their freedoms. Crystal realizes she'll never get Gary to leave, so she walks on tiptoes to keep things manageable.

We learn that Crystal has lost custody of her 5-year-old daughter and needs a home to get her child back.

To fool the social worker Toni (Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson) and pull this off, Crystal needs money that she hopes will come through soon. Crystal is a car salesperson and has a rich man on the hook.

Charlie (James Shanklin) likes the car he sees, but has bigger eyes for Crystal. One evening, he schemes his way to her house and gives her an ultimatum: He'll buy the car if she sleeps with him. Crystal is in for a few surprises concerning her job and the car sale ...

Will Crystal make the sale? Will she get her daughter back? And can she handle it when Gary goes so far off his rocker that her life is in danger?

Not to be a spoiler, but there were some big open mouths at the end of the last act. I wasn't the only one to be utterly taken aback, wondering why there were missing elements in the play that could have smoothed out the results. This is a drama for mature audiences only.

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Addicted
to it



By Khea Pollard
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Sometimes I think I should just delete my Facebook, deactivate my out of date but still existing MySpace page and completely disconnect from Twitter. I am not very active on any of these sites. I use them to keep tabs on what’s happening, what people are doing, what’s hot and what’s new. It’s stalker-ish really. A good way to keep my nose wedged inconspicuously in the business of others from a comfortable distance. But I’m only capable of keeping tabs on those willing to bare their souls online. It’s a way for me and others to get to know you without really knowing you. The ‘networking’ portion of the phrase social networking is silent.

I consider myself a very private person. I don’t have the desire to post statuses for people I don’t speak to, or post an identical selfie every day of the week. If I really need to speak to you I have your phone number, and I’ll use it. Call it a personality quirk. The ways in which we use social media have distorted its value. From inception the internet was the prime vessel for networking, aiding in the creation of productive business relationships. Today we share everything from Vines to Buzzfeed quizzes. Even our most minute thoughts are worthy of publication.

In some countries social media is utilized in the classroom. Sandvika High School in Norway uses social media to connect with other administrators from schools around the world. On teaching blogs they seek advice about lesson plans and activities to share with their students in the classroom. Similarly, students at this school are encouraged to keep blogs where they post their homework and it is subsequently commented on and graded. Another teacher at Bett from Burntwood School in the UK hosts question and answer sessions on twitter before his exams.

Social media used in this way can be beneficial. Lesson plans are more accessible to students outside the classroom, and students get their questions answered instantly in the form of a tweet. Still, in my eyes, nothing beats a good old handwritten message. When we are writing something down, there is a connection between our brain and our hand that is primary. It’s indescribable and incomparable to eyes on a backlit screen and hands on computer keys. Unfortunately we’ve spent the last decade rerouting that connection. Our qwerty keyboards are our new appendages.

We know how to navigate a network but we’re failing in basic conversation. If we’re giving kids tablets and twitter early on because it’s convenient, we’re dictating to them that this an acceptable way to connect with others. The easier medium of communication wins. Instead of searching for sitting down with our teachers and discussing our work, or looking for searching for people to chat with at the Immaculata fountain, we’re searching for wifi.

I suppose that’s where our society is headed. We live in a very individualistic nation where most daily activities are done solo. Many of us feel like it’s us against the world and we feel pressure to rise to the top ten percent of our class. I’ve been told USD students are unfriendly. I both agree and disagree with this statement. Generally speaking, many students on this campus, myself included, are not as outright friendly as students on other campuses. When you engage the right USD student in conversation for an extended period of time, you often discover we are pretty nice. Whether this is a USD thing, or a San Diego thing, remains to be seen. Yet we are all over the social networks, connecting, sharing, and I see familiar faces every day on this small private campus.

Because of Facebook, I know a significant amount of information about people whom I’ve only spoken to once. This becomes incredibly boring. Where’s the mystery? Social networking sucks the fun out of basic human interaction. We should connect with our mouths not our fingers. Alas, if we can’t stop the runaway train that is social media, we may as well climb aboard. Now, I’m going to go check my newsfeed.

Bethany will leave you wanting more

The Old Globe Theatre premieres the dark comedy Bethany

By Vincent Vidaurri
CONTRIBUTOR

The latest tale of desperation and betrayal has reached The Old Globe Theater. The dark comedy “Bethany” opened Jan. 31 to exuberant crowds. “Bethany” revolves around Crystal, a woman down on her luck, fighting for stability in her life. Though she is on the verge of losing her job at a Saturn dealership, Crystal needs to find a place of her own. She finds a home, only the place she’s chosen is a recently foreclosed home already occupied by a homeless squatter named Gary.

The two form an unlikely friendship and agree to live to together to support one another. Crystal eventually reveals to Gary she needs the house to reclaim custody of her daughter, Bethany. Running low on money and time, Crystal believes the substantial commission from the sale of an expensive new car will be the end of her problems.

Soon after, Crystal meets Charlie, a suave professional speaker, who agrees to buy a car with the condition that she sleep with him. A love triangle ensues between the three characters and emotions run wild. Gary’s unhinged temperament, Charlie’s unabashed pursuit of his desires and Crystal’s willingness to do anything to survive leads to a climax resolved only in the final scenes of the play.

The play is full of superb acting from a seasoned cast of actors. Two time Emmy winner, Jennifer Ferrin plays Crystal, perfectly capturing the frustration and desperation of a mother willing to do anything for her child. Throughout the play, the anxiety in her eyes was visible, imploring the audience to feel compassionately for her character. Carlo Albán as Gary, delivers most of the play’s comedic relief, with his tactless one-liners and ludicrous government conspiracy theories. He brings an abundance of raw emotion to the his portrayal of a troubled and mentally ill homeless man.

Japhy Weideman and Leon Rothenberg designed the production’s lighting, music and sound. At times, it was their design that single handedly set the play’s atmosphere, heightening the emotion of each scene. The musical scores and lighting came together to create the play’s most entrancing and exhilarating scenes. The night scenes, where only light of the moon shone down and the ambient noise of night, immersed the audience and set the mood. These scenes transformed the audience from passive watchers to an active players in the characters’ lives.

“Bethany” is not a lighthearted and carefree play. It is an emotional ride, a production that is full of gut wrenching and heart pounding energy. It demands the audience’s attention to the stage for 90 minutes. “Bethany” is a remarkably original production with unexpected plot twists and surprisingly rousing ending that evokes unexpected emotion. The ending leaves the audience questioning the future of the characters after their lives have been so drastically altered. Production will continue at The Old Globe Theater until Feb. 23.



Photo Courtesy of Jim Cox

Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Carlo Albán as Gary in the West Coast Premiere of Laura Marks' Bethany, directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, Jan. 25 - Feb. 23, 2014 at The Old Globe.



Photos Courtesy of Jim Cox

(from left) Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Sylvia M'LafiThompson as Toni in the West Coast Premiere of Laura Marks' Bethany

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Bethany will leave you wanting more

February 5, 2014 by [theusdvista](#)

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(from left) Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson as Toni in the West Coast Premiere of Mark's Bethany, directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, Jan. 25 – Feb. 23, 2014 at The Old Globe. Photo by J

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Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Carlo Albán as Gary in the West Coast Premiere of Laura Marks' *Bethany*, by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, Jan. 25 – Feb. 23, 2014 at The Old Globe.

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“Bethany” Review

Story by [Elise Echeverria](#), Staff Writer • February 12, 2014 • [Leave a Comment](#)



Photo by theoldglobe

The Old Globe's production of "Bethany" instantly immerses the audience in a scene that might not typically be brought to mind when thinking of theater: A business woman and a homeless man crossing paths in the empty home they have broken into.

The play holds the audience in suspense, revealing little about the motives of the main character, Crystal, whose determined personality is uncovered more with each scene. Underlying themes, mostly regarding the atrocities the nation's obsession with wealth as well as the recent housing crisis have caused, are seen throughout the play. The plot takes dramatic twists with every scene becoming more desperate and dark with each turn.

As an audience member, my perception of Crystal drastically evolved. At first she appeared a desperate, but innocent, mother willing to do anything for her child. However, by the end she had spiraled into a sinister sequence of dark decisions that made me question my ability to forgive her.

The further into the play, the more obscene, immoral and violent the actions of the characters became. Although the overt violence, profane language, and suggestive actions could at times make the audience feel uncomfortable, it forced them to truly evaluate the haunting message the writer and director were trying to send: that greed and desperation can cause people to resort to terribly drastic measures.

The acting was phenomenal, especially Jennifer Ferrin's portrayal of Crystal. She took the audience on a convincing emotional journey that revealed how powerful a mother's instinct and desire for society's definition of wealth can be. Ultimately, the performance compelled the audience to consider an uncomfortable, but important idea: Society has conformed us to define security and success as material wealth.

"Bethany" will be playing through Sunday, Feb. 23, in both the [Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre](#) and the [Conrad Prebys Theatre Center](#).

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#BETHANY

A fresh and honest cautionary tale

DAVID DIXON
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In the spirit of “the show must go on,” I saw “Bethany” at The Old Globe Theatre the evening that prop master Seamus O’Bryan died in a hit-and-run motorcycle accident. The only evidence that something tragic occurred was the grief etched on the faces of the cast as they took their final bows.

Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) lives in a

foreclosed house with a squatter, Gary (Carlo Alban), after the American real estate crisis of 2009. She is an optimistic and mysterious worker at a Saturn dealership whose reasons for living such an unusual lifestyle are unclear. Her personal and professional lives begin to spiral out of control when she tries to sell a sports car to a motivational speaker, Charlie (James Shanklin).

The subject matter regarding poverty makes Laura Marks’ script timely.

Through Crystal and Gary, the audience sees how they are affected by the Great Recession. Crystal tries to maintain a positive attitude, while Gary is an antisocial loner who believes in bizarre conspiracy theories that make him come across as a dangerous loser.

“Bethany” also works as a character study. Crystal appears to have it all together in spite of her situation, but is hiding information about her past. Her secret provides the emotional center of the tale.

Ferrin, who some might know from the AMC television series “Hell on Wheels,” infuses Crystal with an immensely likeable presence. Her outlook allows viewers to always be on her side, even when the situations become more surreal.

Alban makes Gary a spooky antisocial oddball with a big temper. His melancholy facial expressions make him occasionally empathetic, even though clearly he is mentally unstable.

Shanklin’s sly delivery makes him believable as a man trying to inspire men and women. His role leads to some shocking revelations.

Director Gaye Taylor Upchurch’s staging is minimal, but effective. He uses Lauren Helpert’s scenic design and Japhy

Weideman’s lighting to expertly handle the contrasts between Crystal’s dark abode and the significantly brighter car dealership.

A problem I do have is with the

Crystal tries to maintain a positive attitude, while Gary is an antisocial loner who believes in bizarre conspiracy theories ...



Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) and Gary (Carlo Alban) star in this drama. PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM COX

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ATTENTION: ALL SDSU STUDENTS

All SDSU students are invited to attend advisory open forums to solicit student input on the following proposed increase in campus mandatory student fees:

Shall a new mandatory Student Success Fee be established effective Fall 2014? The proposed fee level per semester, if this fee is approved, will be determined through a series of public forums and consultations with interested regularly- enrolled students at San Diego State University, except those exclusively attending Imperial Valley Campus.

OPEN FORUM TIMES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	HOST ORGANIZATION
Thursday, Feb. 13	12:30 pm	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	
Thursday, Feb. 13	4:00 pm	Theatre, Aztec Student Union	Graduate Student Association
Friday, Feb. 14	10:00 am	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	
Monday, Feb. 17	10:00 am	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	
Monday, Feb. 17	1:00pm	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	College of Professional Studies & Fine Arts Student Council
Tuesday, Feb. 18	10:00 am	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	College of Health & Human Services Council
Tuesday, Feb. 18	1:00 pm	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	Associated Business Students Council
Wednesday, Feb. 19	12:00 pm	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	
Wednesday, Feb. 19	4:00 pm	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	Honors Council
Thursday, Feb. 20	8:30 am	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	
Thursday, Feb. 20	4:00 pm	Theatre, Aztec Student Union	College of Education Student Council
Friday, Feb. 21	12:00 pm	Templo Mayor, Aztec Student Union	

Please attend one of the scheduled open forums to learn about the proposed fee increase, ask questions and have your voice heard.

Please bring your current SDSU Card ID to the forum of your choosing.

To review additional information about the proposed fee increase, visit <http://studentsuccessfee.sdsu.edu>. Forum dates, times and locations are subject to change.

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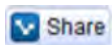
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A problem I do have is with the marketing of “Bethany.” It is being labeled as a dark comedy, though the production is really an intense drama. Marks’ dialogue includes situational humor and sharp satire, but there are many scenes that are uncomfortable to watch that have little to no laughs.

“Bethany” deals with complex subject matter with a consistently captivating heroine and a creepy and unforgettable supporting role. It is a testament to everyone involved that the evening went off without a hitch, even though a horrific event happened earlier that day. O’Bryan will be missed.

Also read: [Heart-to-heart with Aztec star](#)

Photo courtesy of Jim Cox

PLAY REVIEW



PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE

BETHANY

★★★★

Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch
Written by Laura Marks
Cast Jennifer Ferrin, Carlo Alban, DeAnna Driscoll, Amanda Naughton, James Shanklin, Sylvia M’Lafi Thompson
Runs Jan. 25 to Feb. 23
Location The Old Globe Theatre

Five years ago, Laura Marks lost her job in the financial sector to the recession. Naturally, she turned to her lifelong passion for theater to alleviate the stresses of unemployment, a transition that culminated in the play “Bethany.” Inspired by post-layoff anxieties, “Bethany” is a complicated drama that attempts to tackle the still-sensitive topic of the 2007 housing crisis but has difficulty grounding itself in reality. The story centers around Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin of AMC’s “Hell on Wheels”), a Saturn saleswoman, and her struggle to regain her footing after losing her home to the recession.

In her efforts to turn her life around, she finds herself squatting in the suburbs with Gary (Carlo Alban), a paranoid conspiracy theorist with a penchant for swinging planks at intruders. With a sitcom-style premise like that, “Bethany” fails to really address the issue of the housing crisis (it becomes confusing whether this was the play’s intent at all) and instead detours into an alternately dark and jarringly blithe tale of the frightening depths to which Crystal is willing to go to survive. Because of this focus, Crystal is the only character who enjoys fully fleshed-out development; the rest of the cast are criminally underutilized, and Marks doesn’t quite know what to do with them. Gary, in particular, suffers from superficial writing, becoming an expendable, “fight-the-Man” caricature. Meanwhile, James Shanklin’s Charlie, a questionable motivational speaker, is entertainingly sleazy until the character takes a repulsive turn in the latter half of the play. One-dimensional characters aside, the play is partially salvaged by Ferrin’s powerful portrayal of Crystal’s escalating desperation; Ferrin is consistently strong until the final few scenes, when she (and the play) begins to lose credibility with the audience. In the last quarter of the play, the task of suspending the audience’s disbelief is made increasingly impossible

as the action dissolves into a bewildering and abruptly violent conclusion that takes Crystal’s moral ambiguity perhaps a step too far. Though bogged down by a clumsy script, the staging in “Bethany” is very effective — light and sound are highlights of the production that accurately manipulate the atmosphere of key scenes. Noteworthy mention goes to sound staging during scene transitions, in which the music blasting through overpowering surround sound fades to tinny, in-store pop as we cut from the house to the Saturn dealership. Overall, however, small moments when individual pieces of the production shine aren’t enough to gloss over the play’s jarring problems. That the story strays from its own premise and offers no insight on the housing crisis only adds confusion to a plot that already suffers from a relatively short, hour-and-a-half running time. Cuts made from the original Off-Broadway version scrap crucial context that help justify Crystal’s actions, ultimately creating an unsympathetic heroine whose actions leave the audience disoriented and unpleasantly bewildered.

— RACHEL HUANG
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

AYAD AKHTAR

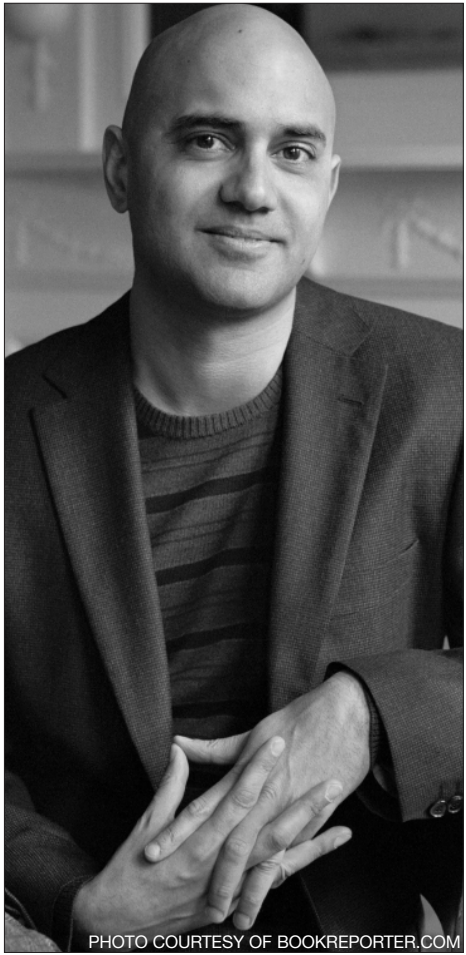


PHOTO COURTESY OF BOOKREPORTER.COM

As if receiving the crown of a Pulitzer Prize for Drama last year wasn’t enough, Ayad Akhtar has found success in his series of works. With a penchant for exploring cultural identities in the Muslim-American community, the writer of the 2012 novel “American Dervish” and the Pulitzer-winning play “Disgraced” has just debuted his second play, “The Who and the What,” at the La Jolla Playhouse on Feb. 11. Focusing on women in Muslim-American culture, the play follows Zarina, who clashes with her family when she writes a book about women and Islam, creating a rift between traditional family values and contemporary society.

Guardian: What were your inspirations in writing the play “The Who and the What”? Were there any significant events in your life that influenced the writing?
Ayad Akhtar: I’ve always wanted to write a story about relationships in the Muslim-American community. It came to me as I was in a cab; I was looking at the television, you know the ones in those cabs, and there was an ad for “Kiss Me Kate,” which is based off “The Taming of the Shrew.” I think it’s a great play, but it just doesn’t respond to where gender policies are today amongst certain men and women. I realized the gender policies in “The Taming of the Shrew” make perfect sense in the context of the culture that I come from.

G: A lot of your work deals with Islamic culture, whether it’s identity, religion or integration. What kinds of discussions are you looking to create with your

play from people who see your work?
AA: You know, what I really want to do is create an absorbing experience for the audience. I want them to be engaged on many levels and whatever conversation they have after; I don’t want to convey a particular message. I just want the audience to experience, as deeply as they can, the story. I don’t think of my stories or my characters as exhibitions or items in which the audience comes and looks. It’s really about leading the audience to a place of union, if possible. The Muslim-American identity is almost secondary to the universality of it.

G: In “The Who and the What,” you’re exploring Muslim-American culture and intersectionality with gender. What was your inspiration to write about this topic?
AA: I’m a writer, so I sometimes write about writers, and [the main character Zarina is] a writer. The issue of femininity in Islam is a longstanding theme in all my work.
G: How was the reaction to your works in general, from your own community and the outside public?
AA: I think it’s complicated; I think some people appreciate it a lot, and other people feel like they have some problems with the way I’m going about it. I think there’s a lot of complaints amongst people who are not happy with what I’m doing — that I’m airing dirty laundry. But that’s what writers do: They uncover the larger picture of what’s happening in a community.

G: How have you reacted to all this success and attention?
AA: It’s a learning curve. It’s nice that people are paying attention now, so I have the opportunity of doing what I’m doing, but with new scrutiny comes new challenges. What I try to stay focused on is becoming a better writer.

“The Who and the What” will be playing at the La Jolla Playhouse Feb. 11 and March 9.

BY CHRISTIAN GELLA
STAFF WRITER

Q&A

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Play Review: "Bethany"

Written by: Rachel Huang



Directed by **Gaye Taylor Upchurch**

Written by **Laura Marks**

Cast **Jennifer Ferrin, Carlo Alban, DeAnna Driscoll, Amanda Naughton, James Shanklin, Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson**

Runs **Jan.25 to Feb. 23**

Location **The Old Globe Theatre**

Five years ago, Laura Marks lost her job in the financial sector to the recession. Naturally, she turned to her lifelong passion for theater to alleviate the stresses of unemployment, a transition that culminated in the play "Bethany."

Inspired by post-layoff anxieties, "Bethany" is a complicated drama that attempts to tackle the still-sensitive topic of the 2007 housing crisis but has difficulty grounding itself in reality. The story centers around Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin of AMC's "Hell on Wheels"), a Saturn saleswoman, and her struggle to regain her footing after losing her home to the recession. In her efforts to turn her life around, she finds herself squatting in the suburbs with Gary (Carlo Alban), a paranoid conspiracy theorist with a penchant for swinging planks at intruders.

With a sitcom-style premise like that, "Bethany" fails to really address the issue of the housing crisis (it becomes confusing whether this was the play's intent at all) and instead detours into an alternately dark and jarringly blithe tale of the frightening depths to which Crystal is willing to go to survive. Because of this focus, Crystal is the only character who enjoys fully fleshed-out development; the rest of the cast are criminally underutilized, and Marks doesn't quite know what to do with them. Gary, in particular, suffers from superficial writing, becoming an expendable, "fight-the-Man" caricature. Meanwhile, James Shanklin's Charlie, a questionable motivational speaker, is entertainingly sleazy until the

character takes a repulsive turn in the latter half of the play.

One-dimensional characters aside, the play is partially salvaged by Ferrin's powerful portrayal of Crystal's escalating desperation; Ferrin is consistently strong until the final few scenes, when she (and the play) begins to lose credibility with the audience. In the last quarter of the play, the task of suspending the audience's disbelief is made increasingly impossible as the action dissolves into a bewildering and abruptly violent conclusion that takes Crystal's moral ambiguity perhaps a step too far.

Though bogged down by a clumsy script, the staging in "Bethany" is very effective — light and sound are highlights of the production that accurately manipulate the atmosphere of key scenes. Noteworthy mention goes to sound staging during scene transitions, in which the music blasting through overpowering surround sound fades to tinny, in-store pop as we cut from the house to the Saturn dealership.

Overall, however, small moments when individual pieces of the production shine aren't enough to gloss over the play's jarring problems. That the story strays from its own premise and offers no insight on the housing crisis only adds confusion to a plot that already suffers from a relatively short, hour-and-a-half running time. Cuts made from the original Off-Broadway version scrap crucial context that help justify Crystal's actions, ultimately creating an unsympathetic heroine whose actions leave the audience disoriented and unpleasantly bewildered.

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FEATURES

A NEW FEMALE VOICE HAS ARRIVED

BETHANY

MAKES ITS WEST COAST PREMIERE AT THE OLD GLOBE!

by lisa lipsey

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A NEW FEMALE VOICE HAS ARRIVED

[0] January 17, 2014 | [The Rage](#)

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~ by lisa lipsey ~



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Upchurch chatted with *The Rage Monthly* about bringing the show to The Old Globe:

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'Bethany' Set for West Coast Premiere at the Old Globe

by Lisa Lipsey
Rage Monthly
Saturday Jan 18, 2014

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Client Name: The Old Globe
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Real-life-inspired
'Bethany' gets its
West Coast premiere
at the Old Globe
E5



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Tobias Segal and America Ferrera starred in the Women's Project staging of "Bethany," written by Laura Marks. CAROL ROSEGG



Holding on for life

Playwright Laura Marks' world was jostled by economic crash, so she tapped into those scary times for 'Bethany'



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JAMES HEBERT • U-T

Before Laura Marks sat down to write about the great American economic crash, she lived it. You'll be glad to know she did not actually cause it, although the playwright jokes that in a certain way, she symbolized the mindset behind the meltdown. □ Marks was working for a big corporate real-estate firm in New York five years ago when, like countless others in the financial sector and beyond, she was laid off. □ As tough as the experience was for a working mother of two young girls, Marks has no misgivings about that part of her life now: "I was very grateful to have a job," she says. "And I learned a lot — stuff I would've never learned otherwise, because I really have no natural bent for finance."

She adds with a laugh: "You know, hiring me to work at a place like that is classic bubble thinking. There's the problem right there — don't hire some liberal-arts person!"

If that's true, the industry likely won't get a chance to make the same mistake again: Faced with all that involuntary time off, Marks carved out a brand-new career for herself in theater.

The first version of her play "Bethany," about an economically distressed woman on a mission, got Marks into the drama program at New York's esteemed Juilliard School. The finished



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What she knew was she had a story to tell, and an opportunity — an uncertain, nerve-racking one, maybe, but an opportunity

nonetheless — to tell it.

As it happened, Marks’ husband, the actor Ken Marks, also was out of work, having been a cast member of “Hairspray” when it closed that same January. (He eventually would end up in the world-premiere Women’s Project staging of “Bethany,” after a long stint in the musical “Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark.”)

“Fortunately, we had unemployment insurance, and I had a little severance pay,” the playwright says. “But we were like, ‘Wow, how is this really going to work, with a family of four?’ We had two small children and a mortgage.

SEE ‘BETHANY’ • E7



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“Bethany”

When: Previews begin Saturday. Opens Jan. 30. 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays (plus 2 p.m. Feb. 12); 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays. (No matinees Jan. 25-26 or Feb. 15.) Through Feb. 23. | **Where:** Old Globe Theatre's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park.
Tickets: About \$29-\$72 (discounts available) | **Phone:** (619) 234-5623 | **Online:** theoldglobe.org

'Bethany' opens window onto fight to survive

Playwright Marks wrote Globe piece after losing job in financial industry

By [James Hebert \(/staff/james-hebert/\)](/staff/james-hebert/) 3:57 p.m. Jan. 17, 2014



Carlo Albán, DeAnna Driscoll, Amanda Naughton, James Shanklin, Jennifer Ferrin and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson make up the cast of the Old Globe's "Bethany." — *Jim Cox*

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"Fortunately, we had unemployment insurance, and I had a little severance pay," the playwright says. "But we were like, 'Wow, how is this really going to work, with a family of four?' We had two small children and a mortgage.

"So it was a scary time, but it was also kind of a fertile time to write a play. In a weird way, the unemployment and severance

subsidized the time to write this play — and the fear motivated the play.”

Real-life parallels

“Bethany” centers on a struggling car saleswoman named Crystal (played at the Globe by Emmy nominee Jennifer Ferrin of AMC-TV’s “Hell on Wheels”), who is driven to put key pieces of her life back together. (Because the play hinges on some plot twists — one of which involves the title — Marks is reluctant to see too much revealed.)

To bring some stability to her existence (or at least the appearance of it), she has moved into a home that doesn’t exactly belong to her. And she’s forced to share it with a fellow interloper named Gary (New York stage veteran Carlo Albán), while dealing with the machinations of a motivational speaker and potential client named Charlie (James Shanklin, another “Hell on Wheels” cast member and a seasoned New York actor).

In a welcome nod to the depth of San Diego’s own acting community, the “Bethany” cast also features three accomplished locals — DeAnna Driscoll (as Shannon), Amanda Naughton (Patricia) and Sylvia M’Lafi Thompson (Toni).

Gaye Taylor Upchurch, who directed the play off-Broadway, returns to stage the Globe production.

Marks talks of two real-life inspirations for writing “Bethany.” The first came when, while she was still in the financial business, she heard a wealthy executive tell colleagues that “people in other parts of the country aren’t hurting the way we are in New York.”

Marks was dumbfounded: “I just realized, this guy has no frame of reference for the people who can’t afford to put gas in their cars. Or the people who are losing their homes. I mean, he just doesn’t see that.”

But “the thing that really got me sparked to write the play was when I read a news story about people squatting in foreclosed houses,” Marks says.

“I thought, wow, that’s a really evocative premise for a play. And also perhaps a strategy I should file away for the future,” she says with a rueful chuckle. “Fortunately, it never got to that.”

Once Marks graduated from Juilliard, she took a cue from Crystal and started marketing “Bethany.” Hard.

“The play had, I believe, 15 readings all told,” Marks says. “I went everywhere that asked me. (Crystal) is a saleswoman, and that’s what I was. I went around with my hat in my hand doing a staged reading anyplace that would have me.”

Part of that involved developing an identity for “Bethany,” a play that doesn’t fit into any easy category. Even the playwright struggles a bit to define it.

“If I had to put it in any label box, I might say ‘thriller,’ ” Marks says. “Maybe that’s wishful thinking on my part. Maybe it’s (actually) the kiddie roller coaster. But ... maybe tragicomedy?”

“I don’t know. It’s definitely got some lighter moments. I mean, I think life is like that — I don’t think life lends itself to easy categorization. I’m not sure that plays need to, either.”

She does note that “there’s a lot of tension in the play, and you really see the screws tighten on this heroine. So I feel as though the moments where you can release that tension for a second are important, you know?”

Marks also says that while she didn’t set out to write a “message” play, “I think maybe it was subconsciously political. I was just sort of writing what I saw and felt, and it wasn’t until I got pretty far into it that I realized people would see their own communities in it.”

Director Upchurch says that to her, the play works on both intimate and near-universal levels.

“I do feel that Laura’s play is a very personal, private story of this woman,” Upchurch says. “But she’s touching on these enormous topics — socioeconomic conditions, the way we care about people, the American dream.

“I think it’s certainly a look at the landscape — it’s a hard look at the urban landscape now. It’s (also) a little bit of a historical piece,” being set in 2009. “Unfortunately, I think it’s still more relevant now than we thought it would be at this point.”

If economic circumstances haven’t changed radically for a lot of people, “Bethany” has meant this for its writer: A golden résumé-booster that means she’ll likely never return to the industry that tossed her out.

“Knock on wood, I think it has broken me free,” Marks says. “Now I put ‘playwright’ on my tax return. And it feels so good.”

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Old Globe hosting mayoral talk on housing

Free public forum is tied to West Coast premiere of 'Bethany'

By [James Hebert \(/staff/james-hebert/\)](/staff/james-hebert/) 3:30 p.m. Jan. 23, 2014



A scene from the 2013 Women's Project world premiere of "Bethany." The Old Globe Theatre is staging the West Coast premiere of the Laura Marks play. — *Carol Rosegg*

A housing crisis is the catalyst for the play "Bethany," which begins performances this week at the Old Globe Theatre.

And housing issues are at the heart of a special community forum the Globe will host at 6 p.m. Feb. 3.

Panelists for "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing" will include Todd Gloria, San Diego's interim mayor; Susan Riggs, executive director of the San Diego Housing Federation; and Debbie Ruane, senior vice president of real estate for the San Diego Housing Commission.

The Globe says the discussion will cover housing affordability, homelessness and related topics, with "Bethany" as a jumping-off point.

"Laura Marks' 'Bethany' uses the theater to examine an important national issue: the crisis in affordable housing," Globe artistic director Barry Edelstein said in a statement.

"We're thrilled to host a special forum on that topic in conjunction with the show, and we're honored to welcome Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and other leaders on the housing issue to the Globe to help our audience learn more, and to better serve our community through our art."

Although the event is free, reservations are required: email RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org.

RELATED: Read about how Marks was inspired to write the play in [our preview story on "Bethany."](http://web.utsandiego.com/news/2014/Jan/17/old-globe-theatre-bethany-laura-marks-preview/) (<http://web.utsandiego.com/news/2014/Jan/17/old-globe-theatre-bethany-laura-marks-preview/>)

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Emmy-nominated actress takes the lead in Old Globe's Bethany

By Diana Saenger

With the West Coast premiere of “Bethany,” The Old Globe Theatre’s Artistic Director Barry Edelstein continues his mission to bring new voices in the American theater to San Diego. Written by Laura Marks and directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, the drama runs through Feb. 23 at the The Old Globe’s Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.



TV, film and stage actor Jennifer Ferrin plays a single mother who is down on her luck in 'Bethany.'

Jim Cox

When bright, hard-working Crystal (Jennifer Ferrin) falls on bad times, she moves into a suburban house with a kind stranger. Her new roommate, Gary (Carlo Albán), turns out not to be what she expected. What lies ahead for Crystal unfolds through the journey of “Bethany.”

Television, film and stage actress Ferrin is rarely without a project. She has a continuing job on “Hell on Wheels”; will appear in the series “The Knick,” directed by Steven Soderbergh; has played in “The Following,” “Life on Mars,” “Royal Pains,” “The Good Wife,” “Unforgettable,” “White Collar,” “Nurse Jackie,” and “Boardwalk Empire” — to name a few.

“ ‘Bethany’ ” is just right for me,” she said. “I’ve been looking for a play with a small ensemble, and I’m very excited to work with a female director. There’s a part in the play that talks about the power of positive thinking. I really believe in that because I was really putting this vibe out there to work on this kind of project and it came my way.”

Ferrin characterizes Crystal as a woman

dedicated to her job, though the balance of wanting to enjoy it as well as her personal life, is a struggle. “I think most women are trying to accomplish this and often without support,” Ferrin said. “A lot of Crystal’s

strength comes from being able to do that. She has so much at stake and goes through so much, and that's what drew me to this play. Because I have to constantly navigate throughout her journey, it makes the work exciting and worth the effort.

"Crystal is an optimist whose charm and ability as a sales woman is at the forefront of who she is and how she moves through life. It will be interesting for the audience to see how she comes up against some real struggles where her attributes no longer work. Watching Crystal persevere with drive

and passion in these circumstances will be an inspiration to those in the theater."

Ferrin said she met director Upchurch at school, became friends, and worked with her at the Lincoln Center on "The Language of Angels."

"I had seen 'Bethany' in New York, and was adamant that I wanted to work with Gaye," Ferrin said. "She's an incredible generous director and she never makes you feel like you made a mistake, she just steers you toward a better choice — and that is such a positive experience. "

Ferrin has been nominated for two Emmys for her role on "As the World Turns." She is classically trained and a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

'Bethany'

■ **When:** Matinees and evenings, Jan. 25-Feb. 23

■ **Where:** The Old Globe Theatre's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park, San Diego

■ **Tickets:** From \$29

■ **Box Office:** (619) 234-5623

■ **Website:** TheOldGlobe.org

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Publication Date: January 23, 2014
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Size: 56 sq inch
Value: \$445.71

Old Globe's 'Bethany' features accomplished actress in lead role



Television, film and stage star Jennifer Ferrin takes the lead role in Globe's 'Bethany.'
Photo courtesy of Jim Cox

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Website: theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Rancho Santa Fe Review
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Value: \$909.70

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Television, film and stage star Jennifer Ferrin takes the lead role in Globe's 'Bethany.'
Photo courtesy of Jim Cox

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Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Del Mar Times
Publication Date: January 23, 2014
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Value: \$446.95



Page 1 of 2

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Television, film and stage star Jennifer Ferrin takes the lead role in Globe's 'Bethany.'
Photo courtesy of Jim Cox

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COURTESY OF JIM COX

Timely drama star shares acting insights

DAVID DIXON
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Carlo Alban is the male lead actor in a new production of "Bethany" at The Old Globe. The play follows Crystal (played by Jennifer Ferrin), a woman who lives in a suburban home with a mysterious stranger, Gary (played by Alban). Alban is known for his roles in "Sesame Street," "Whip It" and "Prison Break."

The Aztec: Can you tell readers a little bit about the character you are playing in "Bethany?"

Carlo Alban: I play Gary. I don't want to give too much away, but he is affected by the real estate crisis of 2009. He is a homeless squatter who lives in the home where the show takes place.

TA: What are some of the most memorable productions and/or films and television shows you have been a part of, and why?

CA: I was on "Sesame Street" for five years and it was my first job. That was pretty memorable, because it is such an iconic series. There's a play I did several years ago called "Lydia." I was in three productions of it at The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Yale Rep and the Mark Taper Forum. It is an incredible story and made a very strong impression on me. Recently, I was in another play at the Mark Taper Forum, "A Parallelogram," and it was one of the best experiences I ever had.

I grew up as an undocumented immigrant when I first entered the country. My family and I were undocumented for many years. That made a huge impact on my life, so anything that has to deal with immigration I'm typically a big fan of. I wrote a one-man show, "Intrigulis," which deals with those experiences.

TA: Do you have a preference in

working in television, film or theater and why?

CA: They're similar, because all of them involve storytelling and I love telling stories. I don't particularly have a preference. One of the great rewards of theater is that it is immediate. The audience is right there with you and they experience it with you. With film or television, everything is broken up. The plot is shot out of order and you are not sure how the final product will be. That being said, I don't prefer one over the other. Film and TV tends to pay more, but I would never want to do any one of the three exclusively.

TA: What roles would you like to play in the not too distant future?

CA: Since I'm Latino, I'd like to play roles that present a positive image of my culture. I feel responsible, because if Latino actors always play criminals or gangbangers, it takes its toll not just on the performer, but on the people who see these stories.

TA: You have worked with some pretty famous actors and actresses. Who are some performers you have always wanted to work with?

CA: I'm a huge fan of John Ortiz. He's a friend of mine and we were in a play together. I would love to work with him again. I'm a huge fan of Guillermo del Toro, Robert Rodriguez and Alfonso Cuarón. Those guys are amazing and I love what they are doing with cinema.

TA: Any advice for students pursuing acting?

CA: It's a long game. It can be really easy to be discouraged, especially for actors who are just starting out. Some are successful right away, but that's not often the case. Becoming successful requires luck, and you need to be in it for the long haul. If you stick to it and are true to yourself, I think that you may not get rich but you will be satisfied and happy.

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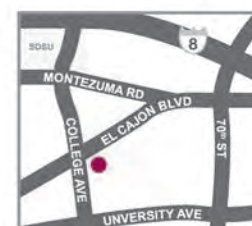
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Timely drama star shares acting insights

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Also read: [Alumna finds theatrical success](#)

Photo courtesy of Jim Cox

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THE LAST GOODBYE, THE FEW, THE GRINCH, and BETHANY to Play The Old Globe, Oct 2013-Jan 2014

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November 16 - December 28, 2013

Donald and [Darlene Shiley](#) Stage - [Old Globe Theatre](#) - [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center

Dr. Seuss' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!

Book and Lyrics by [Timothy Mason](#)

Music by [Mel Marvin](#)

Original Production Conceived and Directed by Jack O'Brien

Original Choreography by [John DeLuca](#)

Directed by James Vásquez

[Dr. Seuss'](#) How the Grinch Stole Christmas! is a wonderful, whimsical musical based upon the classic [Dr. Seuss](#) book. Back for its 16th incredible year, the family favorite features the songs "This Time of Year," "Santa for a Day" and "Fah Who Doraze," the delightful carol from the popular animated version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas! Celebrate the holidays as the [Old Globe Theatre](#) is once again transformed into the snow-covered Whoville, right down to the last can of Who-hash.

Previews Nov. 16-Nov. 20, opens Nov. 21, closes Dec. 28.

Tickets start at \$24.

Showtimes vary throughout the run of the production. Please visit our website for a complete list of performance times: <http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?PID=10832>.

DECEMBER:

November 16 - December 28, 2013

Donald and [Darlene Shiley](#) Stage - [Old Globe Theatre](#) - [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center

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January 25 - February 23, 2014

Sheryl and [Harvey White](#) Theatre - [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center

BETHANY

By [Laura Marks](#)

Directed by [Gaye Taylor](#) Upchurch

The West Coast Premiere of a new American play praised by The New York Times as a "trenchant, compassionate, incisive drama." At the height of the foreclosure crisis, single mother Crystal loses more than her house. She's staying positive, though - with plenty of help from a roommate with theories, a motivational speaker with a secret and her colleagues at the Saturn dealership downtown. But optimism is no match for a bad economy, and before long Crystal's quest for what she's lost turns into something else: the fight of her life. [Laura Marks'](#) dark comedy explores just how far we'll go to get back what's ours.

Previews Jan. 25-Jan. 29, opens Jan. 30, closes Feb. 23.

Tickets start at \$29. See last page for performance schedule.

INSIGHTS SEMINAR: Seminar series features a panel of artists from the current show. Monday, Jan. 27, 7:00 p.m. FREE

POST-SHOW FORUMS: An informal question-and-answer session with cast members. Tuesdays, Feb. 4 and 11 and Wednesday, Feb. 19.

PERFORMANCE TIMES:

Donald and [Darlene Shiley](#) Stage - [Old Globe Theatre](#) - [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Thursday - Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Sheryl and [Harvey White](#) Theatre - [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center

Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Thursday - Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

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Discounts available for patrons 29 and under, full-time students, seniors, military and groups of 10 or more. (Contact Dani Meister at (619) 231-1941 x2408 for group information.) [American Express](#), Discover, MasterCard and VISA accepted.

The Box Office is open Tuesday - Sunday, noon to final curtain. Call (619) 23-GLOBE or purchase tickets online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](#).

[The Old Globe](#) is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. Free parking is available throughout the park. Valet parking is also available (\$10). For parking information visit [www.BalboaPark.org](#).

Pictured: (from left) [Eva Kaminsky](#) stars as QZ, [Michael Laurence](#) as Bryan and [Gideon Glick](#) as Matthew in the World Premiere of [Samuel D. Hunter's](#) THE FEW, directed by [Davis McCallum](#), Sept. 28 - Oct. 27, 2013 at [The Old Globe](#). Photo by [Jim Cox](#).

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Jennifer Ferrin, Carlo Alban and More to Star in The Old Globe's BETHANY; Cast & Creative Team Announced!

January 9 5:01 PM 2014

by BWW News Desk

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The Old Globe today announced the complete cast and creative team for the West Coast premiere of **Laura Marks's** powerful new play **Bethany**. Directed by **Gaye Taylor** Upchurch, **Bethany** will run Jan. 25 - Feb. 23, 2014 in the Sheryl and **Harvey White** Theatre, part of the Globe's **Conrad Prebys** Theatre Center. Preview performances run Jan. 25 - Jan. 29. Opening night is Thursday, Jan. 30 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.

In **Bethany**, Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in, and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, this new drama will take you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything...all for someone named **Bethany**.

"**Bethany** continues the Globe's commitment to bringing the most exciting new voices in the American theater to San Diego," said Artistic Director **Barry Edelstein**. "**Laura Marks's** new drama tells the story of an extraordinary woman who goes to great lengths to keep her family whole, and in **Gaye Taylor** Upchurch's humane and skilfull production, it's a powerful evening that I'm very proud to present."

Jennifer Ferrin makes her Globe debut as Crystal. Ferrin currently stars as Louise Ellison on AMC's hit Wild West drama "Hell on Wheels" and is a two-time Emmy Award nominee for her recurring role on "As the World Turns." Among her extensive theater, film, and television credits, Ferrin was part of the original Broadway cast of the smash

comedy The 39 Steps.

The cast of Bethany also features **Carlo Albán** (Gary), DeAnna Driscoll (Shannon), **Amanda Naughton** (Patricia), **James Shanklin** (Charlie), and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (Toni).

The creative team includes **Lauren Helpert** (Scenic Design), **Sarah J. Holden** (Costume Design), **Japhy Weideman** (Lighting Design), **Leon Rothenberg** (Original Music and Sound Design), **J. David Brimmer** (Fight Director), **Caparelliotis Casting** (Casting), and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

On Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:00 p.m., the Globe will present a special forum discussion, "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing," that will explore some of the issues raised in Bethany as they pertain to San Diego County. Panelists Todd Gloria, Interim Mayor of the City of San Diego, and Susan Riggs, Executive Director of the San Diego Housing Federation, will discuss housing affordability and affordable housing, and how the issue of housing has impacted the community of San Diego on all levels, from homelessness to the housing market. Richard C. Gentry, President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission, will moderate. Although the event is free, reservations are required. Reservations can be made by emailing RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org.

Edelstein said, "**Laura Marks's** Bethany uses the theater to examine an important national issue: the crisis in affordable housing. We're thrilled to host a special forum on that topic in conjunction with the show, and we're honored to welcome Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and other leaders on the housing issue to the Globe to help our audience learn more, and to better serve our community through our art."

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Playwright [Laura Marks](#) is the author of *Bethany*, which premiered Off Broadway at New York [City Center](#) Stage II, produced by the Women's Project, and was directed by [Gaye Taylor](#) Upchurch. *Bethany* was nominated for the 2013 [Lucille Lortel](#) Award for Outstanding Play, won the Leah Ryan Prize for Emerging Women Writers, was a [Susan Smith](#) Blackburn Prize finalist, was published in Methuen's *American Next Wave* anthology in the U.K., and was chosen by [John Guare](#) as runner-up for Yale University's David C. Horn Prize. Her other plays include *Mine*, produced last year in Chicago by The Gift Theatre Company, and *Gather at the River*, recently workshopped at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Her other honors include a 2012 Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, a 2013 Lilly Award, a 2013 award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, two Lecomte du Noüy Prizes, and a two-year residency in [The Public Theater's](#) Emerging Writers Group. Her plays have been developed at [The Public Theater](#), The Juilliard School, Women's Project, LCT3, The Black Dahlia Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Royal Exchange Theatre, HighTide Festival Theatre, The [Wilma Theater](#), [LArk Theatre Company](#), [Steppenwolf Theatre Company](#), Partial Comfort Productions, Prospect Theater Company, and more.

Director [Gaye Taylor](#) Upchurch has directed the Off Broadway productions of [Laura Marks's](#) *Bethany* (Women's Project, Lortel Award nomination for Outstanding Play), [Lucy Thurber's](#) *Stay* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), and [Simon Stephens'](#) *Harper Regan* and *Bluebird* with [Simon Russell Beale](#) ([Atlantic Theater Company](#)). Her work has been seen at [Culture Project](#), La Mama, and Lincoln Center Institute, among others, and she has developed new work at [New Dramatists](#), New York Stage and Film, The Kennedy Center, Playwrights' Center, [Lincoln Center Theater's](#) Directors Lab, and SPACE on Ryder Farm. She worked with [Sam Mendes](#) as associate director on The Bridge Project's productions of *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest*, and *As You Like It* ([Brooklyn Academy Of Music](#), The Old Vic, International Tour).

TICKETS to *Bethany* 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 Jan. 25 and continue through Feb. 23. Ticket prices start at \$29. Performance times: Previews: Saturday, Jan. 25 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 26 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 29 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, Feb. 12 and no matinee performance on Saturday, Feb. 15. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

Additional events taking place during the run of Bethany include:

INSIGHTS SEMINAR: Bethany

Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:00 p.m. FREE

Insights Seminars are informal presentations of ideas and insights to enhance the theatergoing experience. The seminars feature a panel selected from the artistic company of each production and take place in the theater where the production is performed. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Seminar, 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and reservations are not required.

POST-SHOW FORUMS: Bethany

Tuesdays, Feb. 4 and 11 and Wednesday, Feb. 19. FREE

Discuss the play with members of the Bethany cast and crew at post-show discussions led by the Globe's creative staff after the performances.

SUBJECT MATTERS: Bethany

Wednesday, Feb. 12. FREE

Following the performance, explore the ideas and issues raised by a production through brief, illuminating post-show discussions with local experts, such as scientists, artists, historians and scholars.

The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. There are numerous free parking lots available throughout the park. Valet parking is also available (\$10). For additional parking information visit www.BalboaPark.org.

The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country's leading professional regional theaters and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for over 75 years. Under the leadership of Artistic Director **Barry Edelstein** and Managing Director **Michael G. Murphy**, **The Old Globe** produces a year-round season of 14 productions of classic, contemporary, and new works on its three Balboa Park stages: the Donald and **Darlene Shiley** Stage in the 600-seat **Old Globe Theatre** and the 250-seat Sheryl and **Harvey White** Theatre, both part of **The Old Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center**, and the 605-seat outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, home of its internationally renowned Shakespeare Festival. More than 250,000 people attend Globe productions annually and participate in the theater's education and community programs. Numerous world premieres such as *The Full Monty*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *A Catered Affair*, and the annual holiday musical, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, have been developed at **The Old Globe** and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs on Broadway and at regional theaters across the country.

CAST BIOS:

Carlo Albán (Gary) has appeared regionally in *A Parallelogram* (**Center Theatre Group**), *Lydia* (Denver Center Theatre Company, **Yale Repertory Theatre**, CTG), *Hurricane* (**Asofo Repertory Theatre**), *All About Us* (**Westport Country Playhouse**), *Dreamlandia* (**Dallas Theater Center**), and *The Night of the Iguana* (Guthrie Theater). His New York credits include *Intrínquilis*, a solo show he both wrote and performed, *A Small Melodramatic Story*, *References*

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to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot, A Summer Day, Alice in Slasherland, Living Dead in Denmark, and Flipzoids. His television credits include "Law & Order," "Touched by an Angel," "Oz," Thicker Than Blood, "Prison Break," "Sesame Street," "Criminal Justice," and "Girls." He has appeared in the films Hurricane, Hi-Life, The Tavern, Strangers with Candy, Life Support, 21 Grams, Whip It, and Margaret. Albán is a member of [LAByrinth Theater Company](#) and a recipient of [New Dramatists' Charles Bowden Actor Award](#).

DEANNA DRISCOLL (Shannon) returns to [The Old Globe](#) for Bethany. She has performed onstage in New York and regionally. Her theater credits include National Shakespeare Company Black Box, Cockpit Theater, Diversionary Theatre, MOXIE Theatre, ion theatre company, and San Diego Repertory Theatre. Some of her roles include Randy in Superior Donuts, Frankie in Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune, Grace in Bus Stop, Haley in Bad Dates, Betty and Mrs. Saunders in Cloud 9, [Eve Ensler](#) in The Good Body, Old Woman in The Chairs, and Regan in King Lear. Her television and film credits include "Lincoln Heights," "Point Pleasant," "Veronica Mars," Decaf, and Nixon Baby.

[Jennifer Ferrin](#) (Crystal) currently plays Louise Ellison on AMC's Wild West drama "Hell on Wheels." She recently completed production on the Cinemax limited series "The Knick" alongside [Clive Owen](#) and directed by [Steven Soderbergh](#). Her other television series include "The Following," "The Cape," "The Kill Point" with [John Leguizamo](#), "Life on Mars" with [Harvey Keitel](#), "3 lbs." with [Stanley Tucci](#), as well as guest starring roles on "Person of Interest," "Elementary," "Royal Pains," "The Good Wife," "Unforgettable," "White Collar," "Nurse Jackie," and "Boardwalk Empire." In 2008, she made her Broadway debut as a member of the original four-person cast of [Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps](#). She also appeared in Sex and the City 2.

[Amanda Naughton](#) (Patricia) has previously appeared at the Globe in A Doll's House, [Dr. Seuss'](#) How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, [Jane Austen's](#) Emma - A Musical Romantic Comedy, Lost in Yonkers, The Women, The Constant Wife, Loves & Hours, and Paramour. Her Broadway credits include Into the Woods (2002 revival) and The Secret Garden (also the National Tour, Jefferson Award nominee). She has appeared Off Broadway in Romance in Hard Times, Hundreds of Hats, 3 Postcards, and Mr. President. Regionally she has been seen in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Chasing the Song ([La Jolla Playhouse](#)), A Little Night Music ([Goodspeed Musicals](#), LA Opera, [South Coast Repertory](#)), Amour and [O. Henry's](#) Lovers ([Goodspeed Musicals](#)), On the Town (Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera), Gypsy, Tartuffe, The Waves, Misalliance, Bedroom Farce, and The Threepenny Opera (Hangar Theatre), Anything Goes, Hello, Dolly!, The Sound of Music, The Foreigner, Lend Me a Tenor, Steel Magnolias, and Barefoot in the Park (Forestburgh Playhouse), The Royal Family ([Caldwell Theatre Company](#)), The Betrayal of Nora Blake (Cuillo Centre For The Arts), Another Kind of Hero ([Walnut Street Theatre](#)), and Edith Stein ([Geva Theatre](#)). Her television credits include the role of [Betty Roberts](#) on AMC's original series "Remember WENN," "Law & Order: Criminal Intent," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," "Payne" with [John Larroquette](#), and "Chappelle's Show." Her film credits include Mexico City and The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.

[James Shanklin](#) (Charlie) currently plays Aaron Hatch on the AMC television show "Hell on Wheels." In New York he has performed in several plays with [The Public Theater](#) including Everybody's Ruby with [Viola Davis](#), As You Like It and Julius Caesar for the New York Shakespeare Festival in Central Park, and the original New York production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play Wit. Shanklin has performed in regional theaters across the country including [Yale Repertory Theatre](#), Guthrie Theater, Washington Shakespeare Company, [Arena Stage](#), and Center Stage, among others. He has appeared in over 35 network television shows and 12 feature films including The Social Network, Moneyball, and Mission: Impossible III.

SYLVIA M'LAFI THOMPSON (Toni) is a Craig Noel Award winner who was most recently seen in Coronado in Lamb's [Players Theatre's](#) production of Mary Edson's Wit. Some of her other performances include the title role in Othello, [Carrie Watts](#) in The Trip to Bountiful, Teiresias in Antigone, Rose in Fences, Mama in A Raisin in the Sun, and Stage Manager in Our Town. Her other credits include Coming Attractions, Boom, The Vagina Monologues, Gibson Girls, The Haunting of Jim Crow, Intimate Apparel, Dog Act, Going to St. Ives, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, A Streetcar Named Desire, Boesman and Lena, The Gospel at Colonus, The Mousetrap, The Fabulous Miss



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Marie, Stories About the Old Days, Miss Witherspoon, and A Christmas Carol. Thompson is the recipient of Drama-Logue, Billie, San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté and **Beverly Hills**/Hollywood NAACP Theatre Awards.

Pictured: Carlo Albán, DeAnna Driscoll, **Amanda Naughton**, James Shanklin, **Jennifer Ferrin**, Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson.
Photo by **Jim Cox**.

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Photo Flash: Meet the Cast and Creative Team of BETHANY at The Old Globe - Jennifer Ferrin and More!

January 9 5:01 PM 2014

by BWW News Desk

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The Old Globe today announced the complete cast and creative team for the West Coast premiere of Laura Marks's powerful new play Bethany. Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, Bethany will run Jan. 25 - Feb. 23, 2014 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Preview performances run Jan. 25 - Jan. 29. Opening night is Thursday, Jan. 30 at 8:00 p.m. Meet the cast and creative team in the photos below!

In Bethany, Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in, and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, this new drama will take you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything...all for someone named Bethany.

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The cast of Bethany also features **Carlo Albán** (Gary), DeAnna Driscoll (Shannon), **Amanda Naughton** (Patricia), **James Shanklin** (Charlie), and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (Toni).

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Playwright **Laura Marks** is the author of Bethany, which premiered Off Broadway at New York City Center Stage II, produced by the Women's Project, and was directed by **Gaye Taylor** Upchurch. Bethany was nominated for the

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was chosen by [John Guare](#) as runner-up for Yale University's David C. Horn Prize. Her other plays include *Mine*, produced last year in Chicago by The Gift Theatre Company, and *Gather at the River*, recently workshopped at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Her other honors include a 2012 Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, a 2013 Lilly Award, a 2013 award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, two Lecomte du Noüy Prizes, and a two-year residency in [The Public Theater's](#) Emerging Writers Group. Her plays have been developed at [The Public Theater](#), The Juilliard School, Women's Project, LCT3, The Black Dahlia Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Royal Exchange Theatre, HighTide Festival Theatre, The [Wilma Theater](#), [LArk Theatre Company](#), [Steppenwolf Theatre Company](#), Partial Comfort Productions, Prospect Theater Company, and more.

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The cast of Bethany: (from left) [Carlo Alban](#), [DeAnna Driscoll](#), [Amanda Naughton](#), [James Shanklin](#), [Jennifer Ferrin](#) and [Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson](#)

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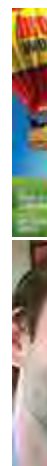
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Jennifer Ferrin stars as Crystal

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James Shanklin plays Charlie

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Carlos Alban plays Gary

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Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson plays Toni

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DeAnna Driscoll plays Shannon

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[Amanda Naughton](#) plays Patricia

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Director [Gaye Taylor](#) Upchurch

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Director [Gaye Taylor](#) Upchurch (center) with the cast of Bethany: (from left) [Carlo Alban](#), DeAnna Driscoll, [Amanda Naughton](#), [James Shanklin](#), [Jennifer Ferrin](#) and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson

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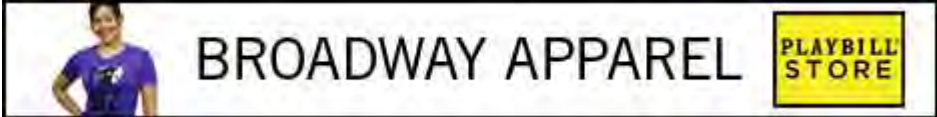
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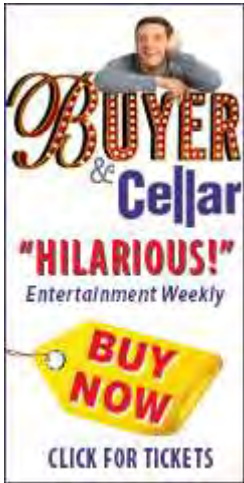


Emmy Nominee Jennifer Ferrin Will Star in *Bethany* at Old Globe

By [Carey Purcell](#)
09 Jan 2014

The Old Globe will present Laura Marks' play *Bethany*, with preview performances beginning Jan. 25, prior to an official opening Jan. 30.

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Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, the cast includes **Jennifer Ferrin** (*The 39 Steps*, "As the World Turns") as Crystal, Carlo Albán (*Intrínquilis*, "Girls") as Gary, DeAnna Driscoll (*Superior Donuts*, "Veronica Mars") as Shannon, **Amanda Naughton** (*Into the Woods*, *The Secret Garden*) as Patricia, James Shanklin (*Julius Caesar*, *Wit*) as Charlie and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (*Boom*, *The Vagina Monologues*) as Toni.

Bethany continues through Feb. 23 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

Here's how the production is billed: "In *Bethany*, Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in, and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, this new drama will take you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything... all for someone named Bethany."

"*Bethany* continues the Globe's commitment to bringing the most exciting new voices in the American theater to San Diego," artistic director **Barry Edelstein** said in a statement. "Laura Marks's new drama tells the story of an extraordinary woman who goes to great lengths to keep her family whole, and in Gaye Taylor Upchurch's humane and skilfull production, it's a

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powerful evening that I'm very proud to present."

The creative team includes Lauren Helpert (scenic design), Sarah J. Holden (costume design), Japhy Weideman (lighting design), Leon Rothenberg (original music and sound design), J. David Brimmer (flight director), Caparelliotis Casting (casting) and Diana Moser (stage manager).

Tickets and more information are available by calling (619) 23-GLOBE or visiting TheOldGlobe.org.



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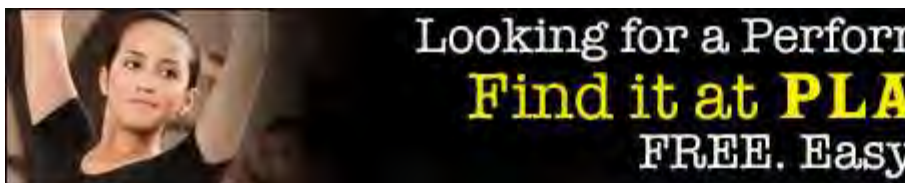
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Bethany, Starring Emmy Nominee Jennifer Ferrin, Begins Performances at Old Globe Jan. 25

By [Carey Purcell](#)

25 Jan 2014



Jennifer Ferrin
Photo by Jim Cox

Bethany, by Laura Marks, begins performances at the Old Globe Jan. 25, prior to an official opening Jan. 30.

Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, the cast includes [Jennifer Ferrin](#) (*The 39 Steps*, "As the World Turns") as Crystal, Carlo Albán (*Intrínquilis*, "Girls") as Gary, DeAnna Driscoll (*Superior Donuts*, "Veronica Mars") as Shannon, [Amanda Naughton](#) (*Into the Woods*, *The Secret Garden*) as Patricia, James Shanklin (*Julius Caesar*, *Wit*) as Charlie and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (*Boom*, *The Vagina Monologues*) as Toni.

Bethany continues through Feb. 23 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

Here's how the production is billed: "In *Bethany*, Crystal and Gary live in a nice

home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in, and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, this new drama will take you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything... all for someone named Bethany."

"*Bethany* continues the Globe's commitment to bringing the most exciting new voices in the American theater to San Diego," artistic director

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Barry Edelstein said in a previous statement.
"Laura Marks's new drama tells the story of an extraordinary woman who goes to great lengths to keep her family whole, and in Gaye Taylor Upchurch's humane and skilfull production, it's a powerful evening that I'm very proud to present."

The creative team includes Lauren Helpert (scenic design), Sarah J. Holden (costume design), Japhy Weideman (lighting design), Leon Rothenberg (original music and sound design), J. David Brimmer (fight director), Caparelliotis Casting (casting) and Diana Moser (stage manager).

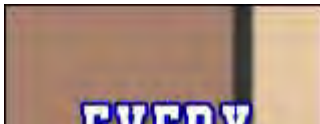
Tickets and more information are available by calling (619) 23-GLOBE or visiting TheOldGlobe.org.



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Special Events Accompany The Old Globe's Production of BETHANY

January 27 6:01 AM
2014

by E.H. Reiter

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The new show at the [Old Globe Theatre](#), BETHANY opens this week in their Sheryl and [Harvey White](#) Theatre. This new drama by [Laura Marks](#) follows Crystal and Gary, who live in a nice home in the suburbs that just so happens, not to be theirs. But this story follows not just how they got to this point, but how to get your life back on track, and how far Crystal is willing to go for someone named Bethany.

Accompanying this play [The Old Globe](#) has a few events and forums to help supplement the theatre going experience. See which one (or ones) interest you!

Free -Insights Seminar

Monday, January 27

A seminar series featuring a panel selected from the artistic company of the current show.

Reception at 6:30pm; Seminar at 7:00pm.

Free - Post Shoe Forum

Tuesday, February 4, Tuesday, February 11, Wednesday, February 19 - following the evening performances only
Have a chance to discuss the play with members of the cast directly following the performance.

Free - Subject Matters

Wednesday, February 12

Discuss a wide range of topics, ideas, and issues raised by a production through brief, illuminating post-show discussions with local experts, such as scientists, artists, historians and scholars directly after the production.

Reservation required for this special event! "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing"

Monday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m.

This special panel discussion explores some of the issues raised in the production as they relate specifically to San Diego County.

The extra special panel of experts will include Todd Gloria, Interim Mayor of the City of San Diego; Susan Riggs, Executive Director of the San Diego Housing Federation; and Debbie Ruane, Senior Vice President of Real Estate for the San Diego Housing Commission. At this panel they will discuss housing affordability, affordable housing, and how the issue of housing has impacted the community of San Diego on all levels.

Reservations can be made by calling (619) 234-5623 or by emailing RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org.

Photo Credit: [The Old Globe](#)

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Photo Flash: First Look at The Old Globe's BETHANY with Jennifer Ferrin & Carlo Alban

January 29 1:01 PM 2014

by BWW News Desk

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The Old Globe is currently presenting the West Coast premiere of [Laura Marks](#)'s powerful new play *Bethany*. Directed by [Gaye Taylor](#) Upchurch, *Bethany* will runs through Feb. 23, 2014 in the Sheryl and [Harvey White](#) Theatre, part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center. Opening night is Thursday, Jan. 30 at 8:00 p.m. Check out a first look below!

In *Bethany*, Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in, and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, this new drama will take you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything...all for someone named *Bethany*.

The cast of *Bethany* features [Jennifer Ferrin](#) (Crystal), [Carlo Albán](#) (Gary), [DeAnna Driscoll](#) (Shannon), [Amanda Naughton](#) (Patricia), [James Shanklin](#) (Charlie), and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (Toni).

The creative team includes [Lauren Helpert](#) (Scenic Design), [Sarah J. Holden](#) (Costume Design), [Japhy Weideman](#) (Lighting Design), [Leon Rothenberg](#) (Original Music and Sound Design), [J. David Brimmer](#) (Fight Director), [Caparellotis Casting](#) (Casting), and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

Tickets to *Bethany* 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 Jan. 25 and continue through Feb. 23. Ticket prices start at \$29.

Photo Credit: [Jim Cox](#)

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Jennifer Ferrin, Carlo Alban

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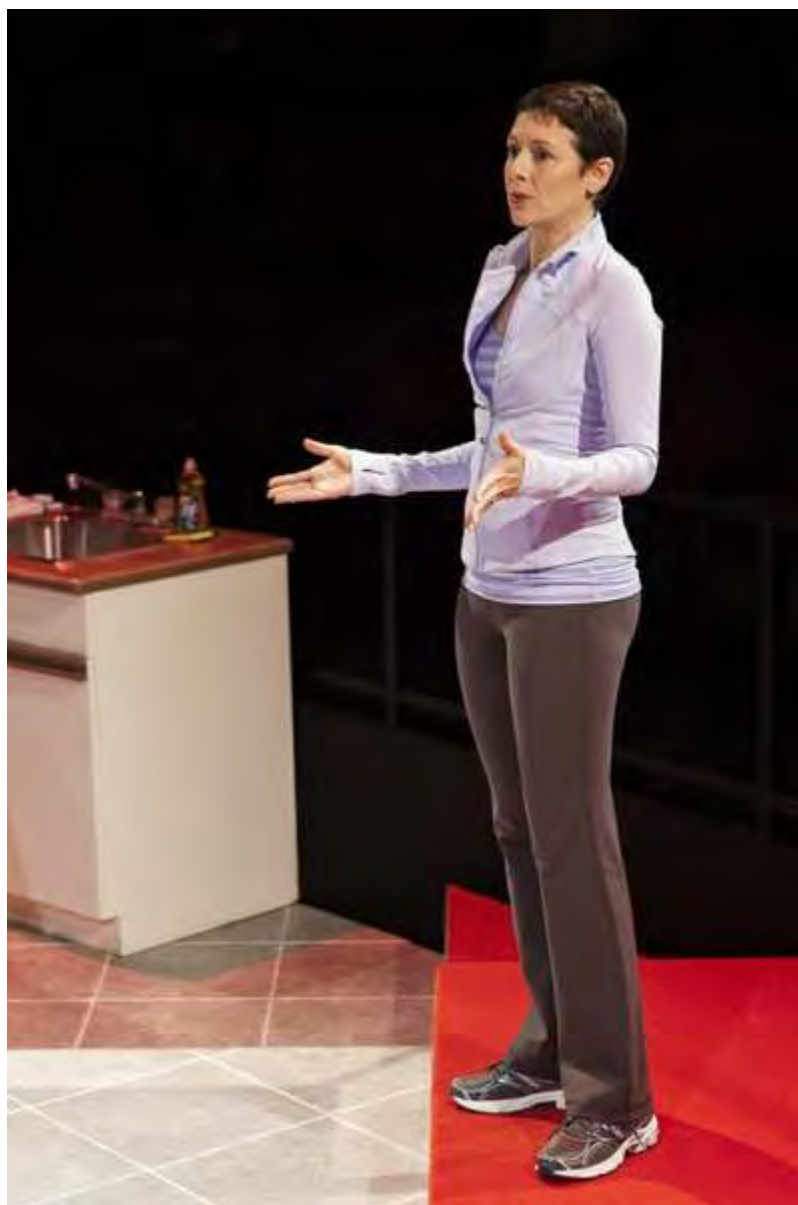
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Bethany, Starring Emmy Nominee Jennifer Ferrin, Opens at Old Globe Jan. 30

By [Carey Purcell](#)

30 Jan 2014



Jennifer Ferrin
Photo by Jim Cox

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February 7 5:02 AM 2014

by E.H. Reiter

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What are you in the mood for this weekend? From classic music and theatre, something a bit newer with commentary on our modern world, San Diego theatres have it for you!

Joshua Bell and Sam Haywood - Friday night only!

Don't miss the opportunity to see one of the worlds most celebrated musicians, **Joshua Bell**, and Sam Haywood an acclaimed pianist, as they perform in duet. Bell is soloist, chamber musician, recording artist and orchestra leader and he performs on the 1713 Huberman Stradivarius violin and uses a late 18th century French bow by Francois

Tourte Haywood helped celebrate Chopin's bicentennial year by making the world premiere recording on Chopin's own Pleyel piano which has since been broadcast numerous times. Bell and Haywood have toured the world performing together, don't miss them while they're here! The Balboa Theatre sdtheaters.org

THE WINTER'S TALE - Opening Weekend

Now is the time to see the show with the famous stage direction "exit, pursued by bear!!" This Shakespearian masterpiece explores the powerful emotions that can shape our life and the choices we make: love, friendship and forgiveness. Directed by the Old Globe's Artistic Director **Barry Edelstein**, this is one not to miss! **The Old Globe** theoldglobe.org

BETHANY

How far would you go to get what you feel like you can't live without? Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs, but they just met, this isn't really their home, and why they are there is what this drama is all about. Throw in a motivational speaker and a job at a Saturn dealership and Crystal struggles to try to get her life back on track with the obstacles that she encounters. **The Old Globe** theoldglobe.org

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woman who just lost her mother, her communist aunt moves in preaching feminism, and her father has turned to religion for solace and brings home with a new white wife. This coming of age, and surprising funny story about how to embrace and adapt to change, comes from Pulitzer Prize-Winning playwright, [Lynn Nottage](#), [Moxie Theatre](#) [Moxietheatre.com](#)

MAPLE AND VINE

Fresh from New York's [Playwrights Horizons](#) and focuses on a couple who decides to give up their modern way of life for a closed community of 1950's re-enactors. But is it going to take more than sacrificing their cell phones and their internet to find happiness? [Cygnet Theatre](#) [Cygnettheatre.com](#)

Photo Credit: [Jim Cox](#)


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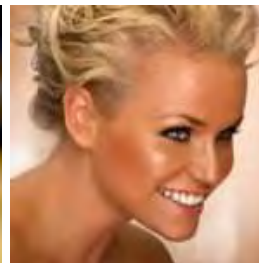
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What to Watch in San Diego this Weekend: 2/14/14

February 14 6:02 AM 2014

by E.H. Reiter

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Theatre is the perfect way to celebrate Valentines Day with your favorite person or to celebrate the long weekend! Here is what San Diego theatres have in store for you this weekend!

THE WHO & THE WHAT - Opening Weekend!

Written by 2013 Pulitzer Prize winning playwright [Ayad Akhtar](#), this play examines what happens when our modern lives are in conflict with our traditions. Zarina is brilliant and outspoken, which leads her to clash with her more traditional and conservative Muslim father and sister. Zarina finds her

release in her writing, but what happens when that could potentially tear her family apart?

[La Jolla Playhouse](#) www.lajollaplayhouse.org

Brian Regan - February 14th - 2 shows only!

What is more romantic then making your valentine laugh? Well, Brian Regan, a premier comic on his theatre tour around the country, will make them laugh. You just get to reap all the benefits. With humor that is a balance of physicality and clever writing, and more appearances on *The Late Show with David Letterman* show than any other comedian, he is one you don't want to miss! Balboa Theatre www.Sandiegotheatres.org

"THE WINTERS TALE - Now playing!

Now is the time to see the sow with the famous stage direction "exit, pursued by bear!!" This Shakespearian masterpiece explores the powerful emotions tat can shape our life and the choices we make: love, friendship and forgiveness. Directed by the Old Globe's Artistic Director [Barry Edelstein](#), this is one not to miss! [The Old Globe](#) www.theoldglobe.org

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life for a closed community of 1950's re-enactors. But is it going to take more than sacrificing their cell phones and their internet to find happiness? [Cygnet Theatre www.Cygnetheatre.com](#)

BETHANY

How far would you go to get what you feel like you can't live without? Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs, but they just met, this isn't really their home, and why they are there is what this drama is all about. Throw in a motivational speaker and a job at a Saturn dealership and Crystal struggles to try to get her life back on track with the obstacles that she encounters. [The Old Globe www.theoldglobe.org](#)

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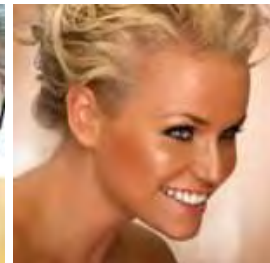
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What to watch in San Diego this Weekend: 2/21/14

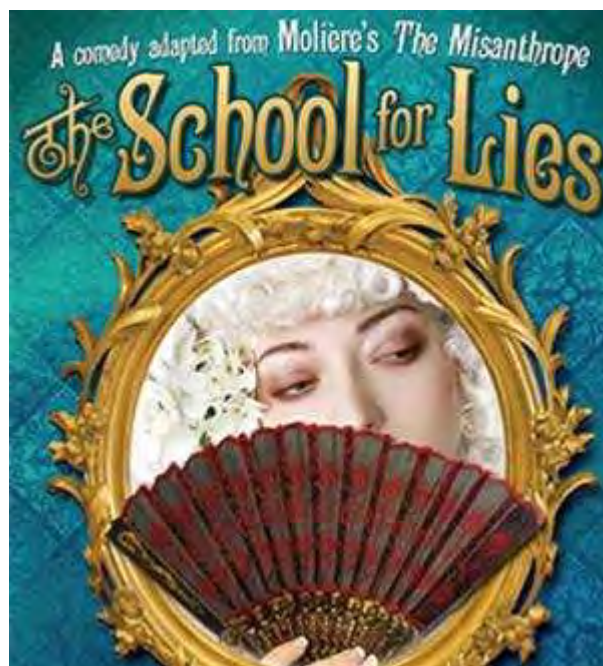
February 21 5:02 AM 2014

by E.H. Reiter

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It doesn't matter if you like music or drama, or prefer new works to older works, this weekend you have a banquet of choices in San Diego theatres!

THE SCHOOL FOR LIES - Opening weekend!
Molière's wit is always good for an entertaining night of theatre, but when you combine it with Tony Award-nominee **David Ives'** off-color tribute to THE MISANTHROPE it becomes something you should not miss! In a glittering world of gossip, glamour and scandal, a gaggle of misbehaving characters chatter away in hilarious rhyming couplets while trying to woo each other. See just how hilarious that can be!
North Coast Repertory Theatre www.northcoastrep.org

THE ELIXIR OF LOVE - Closing weekend!
THE ELIXIR OF LOVE is a romantic comedy that follows Nemorino, who desperately wants to marry the wealthy Adina. When she attracts a handsome Sergeant as her suitor/ Desperate to win her hand, he to Dr. Dulcamara's "elixir of love" in hope of winning her love. Is the elixir really a magic potion or is just a bottle of wine? Is the doctor a quack or a miracle worker? Find out this weekend! **San Diego Opera** www.sdopera.org

BETHANY - Closing Weekend!

How far would you go to get what you feel like you can't live without? Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs, but they just met, this isn't really their home, and why they are there is what this drama is all about. Throw in a motivational speaker and a job at a Saturn dealership and Crystal struggles to try to get her life back on track with the obstacles that she encounters. **The Old Globe** www.theoldglobe.org

Client Name: The Old Globe
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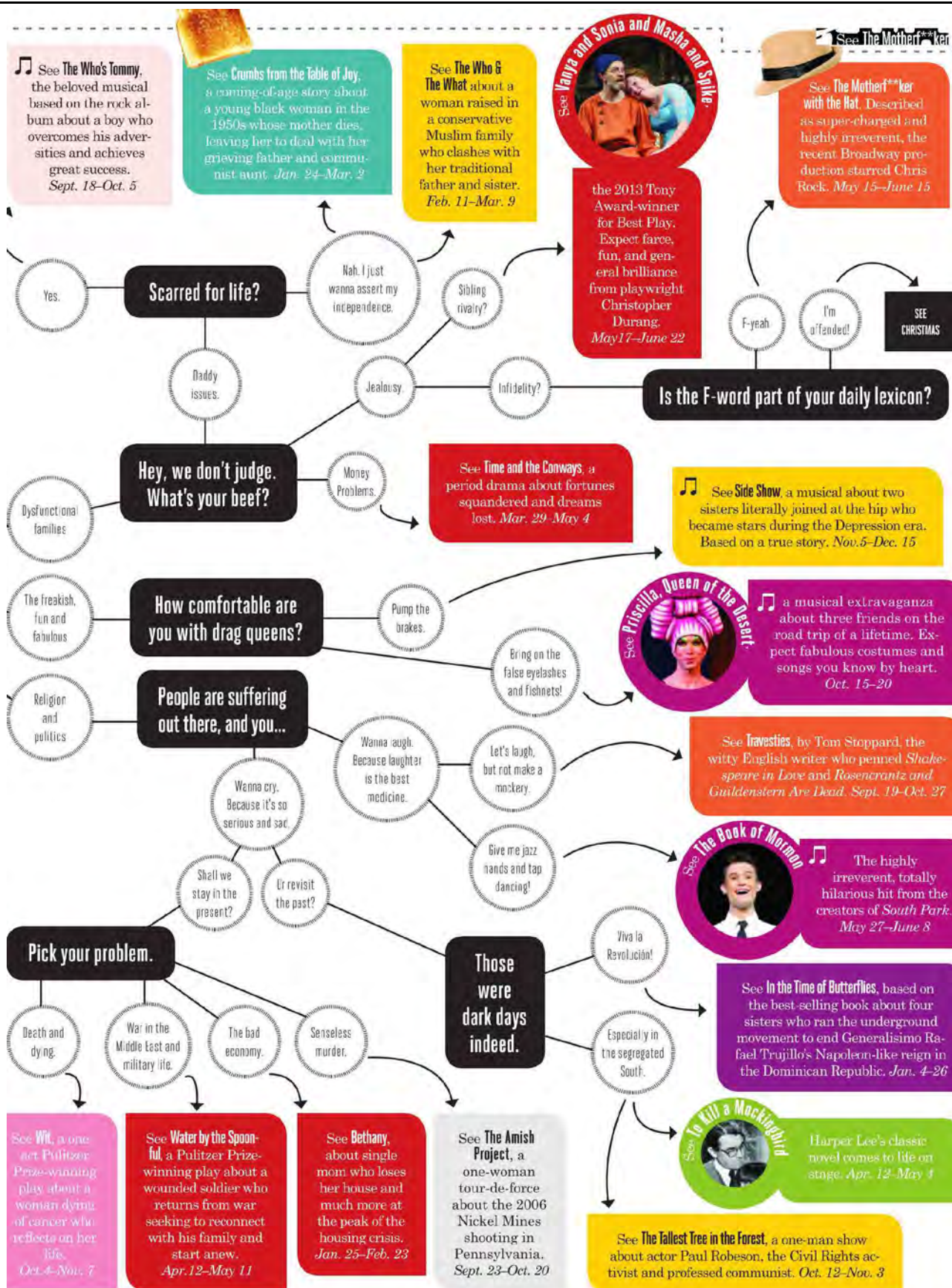
By Kimberly Cunningham

It's easier than you think to sit through a three-hour play.
 You just have to find the right one. Let us help you.

Do you love theater (or at least want to learn to love theater)?



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Key Balboa Park pedestrian pathway open to four museums, theaters during bridge construction, Jan. 2-April

From Balboa Park reports

SAN DIEGO—Balboa Park West End will continue to deliver events, activities and cultural experiences during the Cabrillo Bridge retrofit Jan. 2-April 30. While Balboa Park's 100-year-old Cabrillo Bridge (which connects Laurel Street to the Park) undergoes renovations, it will be closed to automobiles, but pedestrians may still easily visit the newly dubbed Balboa Park West End, which provides San Diegans and visitors great opportunities for entertainment and discovery. Balboa Park West End comprises Mingei International Museum, The San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Man, The Old Globe and Timken Museum of Art.



San Diego Museum of Art

Alternate parking/transportation options will be available in the west end during construction. Easy parking can be found on the west side of the bridge on Balboa Drive or Sixth Avenue, just a short walk across the iconic bridge towards Plaza de Panama and the historic views of the California Tower and Dome. Parking will also be available on the east side of Balboa Park near Park Boulevard.

A new, free tram system is also available to guests. The vehicles depart from Tram Central, next to the large parking lots near Inspiration Point (east of Park Boulevard at Presidents Way). They operate daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., leave every 10 to 12 minutes, and follow a loop route, taking passengers to a drop-off station in the Plaza de Panama, just seconds from all the museums and theatres in Balboa Park West End.

“Our Balboa Park West End has something for everyone,” said Michael Murphy, managing director of The Old Globe. “From folk art to mummies, paintings to sculptures, theatre to workshops – we’ve got it all.”

The following are some of the offerings visitors can enjoy this winter:

Mingei International Museum

[Please Be Seated](#)

From woven mats to high-tech contemporary designs, *Please Be Seated* tells the story of seating across both culture and time, addressing the never-ending quest to seat people comfortably, appropriately and fashionably. On view through March 30.

The San Diego Museum of Art

[Women, War, and Industry](#)

Beyond Rosie the Riveter, *Women, War and Industry* examines American portrayals of women in relation to war and industry through posters, photographs, video and more. Visitors will experience never-before-seen modern and contemporary works, from World War I through present. On view through Feb. 18.

San Diego Museum of Man

[BEERology](#)

Modern civilization is *beer* civilization! Agriculture, cities, writing and religion all have ties to early craft brewing. Ancient Egyptians, Sumerians, Chinese and others each perfected the brewing arts in interesting and strange ways. *BEERology* features fascinating stories and phenomenal artifacts that reveal the links between beer and culture, such as the solid gold beer cup of an Inca king. Tastings begin Jan. 16. Exhibit on view through summer 2014.

Timken Museum of Art

[Object Lessons: Gainsborough, Corot, and the Landscape of Nostalgia](#)

A Peasant Smoking at a Cottage Door by the great English artist Thomas Gainsborough will be showcased at the Timken and featured alongside the *View of Volterra* by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot from the museum's permanent collection. *A Peasant Smoking at a Cottage Door* is one of Gainsborough's most famous paintings in the idealized rustic genre. On view through April 6. Admission is free.

The Old Globe

[Bethany](#)

Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in – and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, Laura Marks' powerful new drama will take audiences on the ride of their lives, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything...all for someone named Bethany. By Laura Marks. Directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch. Jan. 25 to Feb. 23.

——— For more information about the special exhibits, shows and offerings at Balboa Park West End, visit [BPWestEnd.org](#).

Balboa Park West End

Offering mummies and muses, paintings and sculptures, theatre and workshops, Balboa Park West End is home to the Mingei International Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Man, The Old Globe and Timken Museum of Art. Balboa Park West End is conveniently located next to the Plaza de Panama, just over the historic Cabrillo Bridge. The new "Balboa Park Explorer" pass – good for unlimited annual admission to 17 of the park's attractions – can also be used to visit four of the west end institutions. For more information on current exhibits, shows and happenings, visit [BPWestEnd.org](#).

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Catching up with casting on theater scene

Acting lineups announced at Playhouse, Globe, Intrepid

By [James Hebert \(/staff/james-hebert/\)](/staff/james-hebert/) 11:31 a.m. Jan. 15, 2014



Bernard White, Monika Jolly, Kai Lennox and Meera Rohit Kumbhani have joined the cast of La Jolla Playhouse's world-premiere work "The Who and the What." — *Nancy Showers*

The casts have been set for several key shows hitting local stages soon. Here's a quick wrap:

La Jolla Playhouse has announced the actors for its world-premiere production of (<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/Mar/29/who-what-akhtar-la-jolla-playhouse/>) "The Who and the What," by 2013 Pulitzer Prize-winner Ayad Akhtar ("Disgraced").

Monika Jolly (whose off-Broadway and regional credits include Boston Court's "1001") will play Zarina; Meera Rohit Kumbhani (of the off-Broadway Classic Stage Company's "As You Like It") will portray Mahwish; Kai Lennox (of TV's "Justified") is Eli; and Bernard White (of the Playhouse's 2008 piece "The Seven") is Afzal.

"The Who and the What," about a young American writer whose latest book threatens to cause a major rift with her Muslim family, was developed in early 2013 as part of the Playhouse's inaugural DNA New Work Series.

Time magazine recently named the Playhouse production (<http://entertainment.time.com/2014/01/08/10-reasons-for-theater-lovers-to-leave-new-york-in-2014/#comments>) one of 10 shows for theater-lovers to watch outside New York in 2014.

It runs Feb. 11 to March 9. Details: (858) 550-1010 or lajollaplayhouse.org.

The **Old Globe Theatre** has cast a trio of prominent local actresses in its production of Laura Marks' "Bethany," a West Coast premiere.

That production stars Jennifer Ferrin, a two-time Emmy nominee (for "As the World Turns") who currently stars on AMC-TV's "Hell on Wheels," as the central character Crystal.

The show will feature San Diego favorites DeAnna Driscoll (Shannon), Amanda Naughton (Patricia), and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (Toni), plus New York and regional-theater veterans James Shanklin (Charlie) and Carlo Albán (Gary).

"Bethany," the story of a struggling woman trying to put her life back together amid dire economic straits, runs Jan. 25 to Feb. 23. It had its world premiere with the Women's Project off-Broadway last year, in a production that starred America Ferrera of "Ugly Betty." (Look for our preview piece on the Globe show online here Friday, and in the U-T's Sunday Arts section this weekend.)

More info: (619) 234-5623 or theoldglobe.org.

Finally, **Intrepid Shakespeare Co.** has rolled out the 17-member cast for its production of "Macbeth," which runs Jan. 31 to Feb. 16.

The Encinitas-based company's lucky 13th production, directed by co-founder Christy Yael-Cox, stars Sean Yael-Cox (the director's husband and fellow Intrepid leader) in the title role of the murderous Scottish monarch. He'll play opposite the versatile Intrepid

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Where to see theater-awards nominees now

A look at what's happening with a half-dozen artists up for Craig Noel honors

By [James Hebert \(/staff/james-hebert/\)](/staff/james-hebert/) 6:10 P.M. JAN. 15, 2014[PRINT \(HTTP://WWW.UTSANDIEGO.COM
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3

Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson

Nominated as lead female in a play for her turn in (<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/Feb/10/bountiful-a-moving-journey/>) New Village Arts Theatre's "The Trip to Bountiful" (above), Thompson (known simply as M'Lafi in the San Diego theater community) is about to appear (<http://bit.ly/K3r0ej>) at the Old Globe Theatre in the West Coast premiere of "Bethany."

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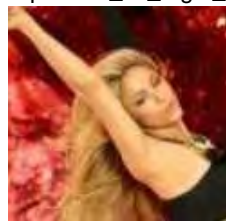
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Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

The new baby is 16th in line to the throne.

The little girl was born at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in western England and weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. Within hours the new mother, proud father and their baby had headed to their home on the Princess Royal's Gatcombe Park estate.

This is the first child for Phillips and her husband, rugby player Mike Tindall, and a fourth great-grandchild for the Queen and Prince Philip. The palace said Tindall was present at the birth.

In a statement, the palace said the Queen, her husband Prince Philip and the baby's grandparents "are delighted with the news."

The Queen's other great-grandchildren are six-month-old Prince George, son of Prince William and his wife Kate; and Savannah who turned three on December 29. and Isla, who will be two on July 1st, the two daughters of Zara's brother Peter Phillips and his wife Autumn.

Zara won a silver medal at London 2012 with eventing equestrian teammates William Fox-Pitt, Mary King, Tina Cook and Nicola Wilson, and is planning to take part in the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016.



BETHANY by Laura Marks.

The West Coast premiere of this powerful new play will be directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch.

In *Bethany*, Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in, and the

story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, this new drama is billed "taking you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything...all for someone named Bethany."



Author Laura Marks

Two time Emmy nominee Jennifer Ferrin makes her Globe debut as Crystal. The cast also features Carlo Albán (Gary), DeAnna Driscoll (Shannon), Amanda Naughton (Patricia), James Shanklin (Charlie), and Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson (Toni).

The creative team includes Lauren Helpert (Scenic Design), Sarah J. Holden (Costume Design), Japhy Weideman (Lighting Design), Leon Rothenberg (Original Music and Sound Design), J. David Brimmer (Fight Director), Caparellotis Casting (Casting), and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

Bethany will run January 25 – February 23, 2014 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, San Diego, CA.

On Monday, February 3 the Globe will present a special forum discussion, "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing," that will explore some of the issues raised in *Bethany* as they pertain to San Diego County. Panelists Todd Gloria, Interim Mayor of the City of San Diego, and Susan Riggs, Executive Director of the San Diego Housing Federation, will discuss housing affordability and affordable housing, and how the issue of housing has impacted the community of San Diego on all levels, from homelessness to the housing market. Richard C. Gentry, President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission, will moderate. Although the event is free, reservations are required.

Artistic Director Barry Edelstein said, “Laura Marks’s *Bethany* uses the theater to examine an important national issue: the crisis in affordable housing. We’re thrilled to host a special forum on that topic in conjunction with the show, and we’re honored to welcome Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and other leaders on the housing issue to the Globe to help our audience learn more, and to better serve our community through our art.”

MAN IN A CASE adapted from two stories by Anton Chekhov.

Adapted and Directed by Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar/Big Dance Theater.

Choreographed by Annie-B Parson in a fusion of theater, dance, music and video.

Featuring Mikhail Baryshnikov as Belikov with Jess Barbagallo as Hunter/Burkin as Jess Barbagallo, Tymberly Canale as Barbara , Chris Giarmo as Hunter/Ivan, and Aaron Mattocks as Kovalenko.

In Chekhov's brilliant tale of humor and despair, a pair of hunters talk late into the night. They share stories: one of an officious, anti-social man and his involvement with an aggressively extroverted woman. The second, a tale of moral ambiguity in which the protagonist forgoes his love for a married woman. Though seemingly different, both are tales of fear trumping the pursuit of life's most promising possibilities. Drawing from material as varied as surveillance footage, folk dance, instructional hunting videos, and interviews with the cast, *Man in a Case* creates a bridge between our time and that of these two 19th-century anti-love stories.

***Man in a Case* is billed as an inviting, innovative take on two of Anton Chekhov's 1898 short stories: one about a reclusive man who falls for a cheerful, extroverted woman; the other about a fellow who relives the story of lost love. Garnering rave reviews and featuring Baryshnikov and a stellar ensemble of artists, the show is a high-tech fusion of theatre, movement, music, and video that illuminates those rare occasions when we’re offered life-changing possibilities.**

Set Designer Peter Ksander. Costume Designer Oana Botez. Lighting

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Special events accompany The Old Globe's production of 'Bethany'

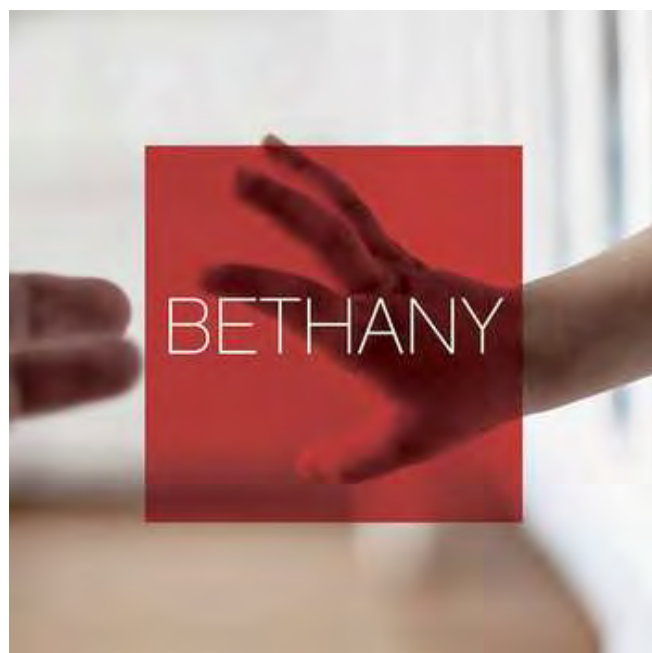
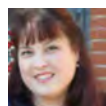


Illustration courtesy of The Old Globe.



E.H. Reiter
San Diego Theater Examiner

January 26, 2014

The new show at the Old Globe theatre, “Bethany” opens this week in their Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. This new drama by Laura Marks follows Crystal and Gary, who live in a nice home in the suburbs that just so happens, not to be theirs. But this story follows not just how they got to this point, but how to get your life back on track, and how far Crystal is willing to go for someone named Bethany.

Accompanying this play the Old Globe has a few events and forums to help supplement the theatre going experience. See which one (or ones) interest you!

Free - Insights Seminar - Bethany

Monday, January 27

A seminar series featuring a panel selected from the artistic company of the current show.
Reception at 6:30pm; Seminar at 7:00pm.

Free- Post-Show Forums - Bethany

Tuesday, February 4, Tuesday, February 11, Wednesday, February 19 – following the evening performances only

Have a chance to discuss the play with members of the cast directly following the performance.

Free - Subject Matters - Bethany

Wednesday, February 12

Discuss a wide range of topics, ideas, and issues raised by a production through brief, illuminating post-show discussions with local experts, such as scientists, artists, historians and scholars directly after the production.

Reservation required for this special event! "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing"

Monday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m.

This special panel discussion explores some of the issues raised in the production as they relate specifically to San Diego County.

The extra special panel of experts will include Todd Gloria, Interim Mayor of the City of San Diego; Susan Riggs, Executive Director of the San Diego Housing Federation; and Debbie Ruane, Senior Vice President of Real Estate for the San Diego Housing Commission. At this panel they will discuss housing affordability, affordable housing, and how the issue of housing has impacted the community of San Diego on all levels.

Reservations can be made by calling (619) 234-5623 or by emailing

RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org.

Did you enjoy this read from San Diego Theater Examiner? Hit subscribe at the top of the page for regular updates! Interested in having your San Diego theater performance, venue, event or other local activity in the San Diego Theater guide? Send details to ErinMarie at **sdtheater.examiner@gmail.com** or follow me on Twitter @SDTheaternews and Facebook

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Bethany at The Old Globe

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CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR LAURA MARKS'S *BETHANY*

Emmy Award Nominee Jennifer Ferrin, of AMC's Hit Series "Hell on Wheels," Stars in the West Coast Premiere

Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and Other Community Leaders Will Take Part in a Special Forum Discussion About Affordable Housing in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (Jan. 9, 2014)—The Old Globe today announced the complete cast and creative team for the West Coast premiere of **Laura Marks's** powerful new play ***Bethany***. Directed by **Gaye Taylor Upchurch**, *Bethany* will run Jan. 25 – Feb. 23, 2014 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Preview performances run Jan. 25 – Jan. 29. **Opening night is Thursday, Jan. 30 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.

In *Bethany*, Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in, and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, this new drama will take you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything...all for someone named Bethany.

"*Bethany* continues the Globe's commitment to bringing the most exciting new voices in the American theater to San Diego," said Artistic Director **Barry Edelstein**. "Laura Marks's new drama tells the story of an extraordinary woman who goes to great lengths to keep her family whole, and in Gaye Taylor Upchurch's humane and skilful production, it's a powerful evening that I'm very proud to present."

Jennifer Ferrin makes her Globe debut as Crystal. Ferrin currently stars as Louise Ellison on AMC's hit Wild West drama "Hell on Wheels" and is a two-time Emmy Award nominee for her recurring role on "As the World Turns." Among her extensive theater, film, and television credits, Ferrin was part of the original Broadway cast of the smash comedy *The 39 Steps*.

The cast of *Bethany* also features **Carlo Albán** (Gary), **DeAnna Driscoll** (Shannon), **Amanda Naughton** (Patricia), **James Shanklin** (Charlie), and **Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson** (Toni).

The creative team includes **Lauren Helpern** (Scenic Design), **Sarah J. Holden** (Costume Design), **Japhy Weideman** (Lighting Design), **Leon Rothenberg** (Original Music and Sound Design), **J. David Brimmer** (Fight Director), **Caparelliottis Casting** (Casting), and **Diana Moser** (Stage Manager).

On Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:00 p.m., the Globe will present a special forum discussion, "**At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing**," that will explore some of the issues raised in *Bethany* as they pertain to San Diego County. Panelists **Todd Gloria**, Interim Mayor of the City of San Diego, and **Susan Riggs**, Executive Director of the San Diego Housing Federation, will discuss housing affordability and affordable housing, and how the issue of housing has impacted the community of San Diego on all levels, from homelessness to the housing market. **Richard C. Gentry**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission, will moderate. Although the event is free, reservations are required. Reservations can be made by emailing RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org.

Edelstein said, "Laura Marks's *Bethany* uses the theater to examine an important national issue: the crisis in affordable housing. We're thrilled to host a special forum on that topic in conjunction with the show, and we're honored to welcome Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and other leaders on the housing issue to the Globe to help our audience learn more, and to better serve our community through our art."

Bethany is supported in part through gifts from Production Sponsors **Microsoft** and **National Corporate Theatre Fund**.

Playwright Laura Marks is the author of *Bethany*, which premiered Off Broadway at New York City Center Stage II, produced by the Women's Project, and was directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch. *Bethany* was nominated for the 2013 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, won the Leah Ryan Prize for Emerging Women Writers, was a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize finalist, was published in Methuen's *American Next Wave* anthology in the U.K., and was chosen by John Guare as runner-up for Yale University's David C. Horn Prize. Her other plays include *Mine*, produced last year in Chicago by The Gift Theatre Company, and *Gather at the River*, recently workshopped at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. Her other honors include a 2012 Helen Merrill Playwriting Award, a 2013 Lilly Award, a 2013 award from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, two Lecomte du Noüy Prizes, and a two-year residency in The Public Theater's Emerging Writers Group. Her plays have been developed at The Public Theater, The Juilliard School, Women's Project, LCT3, The Black Dahlia Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Royal Exchange Theatre, HighTide Festival Theatre, The Wilma Theater, Lark Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Partial Comfort Productions, Prospect Theater Company, and more.

Director Gaye Taylor Upchurch has directed the Off Broadway productions of Laura Marks's *Bethany* (Women's Project, Lortel Award nomination for Outstanding Play), Lucy Thurber's *Stay* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater), and Simon Stephens' *Harper Regan* and *Bluebird* with Simon Russell Beale (Atlantic Theater Company). Her work has been seen at Culture Project, La Mama, and Lincoln Center Institute, among others, and she has developed new work at New Dramatists, New York Stage and Film, The Kennedy Center, Playwrights' Center, Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab, and SPACE on Ryder Farm. She worked with Sam Mendes as associate director on The Bridge Project's productions of *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Tempest*, and *As You Like It* (Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Old Vic, International Tour).

TICKETS to *Bethany* 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 Jan. 25 and continue through Feb. 23. Ticket prices start at \$29. **Performance times:** Previews: Saturday, Jan. 25 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 26 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 29 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, Feb. 12 and no matinee performance on Saturday, Feb. 15. Discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

Additional events taking place during the run of *Bethany* include:

INSIGHTS SEMINAR: *Bethany*

Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:00 p.m. FREE

Insights Seminars are informal presentations of ideas and insights to enhance the theatergoing experience. The seminars feature a panel selected from the artistic company of each production and take place in the theater where the production is performed. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Seminar, 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and reservations are not required.

POST-SHOW FORUMS: *Bethany*

Tuesdays, Feb. 4 and 11 and Wednesday, Feb. 19. FREE

Discuss the play with members of the *Bethany* cast and crew at post-show discussions led by the Globe's creative staff after the performances.

SUBJECT MATTERS: *Bethany*

Wednesday, Feb. 12. FREE

Following the performance, explore the ideas and issues raised by a production through brief, illuminating post-show discussions with local experts, such as scientists, artists, historians and scholars.

LOCATION: The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way. There are numerous free parking lots available throughout the park. Valet parking is also available (\$10). For additional parking information visit www.BalboaPark.org.

CALENDAR: *Bethany* (1/25-2/23), *The Winter's Tale* (2/8-3/16), *Time and the Conways* (3/29-5/4), *Water by the Spoonful* (4/12-5/11), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (5/17-6/22), *Dog and Pony* (5/28-6/29).

PHOTO EDITORS: Digital images of The Old Globe's productions are available at www.TheOldGlobe.org/pressroom.

The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country's leading professional regional theaters and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for over 75 years. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Barry Edelstein and Managing Director Michael G. Murphy, The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 14 productions of classic, contemporary, and new works on its three Balboa Park stages: the Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage in the 600-seat Old Globe Theatre and the 250-seat Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, both part of The Old Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, and the 605-seat outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, home of its internationally renowned Shakespeare Festival. More than 250,000 people attend Globe productions annually and participate in the theater's education and community programs. Numerous world premieres such as *The Full Monty*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *A Catered Affair*, and the annual holiday musical, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs on Broadway and at regional theaters across the country.

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About the Author: ENCI is an actor and recently turned writer and director. She is an urban cyclist, passionate about living intentionally, about leaving less behind and about living healthy. Enci is a member of SAG and AFTRA and is on the board of the 501(c)4 Bikeside and is co-founder of the Bike Writers Collective. Enci teaches all over town about web etiquettes and social media and is involved with the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council where she serves on the Arts &

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THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE PRESENTS:
BETHANY

When: Jan. 25 – Feb. 23

Where: Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre | Conrad Prebys Theatre Center

Admission: Free

Crystal and Gary live in a suburban home that actually, isn't theirs, and they didn't know each other before moving into the foreclosed house. Now Crystal's got a plan to get her life back on track, and between her job at a Saturn dealership, her new housemate's conspiracy theories and the motivational speaker who might buy that sports car, Laura Marks' original drama will take you on the ride of your life with none other than a woman willing to take on anything and everything... all for someone named Bethany.

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Page 1 of 2

Old Globe to host panel on affordable housing

By Vince Meehan
SDUN Reporter

A panel titled "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing" will be held for all who wish to attend on Monday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. The event will include Interim Mayor Todd Gloria, executive director of the San Diego Housing Federation Susan Riggs and Senior Vice President of Real Estate for the San Diego Housing Commission Debbie Ruane. These panelists will discuss the issue of affordable housing in San Diego, and how it impacts our residents.

This forum will coincide with the opening of The Old Globe's production of "Bethany," a powerful new play that takes on the issue of affordable housing in America. Written by Laura Marks, the play follows the



(l-r) The Old Globe Artistic Director Barry Edelstein and "Bethany" Director Gaye Taylor Upchurch (Photo by Kelly Boyle)

plight of two main characters whose lives cross as they search for manageable rent.

"Laura Marks' play uses the theater to examine an important national issue: the crisis in affordable housing," the Globe's Artistic Director Barry Edelstein

see OldGlobe, page 5



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FROM PAGE 1
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said. "We're thrilled to host a special forum on that topic in conjunction with the show, and we're honored to welcome Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and other leaders on the housing issue to the Globe to help our audience learn more, and to better serve our community through our art."

Edelstein added that having the panel at The Old Globe fulfills an original purpose of theater that goes back to ancient Greece.

"The Greek theater not only provided the people with entertainment, but served as a civic forum as well," Edelstein said. "Since The Old Globe Theatre is a part of Balboa Park and supported by public funds, I think it is very appropriate that we host the panel here."

The idea for the event was conceived by members of the production, as well as the San Diego Housing Commission, as a way to address the very real issues that affect many people in California. At the forum, the public will not only be encouraged to ask questions, but also to engage in the discussion as a way to encourage new ideas and possible solutions.

"This event is going to be non-partisan and none of the speakers will have an agenda or axe to grind," Edelstein said. "Everybody is welcome, and we look forward to serving the community with a robust and healthy discussion."

For more information, visit theoldglobe.org. ♦



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Old Globe to host panel on affordable housing

Posted: January 31st, 2014 | [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Balboa Park](#), [Communities](#), [From the Cover](#), [News](#), [Top Story](#) | [No Comments](#)

By Vince Meehan | SDUN Reporter

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(l r) The Old Globe Artistic Director Barry Edelstein and "Bethany" Director Gaye Taylor Upchurch
(Photo by Kelly Boyle)

This forum will coincide with the opening of The Old Globe's production of "Bethany," a powerful new play that takes on the issue of affordable housing in America. Written by Laura Marks, the play follows the plight of two main characters whose lives cross as they search for manageable rent.

Laura Marks' play uses the theater to examine an important national issue: the crisis in affordable housing," the Globe's Artistic Director Barry Edelstein said. "We're thrilled to host a special forum on that topic in conjunction with the show, and we're honored to welcome Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and other leaders on the housing issue to the Globe to help our audience learn more, and to better serve our community through our art."

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For more information, visit theoldglobe.org.

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The Old Globe Wades into Housing Affordability

Our Scott Lewis turned theater critic

(<http://voiceofsandiego.org/2014/01/31/the-old-globe-wades-into-public-affairs-with-a-horror-about-homelessness/>) Friday. The Old Globe's new artistic director wants us all to grapple with realities of American life and his first offering "Bethany" is what Lewis describes as a horror about a homeless woman trying to reunite with her daughter.

The theater is trying to take another step though. Barry Edelstein, the new artistic director, wants it to be a new hub of civic discussion and has set up a panel discussion about housing affordability to complement the show. Lewis has something to say about that.

- There was some terrible news for the team at The Old Globe, Friday. Seamus O'Bryan, who worked as prop master, was killed in a hit and run crash (<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Suspect-Sought-in-Fatal-Hit-and-Run-Crash-on-University-Avenue-242939271.html>) in North Park early Friday morning. (NBC San Diego)

What We Learned This Week

- District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis used the company at the center of the campaign finance scandal (<http://voiceofsandiego.org/2014/01/30/san-diego-explained-the-campaign-finance-scandal/>) to host her website before the 2012 mayoral primary. She didn't report those services on her campaign disclosures (<http://voiceofsandiego.org/2014/01/29/dumanis-tapped-embattled-company-for-undisclosed-campaign-work/>).

- Police often ask the "Are you on probation?" (<http://voiceofsandiego.org/2014/01/30/what->

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SPORTS REPORT

The Old Globe Wades into Public Affairs with a Horror About Homelessness

BY: SCOTT LEWIS ([HTTP://VOICEOFSANDIEGO.ORG/AUTHOR/SCOTTLEWIS/](http://voiceofsandiego.org/author/scottlewis/))

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JANUARY 31, 2014 | COMMENTS (4)

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Photo by Jim Cox, courtesy of The Old Globe

Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and James Shanklin as Charlie in "Bethany," at The Old Globe.

The central fact driving "Bethany" — The Old Globe's

new play running through Feb. 23 — is that a woman named Crystal lost her home.

When she went to a shelter, the state seized her daughter, Bethany.

Crystal then becomes a squatter in a foreclosed home with an insane roommate she definitely did not choose.

As this country emerges from a recession, we have no shortage of heart-wrenching stories about poverty and struggle. The Old Globe has a new artistic director, Barry Edelstein, who wants us to grapple with them.

But Crystal is beautiful. She's white. She's smart and resourceful. She's not on drugs — this point is made clear. She even has a job. At one point, the social worker in the play asks her how it could be possible that, with all she has going for her, she has ended up in such a mess.

That moment feels like a nod from the playwright, Laura Marks, that, yes, this is a hard story to believe.

First off, Child Protective Services (CPS) would not seize a woman's daughter if she lost her home and sought help at a shelter.

“Not unless you're abusing the child. CPS is not quick to remove the child unless there's imminent danger. We have quite a number of single mothers, single dads and families with both and, no, the kids are not taken away,” Trisha Brereton, executive director of Interfaith Shelter Network of San Diego, told me.

It appears the version (<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/21/theater/reviews/bethany-with-america-ferrera-at-city-center.html>) of “Bethany” that ran in New York might have offered more backstory — that Crystal had some more going on in her previous home, and that's why Bethany went to a foster home.

But that context didn't come across in the Old Globe version.

And yet, context is what Edelstein's aiming for. He has paired the show with a special panel discussion, Monday (http://www.theoldglobe.org/information/press/2014/release_Bethany_cast.aspx), about affordable housing in San Diego. Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and representatives from the Housing Commission and Housing Federation will be speaking.

Edelstein wants The Old Globe, with its perch on public land, in a giant public park, to be a truly public institution grappling with big public problems. It has done this before. But Edelstein wants to go much further.

"What I'm trying to do is make it more of a sustained effort and to look for more ways to deal with social issues and provide more context for our audience," he said.

Let's do some more context: "Bethany" features a particularly odious character, a man named Charlie. He is a smooth-talking motivational speaker.

Charlie is the writer's vehicle for the hope America tries to sell its poor. His creepy "you-can-be-rich-too" speeches pepper the performance.

But peddling hope is not only the domain of faux capitalists. Edelstein's panel discussion is lopsided toward one solution for the problem of high housing costs. The Housing Federation and Housing Commission are committed to constructing publicly subsidized apartment complexes.

The hope they sell is that, with more investment in building these things, they can save the Crystals who fall through life's holes.

But their system is welfare by lottery. It produces so few homes (<http://voiceofsandiego.org/2013/11/18/the-sad-facts-about-the-big-affordable-housing-fee-hike/>), it's like taking three delicious meals to a food bank packed with hundreds of hungry visitors.

Yes, a few lucky folks will eat.

The Housing Commission, with its own study, admits that the market itself, which dwarfs the meek investments of the government, will have to create tens of thousands of housing units. Only that can provide the choice and availability of places to live we need to make housing costs more manageable for all working people.

Edelstein's panel discussion will lack this perspective.

"I don't feel the theater is journalism and it's not my responsibility to put together a fair and balanced thing like a journalist would. I want to make it a fulcrum for civic discussion," he said. And he encouraged me to come to the panel and ask some tough questions.

I may.

To me, Bethany was more horror than drama. Like a good horror film, it wanted me to feel a new type of desperation.

I did and you should see it. Your heart will pound and sink as you watch Crystal make the decisions she does.

And then we can go to the panel and see what decisions real people need to make. It's not a bad idea on how to start a conversation and I hope it starts a good one.

Correction: I removed a line that said this was the artistic director's first offering. It was not. And The Old Globe did not refer to the ending of Bethany as "magical" as I wrote. That was about another play. I apologize and I have revised the ending.

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Scott Lewis (<http://voiceofsandiego.org/author/scottlewis/>)



I'm Scott Lewis, the CEO of Voice of San Diego. Please contact me if you'd like at scott.lewis@voiceofsandiego.org (<mailto:scott.lewis@voiceofsandiego.org>) or 619.325.0527 and follow me on Twitter (it's a blast!): [@vosdscott](https://twitter.com/vosdscott) (<https://twitter.com/vosdscott>).

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No Bites for FitDeck's Pitch To 'Shark Tank'



SDBJ INSIDER

Tom York

For the past couple of weeks, the Insider has been following the exploits of former Navy SEAL **Phil Black**, the entrepreneur behind **FitDeck**, a brand of exercise cards sold at his website. In search of \$500,000 in capital for expansion into the mobile app world, he appeared Jan. 24 on the popular TV show "Shark Tank." Well, the sharks weren't biting, and Black walked away empty-handed. All five celebrity investors rejected his pitch for a capital infusion of \$300,000 in exchange for 20 percent of the business. However, Black reported that billionaire **Dallas Mavericks** owner **Mark Cuban**, one of the investors on the show, agreed to a private deal after his appearance to produce thousands of branded basketball card decks. Black said he's sold 500,000 decks of cards worth \$4.5 million in sales over the nine years he's been in business. And sales are surging again after his appearance, thanks to the wonders of television. ... And speaking of fitness, everyone knows San Diego is the yoga capital of the world, and what better place to celebrate an anniversary than in America's finest city. Old friend and yogi **Shashi Pottathil**, who owns and operates the **Yoga and Meditation Center** on Black Mountain Road, celebrated his 14th year in business recently with a weekend celebration on the **University of California, San Diego** campus. Pottathil, who hails from southern India, is considered one of the top instructors around, having trained dozens of new instructors in the practice. ... The **MIT Enterprise Forum San Diego** and nonprofit mentoring organization **Connect** are sponsoring a discussion titled "Surviving the Private Equity Shark Tank" on Feb. 12 at UC San Diego. The panelists will talk about putting a realistic valuation on your business when you seek investment capital. Details at sdmitforum.org.

... The **County Taxpayers Association** and the **JOBS Coalition** report that they have submitted more than 53,000 signatures to the City Clerk in a bid to stop the city's so-called "Jobs Tax," also known as "linkage" fees, with a referendum. ... Finally, **The Old Globe Theatre** is sponsoring a unique community discussion at 6 p.m. Feb. 3 in Balboa Park about the affordable housing issues raised in "Bethany," a new production now playing in Balboa Park. Interim Mayor **Todd Gloria** will lead the discussion: "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing." The intent is to explore themes in the play as they pertain to the affordable housing crisis in the county. "Bethany" focuses on two strangers who move in together as they try to get their lives back on track after the economic downturn. More details at theoldglobe.org. ... Till next week.

Contributing Editor **Tom York** writes the **SDBJ Insider**. You can reach him via email at tyork@sdbj.com or tom.york@gmail.com.



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saturday, feb. 1



Bethany

Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in – and the story of how they got there is the beginning of Crystal's plan to get her life back on track. Between her job at the Saturn dealership, her new house-mate's conspiracy theories, and the motivational speaker who just might buy that sports car, Laura Marks' powerful new drama will take you on the ride of your life, with a woman willing to take on anything and everything ... all for someone named Bethany. *Contains strong language and a brief scene of staged violence that may not be suitable for all audiences.*

The Old Globe, Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park, 2 and 8 p.m., tickets from \$29, 619-234-5623, theoldglobe.org

Thursday, February 06, 2014

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WHAT'S GOIN' ON

by Eileen Sondak | [February 2014](#) | [Post your comment »](#)

By Eileen Sondak

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it won't shortchange arts lovers. The month is chock full of theatrical and musical events, including the continuation of the San Diego Opera's 2014 season, a world premiere at the La Jolla Playhouse, a solo show by Hal Linden, and visits to Symphony Hall from the

Moscow Festival Ballet and the Taiko Drummers of Japan.

The La Jolla Playhouse is back with another new show. This time, it's "The Who and The What," by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Ayad Akhtar. The play examines life in a conservative Muslim family in Atlanta, as the brilliant daughter clashes with her traditional father. "The Who ..." is spiced with humor, but it focuses on the chasm between traditions and contemporary life. This world premiere will be ensconced in La Jolla Feb. 11-March 9.

The San Diego Opera's powerful production of "Pagliacci" will wind down on Feb. 2, but the eclectic season at the Civic Theatre is just getting warmed up. Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love" will open on Feb. 15. This romantic comedy, with Tatiana Lisnic and Giuseppe Filianoti in their San Diego Opera debuts, will delight audiences through Feb. 23.

The Old Globe will bring Shakespeare to the Main Stage this month, when Barry Edelstein directs "A Winter's Tale." This production is the first indoor staging of the Bard's work at the venerable Theatre in 14 years. It also marks the inaugural work directed by the Globe's new artistic director. The complex play has myriad plot turns, plenty of drama and excitement, and original music. "Winter's Tale" will dominate the Main Stage Feb. 8 through March 16.

Also on tap for the Globe is the continuation of "Bethany," a dramatic contemporary play that puts the audience in the midst of the foreclosure crisis. The story revolves around a single mother trying to navigate through a dismal economy. This dark comedy, penned by Laura Marks, is recommended for mature audiences due to strong language. "Bethany" will play on at the White Theatre through Feb. 23.

The Lamb's successful production of "Fiddler on the Roof" moved to the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza, but its limited run will end on Feb. 2. Meanwhile, the Lamb's Coronado space is reviving one of its most popular comedies, "The Foreigner." This hilarious romp about a stuffy Englishman stranded in a rural Georgia lodge will amuse audiences until March 2.

North Coast Repertory Theatre's San Diego premiere of Aaron Posner's "Who Am I This Time? (And Other Conundrums of Love)" – a play based on short stories by sci-fi genius Kurt Vonnegut – will end its run at NCR's Solana Beach home on Feb. 2. Following on Feb. 19, is "The School for Lies," a madcap comedy adapted from Moliere's "The Misanthrope." This off-color homage to Moliere packs the 17th century tale with contemporary slang, and the results are side-splittingly funny. You'll have until March 16 to enjoy this high-voltage, Baroque-style vaudeville show.

The National Comedy Theatre on India Street will celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 with "House of Cards," a unique night out for local lovebirds. The group is led by artistic director Gary Kramer.

Cygnets Theatre is giving "Maple and Vine" its local premiere through Feb. 16. The clever fantasy about a modern couple who abandon the big city for a gated compound reminiscent of the bygone world of Ozzie and Harriet, examines attitudes about gender, race, and sexuality, and questions what people will sacrifice for happiness. The comedy is ensconced at the Old Town Theatre.

The San Diego Symphony's February slate kicks off on Feb. 1 with a 1924 flick at Symphony Hall. "The Thief of Bagdad," starring Douglas Fairbanks, has organ music by Russ Peck to propel the plot. "Nicole Cabell Sings Chausson" is next on the roster. The soprano, accompanied by members of the San Diego Symphony, will perform the chamber version of "Chanson Perpetuelle" on Feb. 4 at TSRI.

The Symphony, conducted by Maestro Jahja Ling, will take on Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise Feb. 7-9, featuring the San Diego Master Chorale and several soloists. Also on the program at Symphony Hall is "Pipa Concerto," a new commissioned work by Zhao Jiping. Balletomanes will want to catch the Moscow Festival



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“Bethany”

7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays. Through next Sunday. Old Globe Theatre's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park. About \$29-\$72 (discounts available). (619) 234-5623 or theoldglobe.org

First, Laura Marks lost her job at a big New York real-estate firm. Then she found her footing as a playwright. The result (so far) is “Bethany,” the topical thriller that’s receiving its West Coast premiere at the Globe. The piece, now heading into its final week at the Balboa Park theater, centers on a struggling mom whose efforts to establish a makeshift home wind up bringing a whole new set of troubles. And if the play’s not quite based on a true story, its economic backdrop might feel plenty real enough for some.

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

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Page 1 of 2

Old Globe panel sinks its teeth into San Diego affordable housing

By Vince Meehan
SDUN Reporter

A panel discussing the issue of affordable housing in San Diego was held at the Old Globe Theatre on Monday, Feb. 3. Speaking at the forum was Interim Mayor Todd Gloria, Executive Director of the San Diego Housing Federation Susan Riggs and Senior Vice President of Real Estate for the San Diego Housing Commission Debbie Ruane. Old Globe Artistic Director Barry Edelstein introduced the trio to a full house, and Ruane chose to speak first.

Ruane explained to the attentive audience how the cost of housing throughout America is increasing disproportionately to the work force's pay.

"As time goes on, this gap widens even more to where housing becomes unaffordable," Ruane said.

She spoke of low-income families who rely on vouchers from the housing commission to make ends meet. She also noted that while 14,000 families in San Diego are currently receiving these vouchers, 50,000 more are still in need and the waiting list is currently 10 years. An audible gasp was heard from the audience at that statistic, and this set a somewhat somber tone to the event. She then turned the microphone over to Gloria, who she referred to affectionately as the iMayor.

Gloria thanked Ruane, and spoke to the audience on the subject of the vouchers.

"These numbers really bring home the magnitude of the problem," Gloria said. "A 10-year wait for assistance is definitely not a solution, and I'm sure a lot of people lose hope, which is unacceptable."

The gravity of the subject had a silencing effect on the audience,

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(l to r) Senior Vice President of Real Estate for the San Diego Housing Commission Debbie Ruane and Interim Mayor Todd Gloria (Photo by Vince Meehan)

which seemed to lower a pall over the proceedings. Riggs then took her turn on the mic, and spoke of a study by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), which indicated that San Diego is in dire risk of becoming socioeconomically divided in the near future. She noted that one-third of San Diego's work force earns less than \$14 an hour, which is inadequate given San Diego's cost of living. She added that the high cost of rent leaves many families with no money left over for medication or healthy food, and that in turn leads to additional problems.

Riggs also stated that by factoring in normal family growth, without accounting for any additional immigration, San Diego would need 300,000 new homes by 2040 to house its residents. This figure sent the audience buzzing to voice their opinions.

Ruane then took this opportunity to announce that Gov. Jerry Brown had recently appointed Riggs deputy secretary of housing policy at the California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.

"San Diego's loss is now Cali-

fornia's gain and I'm sure having Susan [Riggs] in Sacramento will be a huge plus for us all," Ruane said.

The audience was given a chance to chime in on the discussion as a microphone was passed around the crowd. A participant asked the panel what they thought about raising the minimum wage as a way to offset the gap. As if on cue, both Ruane and Riggs simultaneously offered their microphones to Gloria, who cracked a smile. This led to a bit of levity from the audience, which seemed to relieve the panel.

"I didn't plant that question, but I certainly thank you for asking it!" said Gloria.

He took that opportunity to address the minimum-wage issue, which he recently touched on at his State of the City address in January.

"In San Diego, it takes \$30,000 a year to live in decent conditions," Gloria said. "I feel very strongly that anybody who works full time should not live in poverty."

He added that many Californian mayors have committed themselves to tackle this issue head on

in 2014, and that he intends to help.

"We're going to do this on our own because we don't know if we can count on the federal government to support us," Gloria said, adding that while there is no magical cure for a housing crisis, numerous, small projects can add up to create progress toward a solution.

Several people brought up the topic of homelessness in San Diego, and Gloria told the audience that as council president, he intends to re-address that issue once the special election is over. When asked if there are any cities that serve as good examples in tackling affordable housing, he brought up Phoenix, Ariz.

"Phoenix has just declared the end of homelessness for vets in their city," Gloria said. "We can look to them for guidance, and see how we can make it work here in San Diego. There are many other communities who have come up with successful models that can help solve homelessness. It's not a unicorn, it does exist!"

Gloria stated that it is his goal to eliminate homelessness for veterans in San Diego by 2016. After the last question of the night, Gloria closed by saying that it is his continuing vision to change San Diego for the better.

"We can't call San Diego 'America's Finest City' if we are a city of haves and have-nots," Gloria said. "We can't be the finest city when we have 8,000 to 10,000 homeless on the streets. We need to solve the housing issue as a legacy for our children and grandchildren."

After the panel, Edelstein said that due to the success of the event, he is looking into having additional public forums in the future. ♦

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One Comments

William E. Kelly says:

February 15, 2014 at 4:28 am

Regrettably, I was down with the Flu and unable to attend this meeting, but appreciate the effort that went into holding it. The numbers do give a dim view of the future of San Diego as a city increasingly divided as the haves and have nots. Had I been able to attend, I would have asked if the numbers could be broken down by gender, sexual preference, ethnicity, age, education. Studies nationally and locally document that there are specific issues for the diverse minority segments which together account for a significant proportion of the total population. These differences are being uncovered and identify that there is no one size fits all solution and would suggest a deeper more detailed study may be necessary to address significant anomalies at play. For many of these segments, there are unique sets of circumstances particular to the specific segments- education levels, age, health, gender and sexual preference to name a few.

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1/25/14-2/23/14: *Bethany*

Crystal and Gary live in a nice home in the suburbs. Only it's not theirs. In fact, they didn't know each other before they moved in — they're squatting in a foreclosed house. Now Crystal's got a plan to get her life back on track. Laura Marks' powerful new drama will take you on the ride of your life with a woman willing to take on anything and everything.

(www.theoldglobe.org)



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"Bethany": Jan. 25-Feb. 23, The Old Globe — Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$67. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org

CALENDAR

Orange County/San Diego/Inland Empire
January-February 2014



GUITAR: THE INSTRUMENT THAT ROCKED THE WORLD

Explore the history of the world's most recognized musical instrument. Experience diverse genres of music and discover the science of pitch and tone. Crossing over cultural boundaries, the guitar has made a significant impact on a wide variety of groups, from gypsies to cowboys to teenage rebels. Trace the evolution of the guitar—from lutes and ouds to modern high-tech instruments—and see how the instrument became the cultural icon it is today. See more than 60 guitars and nearly 100 historical artifacts that immerse you in the heart of music. The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, San Diego. \$12-\$13. Through April 6. (619) 238-1233. rhfleet.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

RING OF FIRE

Johnny Cash's life is a mythic American tale, and this musical features 10 extraordinary talented singer-actor-musicians who offer a riveting glimpse into his world where faith, love and compassion are the touchstones in everyday life. Enjoy more than 30 of Cash's best songs including "I Walk the Line," "In the Sweet By and By," "Folsom Prison Blues" and, of course, "Ring of Fire." The Laguna Playhouse, Moulton Theatre, 606 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. Through Feb. 2. Prices vary. (949) 497-2787. lagunaplayhouse.com.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Experience romance and enchantment in this classic love story. The musical is filled with unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes and dazzling production numbers including "Be Our Guest" and the beloved title song. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa

Mesa. Through Jan. 19. \$29-plus. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

JAZZ WEDNESDAYS

The Latin Jazz Syndicate, featuring Bijon Watson on trumpet. Laguna Beach Live, 891 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach. \$15-\$20. (949) 715-9713. lagunabeachlive.org.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

ANYTHING GOES

Set on an ocean liner, a gangster and his doll are embroiled in mistaken identities with young businessman Billy Crocker. Mayhem ensues as Billy chases Hope, who is engaged to Sir Evelyn, who is in love with Reno. Reno teams up with Moonface Martin and Billy to aid and abet in his madcap activities and keep him out of the ship's brig. Welk Resorts Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido. Dates vary through March 23. \$45-\$75. (888) 802-7469. welktheatre.com.

EMERSON STRING QUARTET

Cellist Paul Watkins joins the ensemble. For this engagement, Eugene Drucker, violin; Philip Setzer, violin; Lawrence Dutton, viola; and Paul

Watkins, cello, will perform a special program, featuring Beethoven's "Razumovsky" Quartets, Op. 59 No. 1-3. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through Jan. 19. \$29-\$69. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

JAZZ AT THE MERC

Jacques Lesure. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. Sundays. \$15. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Lamb's Players Theatre, Lyceum Theater, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown San Diego. \$20-\$50. Tues.-Sun through Feb. 2. (619) 437-6000. lambsplayers.org.



IN THE TIME OF THE BUTTERFLIES

Based on the Latin American novel, this play traces the true story of the Mirabal sisters, four courageous women known by their code name "butterflies" who dared to challenge the arrogance of blind power in the Dominican Republic in 1960. Repertory Theatre at the Lyceum Space, Lyceum Stage, 79 Horton Plaza, downtown San Diego. Dates vary through Jan. 26. \$18-\$48. (619) 544-1000. sdrep.org.

REVELATION

Powerfully proclaimed with contemporary music and innovative staging, this remarkable concert is a word for word journey through the mysterious last writings of John. Feed your imagination and curiosity as the entire book of Revelation comes to life right before your eyes. LifeHouse Theater, 1135 N. Church St., Redlands. Weekends through Feb. 2. \$14-\$18. (909) 335-3037 ext. 21. lifehousetheater.com.

WINES FROM FRANCE

Taste seven wines from Alsace, Burgundy, Bordeaux, the Rhone Valley, the Loire Valley and the Languedoc. Bacchus Wine Bar and Market, 647 G St., San Diego. Also Jan. 18. \$20. (619) 236-0005. bacchuswinemarket.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

COUNTRY AT THE MERC

Live country music in the frontier heart of Old Town Temecula in the historic Mercantile building. The local house band, The Ranch Rockers, backs up the performers. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051

Main St., Temecula. Saturdays. \$15. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

WHALE WATCHING

Get an up-close look at gray whales on their round-trip migration from the Bering Sea to Baja's breeding grounds. Learn about gray whale baleen, barnacles and prey from Birch Aquarium at Scripps naturalists during this memorable whale-watching experience, leaving daily from San Diego Bay. \$37-\$42. Through April 13. (619) 234-4111. flagshipsd.com. (858) 534-7336. aquarium.ucsd.edu.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

JAZZ AT THE MERC

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

THE FOREIGNER

Shy Englishman Charlie Baker finds himself in a rural Georgia fishing lodge where everyone comes to believe he doesn't speak English. Lamb's Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado. \$20-\$50. Tues.-Sun through March 2. (619) 437-6000. lambsplayers.org.

CELTIC NIGHTS: THE EMIGRANTS BRIDGE

In this stirring tale of the Celtic experience, the audience is invited on a journey of hope, transported in time through traditional ballads, vivid choreography and the story of a people struggling to find their place in a changing world. The performance features the finest voices of the Celtic world, showcased against a backdrop of expert dancing and stellar musicianship. The result is an exhilarating picture of a proud people who dream big and doggedly worked to create a home in the New World. Poway Center for the Performing Arts, 15498 Espola Rd., Poway. Ticket prices vary. powayarts.org.

A SHOT IN THE DARK

Found unconscious and clutching a gun beside her dead lover, the Beaurevers' parlor maid, Josefa, is brought before the magistrate on a charge of murder. Upon his questioning, the magistrate finds Josefa's guileless demeanor so ingenuous that he decides she may not have committed the murder in spite of all appearances. As the investigation is expanded, other suspects appear in the quest to determine if somebody else could have fired that fatal shot in the dark. Riverside Community Players, 4026 14th St., Riverside. Through Feb. 9. \$15-\$18. (951) 686-4030. riversidecommunityplayers.org.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

BETHANY

At the height of the foreclosure crisis, single

mother Crystal loses more than her house. She's staying positive, though – with plenty of help from a roommate with theories, a motivational speaker with a secret and her colleagues at the Saturn dealership downtown. But optimism is no match for a bad economy, and before long Crystal's quest for what she's lost turns into something else: the fight of her life. Old Globe Theatre, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through Feb. 23. \$29-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY

It's 1950 and Ernestine Crump has just lost her mother. Her father turns to religion for solace, uprooting the family to be closer to the "Mission" in Brooklyn. Struggling to find her way as a young African American woman, Ernestine's life is upended when her communist aunt moves in preaching feminism and her father comes home with a new white wife. Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego. Through March 2. \$27-plus. (619) 220-0097. moxietheatre.com.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26



CHICAGO

Set amidst the razzle-dazzle decadence of the 1920s, this is the story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who maliciously murders her on-the-side lover after he threatens to walk out on her. Desperate to avoid conviction, she dupes the public, the media and her rival cellmate, Velma Kelly, by hiring Chicago's slickest criminal lawyer to transform her malicious crime into a barrage of sensational headlines. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through Feb. 2. \$29-plus. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

CLASSICS AT THE MERC

Chamber performances by the region's best professional musicians. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. Sundays. \$12. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

JAZZ WEDNESDAYS

Yve Evans and Company. Laguna Beach Live, 891 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach. \$15-\$20. (949) 715-9713. lagunabeachlive.org.

THE PRODUCERS

Based on the 1968 film a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history. Plummer Auditorium, 201 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton.

Through Feb. 16. Ticket prices vary. (714) 589-2770. 3dtshows.com.

FEBRUARY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

JAZZ AT THE MERC

John Proulx Duo. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. Sundays. \$15. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7



THE HAMBURG BALLET

Program: the American premiere of "Liliom." Choreography, staging and design by John Neumeier. Music by Michel Legrand. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through Feb. 9. \$29-plus. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

THE WINTER'S TALE

Shakespeare's sublime late masterpiece sweeps breathtakingly from jealousy, rage and loss to redemption, reconciliation, and finally, wonder. Along the way it visits kings and queens, a singing street hustler, dancing shepherds, a most extraordinary statue – and one notoriously hungry bear. A profound exploration of the simple miracles in life and the forces that shape them: love, friendship, and forgiveness. Old Globe Theatre, Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through March 16. \$29-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

TOUR DE PALM SPRINGS

Annual bicycle ride (routes in varying lengths from five to 100 miles) to raise money for a variety of charities. A two-day vendor fare of Coachella Valley nonprofit organizations, bicycle manufacturers, bicycle gear, apparel, other bicycle ride programs, Food Court and Tour de Jazz live entertainment. New this year-- Beer and Wine Garden. On North Palm Canyon between Tahquitz and Alejo, Palm Springs. (760) 674-4700. tourdepalmsprings.com.

STILL AWAKE STILL!

Based on much-loved songs from "I'm Still Awake, Still!," a bedtime book by Elizabeth Honey and Sue Johnson, this imaginative show is inspired by the daily challenge of putting little ones to bed. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Also Feb. 9. \$20. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

CLASSICS AT THE MERC

Rolon Quartet. Chamber performances by the region's best professional musicians. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. Sundays. \$12. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Click your heels together and join Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Dorothy and her little dog Toto, as they journey through the magical land of Oz to meet the Wizard and obtain their hearts' desires. Watch out for the Wicked Witch of

the West and her winged monkeys as you rediscover the real story of Oz. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through Feb. 23. \$29-plus. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

THE WHO AND THE WHAT

Raised in a conservative Muslim family in Atlanta, the outspoken and brilliant Zarina routinely clashes with her traditional father and sister. Zarina's one outlet – her recently completed book about women and Islam – threatens to tear her family apart for good. La Jolla Playhouse, UCSD Campus, Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre, 2910 La Jolla Village Dr., La Jolla. Through March 9. \$15-plus. (858) 550-1010. lajollaplayhouse.org.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

JAZZ AT THE MERC

Cathy Segal Garcia. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. Sundays. \$15. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

PORT, BUBBLY AND CHOCOLATE

What could be better than bubbly, port and chocolate? Taste three types of sparkling wine and then sample three styles of Port paired with



SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

THE ANDREWS BROTHERS

A USO show is threatened with cancellation when a certain famous trio of singing sisters fails to show, and it's up to three earnest and determined stagehands to go on with the show. This madcap musical salute to the swinging '40s is filled to the brim with more than 25 songs made famous by the Andrews Sisters. Mistaken identities and whacky adventures, along with the music of an entire generation highlight this wonderful valentine to the heroes of World War II. Coyote StageWorks, Annenberg Theater, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs. Dates vary through Feb. 16. \$39-\$55. (760) 325-4490. coyotestageworks.org.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Riviera Magazine
Publication Date: January 01, 2014
Page Number: 076
Circulation: 35,000
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$189.86



JAN, 25-FEB,23

Bohony

Laura Marks' powerful,
often funny drama
follows the travails
of two squatters in a
foreclosed home, one
of whom is desperate
to get her daughter
out of foster care.

Tickets from \$29.

The Old Globe, 1363

Old Globe Way, San

Diego, 619.234.5623,

theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Downtown News
Publication Date: January 01, 2014
Page Number: 022
Circulation: 22,000
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$62.97



SATURDAY – JAN 25

Bethany: The Old Globe presents Laura Marks' powerful new drama directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch. 8 p.m. Sheryl and Harvey White Stage, The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Through Feb. 23, daily show times vary. Tickets start at \$24. Visit theoldglobe.org or 619-231-1941.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: January 23, 2014
Page Number: 031
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$84.97



"Bethany": Jan. 25-Feb. 23, The
Old Globe—Sheryl & Harvey White
Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San
Diego. \$29-\$67 (619) 234-5623,
theoldglobe.org

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

monthly events

JANUARY

1

HAPPY
NEW

5

SUNDAY FUNDAY
AT CHEERS

\$1 Mimosas and \$2 Bloody Marys.

cheerssandiego.com

BABYCAKES PRESENTS:

CHURCH ON SUNDAYS

\$3 bottle beers and \$5 well drinks 3 to 8 p.m.

babycakesandiego.com

6

MUSICAL MONDAYS
MARTINIS ABOVE FOURTHShow tunes and happy hour
prices all night long.martinisabovefourth.com

7

DISNEY'S
BEAUTY AND
THE BEAST

January 7 thru 12

San Diego Civic Theatre

broadwaysd.com

8

12

ITZHAK PERLMAN
PLAYS BEETHOVEN2 p.m. at Copley
Symphony Hallsandiegosymphony.org

13

JANELLE
MONAE8 p.m.
House of Blues
San Diegohouseofblues.com

14

THE SNOOTY ASIAN
HAPPY HOUR\$5 Select samplers, wells,
wines and beers.Tuesday thru Saturday
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.thesnootyasian.com

15

MARTINIS ABOVE FOURTH
PRESENTS:\$20 PRIME RIB
WEDNESDAYSA generous portion of prime rib,
herb potato cake &
vegetable of the day for \$20.martinisabovefourth.com

19

CHICAGO
THE MUSICALThru February 23
Coronado PlayhouseLGBT OUT NIGHT MIXER
AT CORONADO PLAYHOUSE

Thursday, January 23

coronadoplayhouse.com

20

SAN DIEGO
RESTAURANT WEEK

January 19 thru 24 throughout San Diego County

sandiegorestaurantweek.com

21

KARAOKE NIGHT
AT FLICKSSunday, Monday
and Tuesday at 9 p.m.sdflicks.com

22



26

FARMERS INSURANCE
OPEN 2014January 23 thru 26 at Torrey Pines Golf Course
farmersinsuranceopen.comHUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
FILM FESTIVAL 2014January 23 thru 26
Museum of Photographic Arts
mopa.org

27

SAN DIEGO
OPERA PRESENTS:
PAGLIACCIJanuary 25 thru February 2
San Diego Civic Theatre
sdoopera.com

28

THE OLD GLOBE PRESENTS:
BETHANY

January 25 thru February 23

theoldglobe.org

29

PINK MARTINI

7:30 p.m.

Balboa Theatre

sandiegotheatres.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: January 23, 2014
Page Number: 024
Circulation: 164,339
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$70.81



"Bethany": Jan. 25-Feb. 23. The Old Globe-Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$67. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego City Beat
Publication Date: January 22, 2014
Page Number: 14
Circulation: 50,000
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$21.31



OPENING

Bethany: The West Coast premiere of a drama about a down-on-her-luck car saleswoman who squats in a foreclosed home as she tries to reunite with her daughter. Opens Jan. 25 at The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park. oldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: January 30, 2014
Page Number: 030
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$297.40



Balboa Park

Floral Show: San Diego Camellia Society: Feb. 1-2. Casa del Prado Building, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park. Free. (619) 234-8901, socalcamelliasociety.org

Senior Mondays: "Spy in the Sky": 10:30 a.m. Feb. 3. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$8. rhfleet.org

Panel Discussion: "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing": 6 p.m. Feb. 3. Hattox Hall at The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Free with RSVP to (619) 234-5623 or RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org

The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show: Jupiter: 7 p.m. Feb. 5. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$14. rhfleet.org

Client Name: The Old Globe
 Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
 Publication Date: January 30, 2014
 Page Number: 027
 Circulation: 164,339
 Size: 12 sq inch
 Value: \$1,076.34



Balboa Park

Balboa Park History Stroll: 11 a.m. Jan. 30. San Diego History Center, 1649 El Prado, Suite 3, Balboa Park. \$10-\$12. sandiegohistory.org

ArtStop: Louise Nevelson: noon Jan. 30. The San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park. Included with \$12 museum admission. (619) 232-7931, sdmart.org

Corvette: An American Icon Turns 60: Ending Jan. 31. San Diego Automotive Museum, 2080 Pan American Road, Balboa Park. \$4-\$9. sdautomuseum.org

Reception: Lois Adler Roussel: 6 p.m. Jan. 31. San Diego Art Institute, Museum of the Living Artist, 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$3. sandiego-art.org

Floral Show: San Diego Camellia Society: Feb. 1-2. Casa del Prado Building, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park. Free. (619) 234-8901, socalcamelliasociety.org

Opening: Function & Fantasy: Feb.

1. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$5-\$8. (619) 239-0003, mingei.org

Opening: Prix Pictet: Power: Feb. 1; exhibition through May 18. Museum of Photographic Arts San Diego, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$6-\$8. mopa.org

Reception: 39th annual Small Image Art Show & Competition: 4:30 p.m. Feb. 1; exhibition Jan. 31-March 2. Gallery 21-Spanish Village Art Center, 1770 Village Place, Balboa Park. Free admission. gallery21art.com

Old Masters of Music and Art: Sacra/Profana: 2 p.m. Feb. 2. The San Diego Museum of Art, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park. Included with museum admission. (619) 232-7931, sdmart.org

Senior Mondays: "Spy in the Sky": 10:30 a.m. Feb. 3. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa

Park. \$8. rhfleet.org

Panel Discussion: "At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing": 6 p.m. Feb. 3. Hattox Hall at The Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Free with RSVP to (619) 234-5623 or RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org

Progress of Man: The 1935 Exposition Walking Tour: 1 p.m. Feb. 5. San Diego History Center, 1649 El Prado, Suite 3, Balboa Park. \$10-\$12. sandiegohistory.org

The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show: Jupiter: 7 p.m. Feb. 5. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$14 general admission. rhfleet.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: January 30, 2014
Page Number: 024
Circulation: 164,339
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$70.81



"Bethany": Through Feb. 23. The Old Globe – Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$67. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org

Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego City Beat
Publication Date: January 29, 2014
Page Number: 15
Circulation: 50,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$30.78



At Home in San Diego? The Question of Affordable Housing at Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. The Globe presents a panel discussion that will explore issues raised in its production of *Bethany*. Panelists include Todd Gloria, Susan Riggs and Debbie Ruane. The event is free, but reservations are required: RSVP@TheOldGlobe.org. At 6 p.m. **Monday, Feb. 3.** 619-231-1941, oldglobe.org

GET OUT

A Preview of Upcoming Events for February/March By Claire Yezbak Fadden

San Diego/Orange County/Inland Empire February/March 2014



DR. LONNIE SMITH

Musician, composer, performer and recording artist, the doctor is a guru of the Hammond B-3 organ. With a career that spans more than five-decades, he is affectionately dubbed “The Turbanator.” Smith has been featured on more than 70 albums and has performed with some of the best in the music industry. He is joined by guitarist Jonathan Kreisberg and drummer Johnathan Blake. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Also Feb. 22. \$49-plus. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

GEORGE KUO, MARTIN PAHINUI AND AARON MAHI

This legendary Hawaiian trio has been performing together many years, for the pure enjoyment of perpetuating traditional music and reciprocating and embellishing each other's talents, to where these feelings become instilled in all audiences. Soka Performing Arts Center, Soka University, 1 University Dr., Aliso Viejo. \$21-\$28. (949) 480-4000. performingarts.soka.edu

THE ANDREWS BROTHERS

A USO show is threatened with cancellation when a certain famous trio of singing sisters fails to show, and it's up to three earnest and determined stagehands to go on with the show. This madcap musical salute to the swinging '40s is filled to the brim with more than 25 songs made famous by the Andrews Sisters. Mistaken identities and whacky adventures, along with the music of an entire generation highlight this wonderful Valentine to the heroes of World War II. Coyote

StageWorks, Annenberg Theater, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs. Also Feb. 16. \$39-\$55. (760) 325-4490. coyotestageworks.org.

HOW'D ALL YOU PEOPLE GET IN MY ROOM?

Peter Gallagher shares real-life stories from his early days as a young actor in New York to working with legends like Jack Lemmon, Tom Stoppard, Mike Nichols, Robert Altman and Peter O'Toole. Gallagher and his band shares songs from Broadway, the TV show “The O.C.” and classics by Sammy Cahn, Jules Styne, Burt Bacharach and Van Morrison. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. \$79-plus. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

PORT, BUBBLY AND CHOCOLATE

What could be better than bubbly, port and chocolate? Taste three types of sparkling wine and then sample three styles of Port paired with an array of chocolates. Bacchus Wine Bar and Market, 647 G St., San Diego. \$25. (619) 236-0005. bacchuswinemarket.com.

THE PRODUCERS

Based on the 1968 film a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-mannered

accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history. Plummer Auditorium, 201 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton. Also Feb. 16. Ticket prices vary. (714) 589-2770. 3dtshows.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

BETHANY

Gaye Taylor Upchurch directs this tale of single mother Crystal who loses more than her house at the height of the foreclosure crisis. She's staying positive, though – with plenty of help from a roommate with theories, a motivational speaker with a secret and her colleagues at the Saturn dealership downtown. But optimism is no match for a bad economy, and before long Crystal's quest for what she's lost turns into something else: the fight of her life. Old Globe Theatre, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through Feb. 23. \$29-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY

It's 1950 and Ernestine Crump has just lost her mother. Her father turns to religion for solace, uprooting the family to be closer to the “Mission” in Brooklyn. Struggling to find her way as a young African American woman, Ernestine's life is upended when her communist aunt moves in preaching feminism and her father comes home with a new white wife. Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd Suite N, San Diego. Through March 2. \$27-plus. (619) 220-0097. moxietheatre.com.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Click your heels together and join Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Dorothy and her little dog Toto, as they journey through the magical land of Oz to meet the Wizard and obtain their hearts' desires. Watch out for the Wicked Witch of the West and her winged monkeys as you rediscover the real story of Oz in this fantastic musical treat for the entire family. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through Feb. 23. \$29-plus. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

THE WHO AND THE WHAT

Raised in a conservative Muslim family in Atlanta, the outspoken and brilliant Zarina routinely clashes with her traditional father and sister. Zarina's one outlet – her recently completed book about women and Islam – threatens to tear her family apart for good. La Jolla Playhouse, UCSD Campus, Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre, 2910 La Jolla Village Dr., La Jolla. Through March 9. \$15-plus. (858) 550-1010. lajollaplayhouse.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

WHALE WATCHING

Get an up-close look at gray whales on their round-trip migration from the Bering Sea to Baja's breeding grounds. Learn about gray whale baleen, barnacles and prey from Birch

Aquarium at Scripps naturalists during this memorable whale-watching experience, leaving daily from San Diego Bay. \$37-\$42. Through April 13. (619) 234-4111. flagshipsd.com. (858) 534-7336. aquarium.ucsd.edu.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

THE FOREIGNER

Shy Englishman Charlie Baker finds himself in a rural Georgia fishing lodge where everyone comes to believe he doesn't speak English. Lamb's Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado. \$20-\$50. Tues.-Sun through March 2. (619) 437-6000. lambsplayers.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

THE WINTER'S TALE

Shakespeare's sublime late masterpiece sweeps breathtakingly from jealousy, rage and loss to redemption, reconciliation, and finally, wonder. Along the way it visits kings and queens, a singing street hustler, dancing shepherds, a most extraordinary statue – and one notoriously hungry bear. Old Globe Theatre, Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through March 16. \$29-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Whether playing Haydn or premiering a new work, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has a rare ability to bring audiences to rapt attention. They reveal surprising nuances in familiar repertoire and illuminate the works of some of today's most celebrated composers. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. \$29-\$69. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

JAZZ WEDNESDAYS

Anthony Wilson Trio. Laguna Beach Live, 891 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach. \$15-\$20. (949) 715-9713. lagunabeachlive.org.

BERNADETTE PETERS

Bernadette Peters performs in support of College of the Desert Foundation. Peters, a three-time Tony Award-winning actress, singer and dancer will perform favorites from her amazing career. McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert. \$65-\$150. (760) 340-2787. mccallumtheatre.com.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

ANYTHING GOES

Set on an ocean liner, a gangster and his doll are embroiled in mistaken identities with young businessman Billy Crocker. Mayhem ensues as Billy chases Hope, who is engaged to Sir Evelyn, who is in love with Reno. Reno teams up with Moonface Martin and Billy to aid and abet in his madcap activities and keep him out of the ship's brig. Welk Resorts Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: February 06, 2014
Page Number: 027
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Value: \$84.97



"Bethany": Through Feb. 23. The
Old Globe – Sheryl & Harvey White
Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San
Diego. \$29-\$67. (619) 234-5623,
theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: February 06, 2014
Page Number: 027
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 1 sq inch
Value: \$84.97



"Bethany": Through Feb. 23. The
Old Globe – Sheryl & Harvey White
Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San
Diego. \$29-\$67. (619) 234-5623,
theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Rancho Bernardo News Journal
Publication Date: February 13, 2014
Page Number: A23
Circulation: 17,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$15.83



The Old Globe presents **"Bethany,"** running now through Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Tickets start at \$29 and are available at the box office or by calling 619-234-5623.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: Poway News Chieftain
Publication Date: February 13, 2014
Page Number: A23
Circulation: 14,234
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$15.83



The Old Globe presents **"Bethany,"** running now through Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Tickets start at \$29 and are available at the box office or by calling 619-234-5623.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: February 13, 2014
Page Number: 028
Circulation: 164,339
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$254.92



"Bethany": Through Feb. 23. Laura Marks' engaging 90-minute play follows the perilous decisions of a young homeless woman who squats in a foreclosed house to get her child out of foster care. It's an interesting look at how close many Americans came to the edge during the recession, but the play has clichéd characters and it takes a melodramatic twist that's strains credulity. (Kragen) The Old Globe – Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$72. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: February 13, 2014
Page Number: 029
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$240.76



"Bethany": Through Feb. 23, Laura Marks' engaging 90-minute play follows the perilous decisions of a young homeless woman who squats in a foreclosed house to get her child out of foster care. It's an interesting look at how close many Americans came to the edge during the recession, but the play has clichéd characters and it takes a melodramatic twist that strains credulity. (Kragen) The Old Globe
– Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$72. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Reader
Publication Date: February 06, 2014
Page Number: 078
Circulation: 175,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$110.47



Bethany

The ~~Old Globe~~ Theatre presents Laura Marks's drama about a single mother who, during the height of the foreclosure crisis, loses more than her house. Gaye Taylor Upchurch directs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.

8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM &

8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 23.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Reader
Publication Date: January 30, 2014
Page Number: 078
Circulation: 175,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$110.47



Bethany

The Old Globe Theatre presents
Laura Marks's drama about a single
mother who, during the height of
the foreclosure crisis, loses more
than her house. Gaye Taylor
Upchurch directs.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE
WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.
8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM &
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DAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS,
THROUGH FEBRUARY 23.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Downtown News
Publication Date: February 01, 2014
Page Number: 014
Circulation: 22,000
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$48.97



THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 13

Bethany: Laura Marks' powerful new drama. Through Feb. 23. 8 p.m. Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre at Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way Balboa Park. Tickets start at \$29 at box office or theoldglobe.org.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Downtown News
Publication Date: February 01, 2014
Page Number: 014
Circulation: 22,000
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$73.46



WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 5

Fishermen's Farmers'

Market: 3 – 7 p.m., every Wednesday. 4930 N. Harbor Dr. near Nimitz Blvd. Sdweeklymarkets.com – FREE

Bethany: Laura Marks' powerful new drama. Through Feb. 23, 7 p.m. Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre at Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way Balboa Park. Tickets start at \$29 at box office or theoldglobe.org.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: San Diego Reader
Publication Date: February 13, 2014
Page Number: 097
Circulation: 175,000
Size: 6 sq inch
Value: \$284.07



Bethany

Crystal loses her house to foreclosure, her job, and her daughter Bethany. In Laura Marks's spare drama, Crystal will do anything to get her Bethany back. The play premiered in New York and enjoyed a successful run. At the Old Globe's in-the-round White Theatre, even with the same director, the staging doesn't work. The leads — Carlo Alban, Jennifer Ferrin, and James Shanklin — tone themselves down so much they could be performing for TV. Unmotivated business and long entrances and exits kill the pace. And a fight scene, which the play fails to justify, flops in the execution. Were it more convincing, the fight may have absolved some of the production's sins, but not all. Fine support work by Sylvia M'Lafi Thompson, as a dignified social worker, and DeAnna Driscoll as a hip, harsh, and humane sales manager.

OLD GLOBE THEATRE, 1363 OLD GLOBE WAY, BALBOA PARK. 619-234-5623.
8PM THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS, 2PM & 8PM SATURDAYS, 2PM & 7PM SUNDAYS, 7PM TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, THROUGH FEBRUARY 23.



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Night & Day
Publication Date: February 20, 2014
Page Number: 024
Circulation: 408,825
Size: 3 sq inch
Value: \$240.76



"Bethany": Through Feb. 23. Laura Marks' engaging 90-minute play follows the perilous decisions of a young homeless woman who squats in a

foreclosed house to get her child out of foster care. It's an interesting look at how close many Americans came to the edge during the recession, but the play has clichéd characters and it takes a melodramatic twist that strains credulity. (Kragen) The Old Globe – Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$72. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org



Client Name: The Old Globe
Publication Name: UT San Diego-Street Night & Day
Publication Date: February 20, 2014
Page Number: 023
Circulation: 164,339
Size: 2 sq inch
Value: \$226.59



"Bethany": Through Feb. 23. Laura Marks' engaging 90-minute play follows the perilous decisions of a young homeless woman who squats in a foreclosed house to get her child out of foster care. It's an interesting look at how close many Americans came to the edge during the recession, but the play has clichéd characters and it takes a melodramatic twist that strains credulity. (Kragen) The Old Globe – Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. \$29-\$72. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org